



**CHELTEHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

Sixth Form Course Guide 2026 Entry



A warm welcome

It is a great pleasure to introduce our sixth form to you and to give a brief insight into the life and work of our students. Together with our Senior House Captains (pictured), I am proud to lead our sixth form community, and I am extremely proud of our students and the way they develop, both personally and academically, as we support and challenge them to grow and succeed during their time with us.

Here, students are treated as young adults. Individuals are given greater responsibility for their learning, alongside a school structure where our dedicated team provides outstanding individualised support, guidance and stability. We strive to provide an enjoyable, dynamic sixth form experience, to enable students to develop into well-rounded, responsible, upstanding members of society whilst studying in an ambitious, caring and vibrant community.

Our aim is to fully support you to reach your potential and future goals, through the development of key life skills, and the experience and knowledge gained through your chosen subjects and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.



You will be encouraged to take part in a diverse mix of enrichment opportunities encompassing, for example, **Young Enterprise, Early Applicant Scheme, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, sports and community volunteering schemes**. This year, we have launched our new Super-curricular Aspire Pathways too, further enhancing your sixth form experience. All of these opportunities are designed to broaden your experience and to prepare you for life beyond sixth form.

Ofsted confirmed that we are a happy and successful community and one where the academic and personal ability of every student is identified, nurtured and developed. Students who are new to the school need not worry as they will be fully supported to settle in and make progress quickly.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Cheltenham Bournside Sixth Form. It is a fantastic place to learn.

Kevin Warren
Head of Sixth Form

A handwritten signature of Kevin Warren's name.

Our values

At Bournside, we are:

- ★ **Ambitious:** We strive for excellence in all our endeavours, setting high standards for ourselves and always aiming for the very best.
- ★ **Curious:** We foster a culture of curiosity, where we encourage enquiring minds and embrace challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.
- ★ **Proud:** We take pride in every effort and achievement, celebrating the success and hard work of each member of our community.
- ★ **Purposeful:** We are driven by a sense of purpose, persevering through obstacles to achieve our goals and aspirations.
- ★ **Respectful:** We care deeply about one another, upholding values of equality, kindness, and mutual respect in all our interactions.
- ★ **Supportive:** We are committed to making a positive difference in each other's lives, providing encouragement and assistance to help everyone thrive.

Together, these values create an inspiring environment where everyone can achieve their potential.

Inspiring lives through learning





Why choose Cheltenham Bournside Sixth Form?

Future success

Choosing the right Sixth Form is an important step in preparing for future success. By choosing Bournside, you can be confident you will be supported and challenged to excel, both personally and academically within a fantastic student community. In 2023 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary Year; that's a landmark we are very proud of.

Wide course choice

We offer 38 A-level, BTEC and vocational courses, the widest available locally including highly sought after subjects such as Criminology and Film Studies. From Mandarin to Media, Psychology to Photography and new courses in Dance, Food Science and Nutrition and Music Technology, we will work with you to select the best combination of courses and to ensure you are well-suited to your subjects.



Pupils enjoy school and there is a strong sense of community for both staff and pupils.

OFSTED, 2022

Three pathways

We offer three clear pathways, including A-levels, vocational courses or a mixture of the two, designed to help you select subjects with a clear route to your university, further study or career goals.

Pathway 1
Studying 3 A-levels

Entry criteria is at least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 5 in your chosen subject.

Studying 4 A-levels

Entry criteria is at least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 5 in your chosen subject. **PLUS an average GCSE score of 7.0 or above.**

Pathway 2
Studying 3 vocational courses

Entry criteria is at least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 4 in three related GCSEs.

Pathway 3
Studying a combination of A-levels and vocational courses

Entry criteria is at least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and a bespoke offer of grade 4s and grade 5s depending on examination results.

More than academic study

+ Optional EPQ / Core Maths (entry criteria applies)

+ Enrichment activity

+ Tutorial

+ Work experience

*Please see individual course listings to confirm entry requirements.



Excellent teaching and facilities

Expert teachers

Our teachers are experts in their fields, providing high-quality teaching and support to give you the academic focus you need to succeed.

Space to study

Bournside continues to develop and invest in outstanding facilities and resources to give our students the best possible spaces to study. Sixth Form students enjoy their own space and benefits within the school, and we have recently transformed that space to create dedicated Directed Study and Self-Directed Study areas. The Pitstop Cafe provides students with a vibrant space to work and socialise outside of the classroom, much like the professional spaces students will find at university or in the workplace in the future.

Sixth Form Community Noticeboards publicise opportunities across the school, and our 'Inspire' walls

promote the latest higher education and work experience opportunities.

Specialist facilities

Our scale and space mean that we can offer specialist facilities. This includes our large modern library and dedicated careers space, state-of-the-art Alan Turing Maths Hub, new science laboratories, new food science kitchens, a new dance studio and our inspiring drama studio and music spaces.

To complement our rich sports provision, we have a top-spec AstroTurf, Fitness Suite, tennis and badminton courts, athletics track, sports field and three sports halls.



Support and wellbeing

Nurturing support

We recognise that students thrive when they feel nurtured and supported as well as academically challenged. The two years of Sixth Form are a demanding time and we are on hand to help. There are dedicated leads for academic and pastoral support and you will have the daily support of your tutor too.

Students tell us they are treated like adults here and we pride ourselves on supporting you to develop mature lines of communication with your teachers and tutor, working together to overcome any challenges you may face during your studies.

Academic challenge

Our promise to you is that you will be clear on your academic progress and goals throughout your studies. You will receive three reports per year and undertake mock

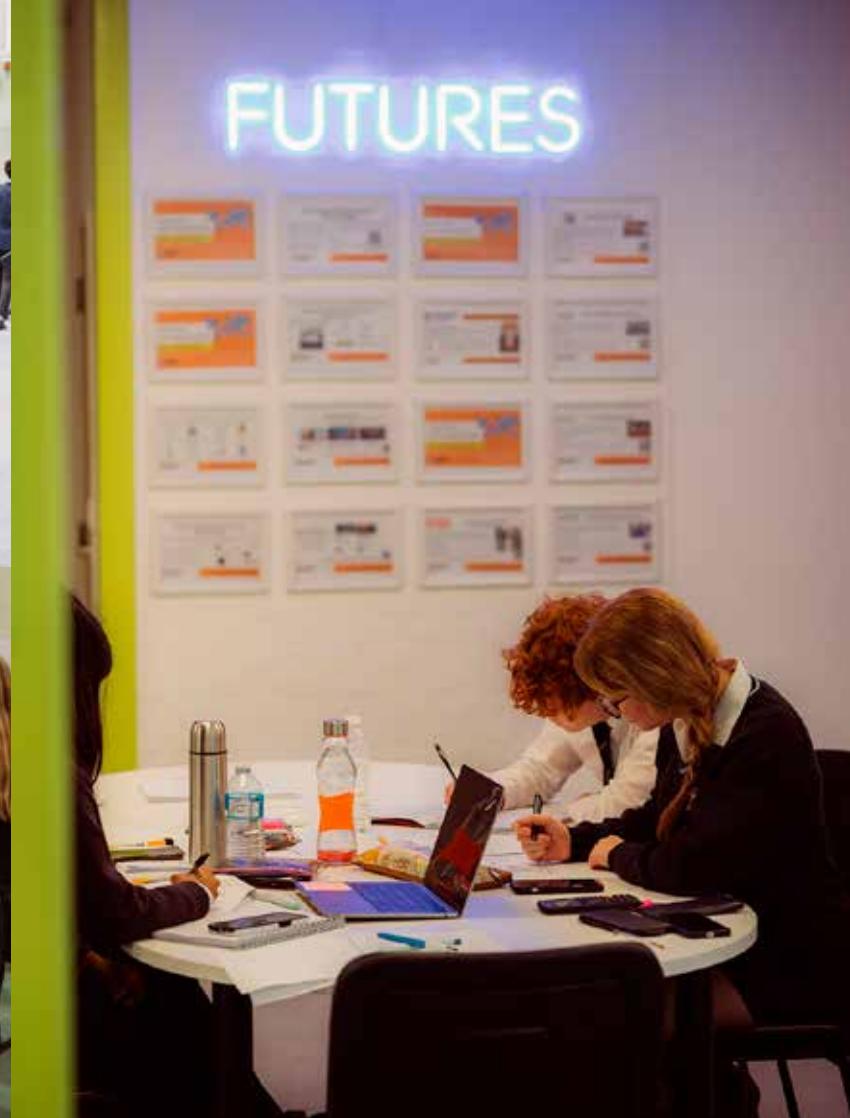


exams at the end of Year 12 and in Year 13 to ensure you are prepared for your final exams. Parents/carers will be invited in to discuss your progress each year, alongside invites to a host of brilliant drama, music, charity and sporting events.

Lottie and Olive

Considered by many to be the most important part of our pastoral team, Lottie and Olive (Lottie's daughter!) are on-site every day. Our beautiful labs remind us to be present in the moment and to prioritise our mental health and well-being. They are even involved in a project with Swansea University themselves! Watch this space.





Personal development and growth

Inspiring enrichment programme

Whether your passion lies in sport, art, drama, music or academia, beyond the classroom we offer an unrivalled range of opportunities to broaden your experience, have fun, and develop personal leadership skills.

Sixth Form students have enrichment as part of their weekly timetable. The Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Early Applicant Scheme, Young Enterprise, the Arts Award, cyber challenges, charity fundraising, community volunteering... the choice is yours.

An amazing programme of UK and International trips are available too. Barcelona (Spanish), New York (Business and Economics), South Africa (Sport), London (Art) and Switzerland (Science) are just some of the recent and upcoming trips in the busy Sixth Form calendar.

Mentoring and leadership

Opportunities for mentoring and leadership can be found across the school. We are proud of our long-standing positive reputation for sport and run a thriving Athlete Development Programme (ADP) which offers a full calendar of sports fixtures where senior students both play for, and help to manage, the top teams in the school.

Our Senior House Captains help to lead our House System which is at the heart of our school. Senior prefects, and in-fact all Sixth Form students, are expected to set a positive example across the school, demonstrating respect, leadership, and commitment to learning.

The peer-mentoring programme partners senior students with a younger student from the main school who you will see for a regular one-to-one session. An experience which all participants find extremely rewarding.

Staying on track

We will keep you on track with preparations for mock examinations, personal statements, university, apprenticeship and job applications and much more.

Inspiring careers advice and guidance

Our careers team have excellent relationships with businesses across Gloucestershire and beyond, and they are dedicated to guiding you as you explore your future ambitions. They are here to inspire you, open doors for you, and to support you every step of the way.

From our energising Inspire Lectures and Education for Life lessons to personalised one-to-one careers sessions and weekly careers newsletters, you'll be surrounded by opportunities to grow. You'll gain confidence through mock interviews, build experience through meaningful work placements, and meet employers face-to-face through our vibrant careers fair and external careers trips.

We are also incredibly proud of our thriving network of Bournside alumni. Their stories of success and determination are a constant source of inspiration, and we are delighted to regularly welcome them back to share their journeys.





What our Sixth Form students say

We asked the Year 12 students ...

“What has been important to you since joining Cheltenham Bournside Sixth Form?”

“The freedom given to students regarding directed study periods and self-directed study periods. It's a good balance for me to get my work done.”

“Amazing teachers, good support and good exam results.”

“The Pit Stop cafe is really cool, the study spaces are really nice and all the sixth form staff are really friendly.”

“The range of A-level options. And lots of space!”

“The choice of A-levels and the extra-curricular opportunities I can include in my personal statement (e.g. tour guides, house captain, student mentor).”

“The friendly atmosphere and community.”

“The directed and self directed study which helps me to keep up on my work.”

“The uniform. I don't need to worry ever about what to wear.”

“Great music department and the feeling of community.”

“The encouragement to attend super-curriculars is something I haven't seen other schools do, it's really refreshing to be given new opportunities to enrich your personal statement especially when you want to get into a competitive uni/subject.”

“Trips abroad.”

“I feel that the teachers of my subjects genuinely care about how their students are progressing and always offer extra support if needed.”

“The independence they give you and the study periods. This helps as I can really stay on top of my work and use study periods to consolidate notes.”

“I really like the structure of the school day. I also like the fact we have a dedicated day for enrichment which I know will benefit me a lot when applying to universities.”

“The fact I have a fantastic set of A-level teachers, who genuinely appear to care about my progress in their subject.”

Results and destinations

Bournside students go on to secure places at leading universities, on degree-level apprenticeships and higher education courses and directly into employment. Our A-level results place us in the top 20% of schools nationally with most students securing places on their first choice university or higher education course.

Exceptional results

In 2025 students gained an average points score of 34.3. 30 students gained an average grade of an A or A* in all of their subjects, with 21 students achieving straight A* or A grades.

Speaking on results day, Headteacher, Mr Jefferies said, “Of course, we're pleased about the “headline figures” but what we're really delighted about is that these results open up so many new opportunities for our students and we wish them all the very best for the future.”

All of our results are available to view on our website.

Destinations include Aberystwyth, Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Brighton, Exeter, Derby, Gloucestershire, Hull, Keele, Kingston, Leicester, Leeds, London, Loughborough, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Swansea, UWE, Worcester and York.

Students have gone on to study a broad range of subjects, including Astrophysics and Space Science, Business Management, Biotechnology and Microbiology, Criminology, Chemistry, Economics, English, Film Production, Geography, Illustration, International Relations and Politics, Law, Medicine, Medieval Studies, Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Pharmaceutical Science, Physics, Primary and Early Years Education, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, Sport Rehabilitation and Zoology.

Student case studies

Visit our website for more student case studies.

www.bournside.com/sixth-form



Cheltenham Bournside School A-level and vocational course offer 2026-28

We are proud to offer the widest range of Sixth Form options available locally. For full course details* and entry requirements, please see pages 14-33 in this guide and on our website www.bournside.com/sixth-form

Art Graphics	14	Mathematics	27
Art Photography	14	Further Mathematics	27
Fine Art	15	Media Studies	28
Biology	15	Music	28
Business	16	Music Technology	29
Vocational Business (Level 3)	16	Physical Education	29
Chemistry	17	Physics	30
Computer Science	17	Psychology	30
Criminology (Applied Diploma Level 3)	18	Religious Studies	31
Dance	18	(Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics)	
Design and Technology (Fashion and Textiles)	19	Sociology	31
Design and Technology (Product Design)	19	Spanish	32
Drama and Theatre Studies	20	Sport (Level 3 BTEC)	32
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English Literature	22	Project Qualification	33
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		Typical university degree, degree apprenticeship and higher apprenticeship course requirements	
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*Every effort has been made to ensure course details and entry requirements are accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change. Any updates will be communicated through our official channels. For the most current information and to apply via Applicaa, please visit our website.

Art Graphics

(Graphic Communication)

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Students must have achieved a grade 5 in a related art/design subject. If not previously studied, students may demonstrate their suitability through a portfolio of work and liaison with the Head of Art.

Assessment

There is no written exam and all work is produced in art studio conditions.

Notes

Students may combine Graphic Communication with Photography or Fine Art to provide a strong foundation for university art and design degree courses.

Overview

If you are interested in clever marketing visuals, funky lettering, logos, symbols, the way messages are communicated, or graphic art in general, this course is for you. Students are able to enjoy a series of creative coursework projects exploring themes such as image and typography, layout design, experimental imagery and more abstract approaches. Sources from illustration, advertising and editorial design will provide further inspiration.

Careers

This course is a starting point for students wishing to develop a career in the creative industries. A-level Graphic Communication enables progression towards art foundation and a degree in: video, fashion, textile design, graphics, 3D design, product design, interior design, fine art, art digital media, animation, design for interactive media, illustration, teaching, automotive design and many others.

In Year 13, students further specialise in their strongest area of interest, developing a highly personal direction supported by tutors. A wider appreciation is developed via gallery visits locally, nationally and internationally. Students combine their knowledge and understanding to support their coursework portfolio. Outcomes include web design, graphics for architecture, campaign posters, clothing branding, movie posters, illustration, and animation.

Careers

This course is a starting point for students wishing to develop a career in the creative industries. A-level Graphic Communication enables progression towards art foundation and a degree in: video, fashion, textile design, graphics, 3D design, product design, interior design, fine art, art digital media, animation, design for interactive media, illustration, teaching, automotive design and many others.

Fine Art

(Drawing, Painting, Print, 3D, Mixed Media)

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Students must have achieved a grade 5 in a related art/design subject. If not previously studied, students may demonstrate their suitability with a portfolio of work and liaison with the Head of Art.

Assessment

There is no written exam and all work is produced in art studio conditions.

Notes

Students may combine Fine Art with Photography or Graphic Communication to provide a strong foundation for university art and design degree courses.

Please note: University art foundation courses normally require students to have studied A-level Art.

Overview

If you enjoy drawing, painting, sculpture or simply developing ideas with a range of media, then this course is for you. Students are able to enjoy a series of creative coursework projects exploring themes such as the figure, structures and natural forms. Visual awareness and creativity are developed via areas of study including drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media and digital media.

In Year 12, students undertake an intensive foundation period of creative study under the guidance of specialist tutors, learning a range of experimental techniques, how to develop ideas and how to analyse artwork. Key skills are reinforced and developed and project work helps students to understand how to respond to the assessment objectives.

Careers

This course is a starting point for students wishing to develop a career in the creative industries. A-level Art enables progression towards art foundation and a degree in: video, fashion, textile design, graphics, 3D design, product design, interior design, fine art, art digital media, animation, design for interactive media, illustration, teaching, automotive design and many others.

Art Photography

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Students must have achieved a grade 5 in a related art/design subject. If not previously studied, students may demonstrate their suitability through a portfolio of work and liaison with the Head of Art.

Assessment

There is no written exam and all work is produced in art studio conditions.

Overview

If you enjoy capturing moments and details from the world around you, or designing complex digital experiments, then this course is for you. You will learn photographic skills and key concepts but outcomes and portfolio development may go into physical or digital manipulation (graphic style work) or even video.

The A-level Photography course is taught within the Art Department: a suite of rooms with access to specialist photographic studio equipment, dedicated studio space, and digital manipulation software. Students will examine themes such as portraiture and identity, textures, structures, video, gif and special effects, as well as more conceptual projects.

In Year 12, students undertake an intensive period of creative experimental study under the guidance of specialist tutors and develop a personal response to a

range of written and visual starting points, briefs and stimuli.

In Year 13, students may specialise in their strongest area of interest, developing a highly personal direction, supported by tutors. The practical elements are supported by a written related study in which students explore the artists who have influenced them. A wider appreciation is developed via gallery and location visits locally, nationally and internationally.

Careers

This course is designed for students who wish to study A-level Photography with ambitions to pursue photography as a career, and those who simply wish to explore the creative possibilities of digital photography.

Biology

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

- Grades 6,6 in core and additional science, plus a grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Biology if studied as a single science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics

Assessment

Three written exam papers at the end of Year 13 and a practical endorsement which is completed during the two-year course.

Overview

We build on students' enthusiasm for Biology and enable a deeper understanding of vital concepts to explain the world around us. The course will continue from GCSE, involving greater detail in topics such as cells, plant and animal transport systems, and biological molecules, as well as analysing processes such as respiration and photosynthesis, providing a greater appreciation of the intricacies of science. You will also cover challenging new areas such as biotechnology and gene technology that are advancing rapidly and have far-reaching consequences for our lives and our health.

Our goal is to ensure our students are prepared for their future, by developing their independent study skills, time management, and develop their love of learning. This

well-respected course provides transferrable skills to a wide range of careers, offering students many future opportunities.

Careers

Success in biology leads to a wide range of higher education and career opportunities such as in agriculture, biochemistry, biology, biotechnology, dentistry, environmental sciences, food science, forensic science, genetic engineering, medicine, micro-biology, pathology, pharmacy, and veterinary science.

Other possibilities include animal welfare, beauty therapy, childcare, dietician, midwifery, nursing, horticulture, physiotherapy, psychology, speech therapy, sports science, and teaching.

Fine Art

Biology

Business

Exam Board

Eduqas

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Business if studied or a grade 5 in English Language/Literature.

Assessment

3 written external exams.

Enrichment

Students will be offered opportunities to take part in a wide range variety of external competitions and visits during the two-year course, ranging from Young Enterprise, the IFS Student Investor Challenge and trips to local businesses.

Overview

Can you see yourself as the next Mark Zuckerberg or Fraser Doherty or do you aspire to own your own small business? There has never been a more exciting time to start a business venture; with new emerging economies in Asia, and the negative impact Covid-19 has had on the UK economy, there are endless opportunities for the budding entrepreneur.

Whatever your vision, this course covers all the key topics of starting and running a business. You will learn how businesses operate and explore these areas in depth: marketing, accounting and finance, human resource planning, and operations management.

Careers

This course is ideal for students who wish to pursue a career in a business environment, or who wish to set up their own business, or simply enjoy studying a subject that affects their everyday lives. It is also suitable for those who wish to study business or a business-related course such as economics, law, accounting, finance, management, or politics at a higher level.

Chemistry

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

- Grade 6, 6 in core and additional science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Chemistry if studied as a single science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics

Assessment

Three written exam papers at the end of Year 13 and a practical endorsement which is completed during the two-year course.

Overview

Chemistry provides students with transferable skills that are vital within scientific fields but also incredibly valuable in many other areas.

Students will not only apply their knowledge to the world around them, but also develop rigorous research skills, learn to assess risks and solve problems, and communicate their ideas clearly and concisely.

Careers

Chemistry is an essential subject for students pursuing higher education in medicine, veterinary science, or pharmacy, and it also provides a pathway into a wide range of chemistry and biochemistry courses. These can lead to a wide variety of fields such as drug discovery, forensic science, science publishing, environmental science, materials science, chemical engineering, nanotechnology, food science, and the cosmetics and energy industries.

Vocational Business

(Level 3)

Exam Board

OCR (Cambridge Technical)

Entry criteria

Grade 4 at GCSE Business or Level 2 Pass in Vocational Business if studied, OR Grade 4 in three related GCSEs.

Assessment

66% Exam/33% Coursework

Notes

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business is equivalent to 1 x A-level and achieves UCAS Points.

Overview

This qualification is designed for both vocational and academic learners who wish to develop a career in business. The course has been designed specifically to cater for learners wishing to study business at university and to equip students with the skills required for full time apprenticeships and employment in the business industry.

Students will develop an understanding of how businesses are constructed and how areas of the business must coordinate together as part of a team, for example; Human Resources, Marketing, Finance & Accounts, Economics, Law, Business Management, Event Management and Sales.

Students are encouraged to work and operate like young professionals within a business setting and working

environment. Learning is developed via class discussions, business guests, visits and business meetings. There will be visits to local, national and international business settings.

Careers

- Vocational and academic University Business degrees.
- Business degrees combined with subjects such as, Law, Psychology, Media, Engineering, English, Maths and languages.
- Apprenticeships in Business
- Full time employment in business – areas such as, Marketing, Sales, Finance, Customer Service, Events Management, Human Resources, Production, Administration and retail.

Computer Science

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Grade 6 in Computer Science if studied, plus a grade 5 in Mathematics. Students who haven't studied GCSE Computer Science will need to take an entry test before being accepted onto the course.

Assessment

2 written 2.5-hour exams at the end of Year 13 and a programming project also completed in Year 13.

Overview

Computer Science is an ideal course for students who want to learn the underlying principles of how computers work. The course examines the fundamental concepts including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. Students analyse problems in computational terms and through practical experience of programming, developing the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically.

At A-level, students write a program of their choice to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Many students choose to make simple 2D games such as Space Invaders or Pac-Man, which gives them a good grounding for

This model means that whether students have studied Combined Science (2 GCSEs) or Triple Science (3 GCSEs), all students can make great progress. Alongside the theoretical knowledge, students will complete a series of practical activities that will allow them to gain a valuable practical endorsement at the end of the course.

Criminology

(Level 3 Applied Diploma)

Exam Board

Eduqas (WJEC)

Entry criteria

At least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 4 in three related GCSEs.

Assessment

8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed) and 1.5 hour exam (externally assessed) in Year 12 & the same again in Year 13. Each component is worth 25% of the final grade and the diploma is graded A*-E.

Overview

As part of this course, you will consider all of aspects of crime across four units.

UNIT 1: Changing Awareness of Crime. This will enable students to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. UNIT 2: Criminological Theories. Students gain an understanding of why people commit crime, considering what different types of crime take place in our society and who decides what behaviours are against the law? UNIT 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom. Provide students with an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. UNIT 4: Crime and Punishment. Students will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate

the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

Enrichment

We have strong links with the University of Gloucestershire and students will visit their Criminology facilities to engage with crime scene scenarios and to hear from guest speakers who study/work in relevant fields.

Careers

This course is useful to students who would like to study higher education courses, such as BSc Criminology, BA Criminology and BA Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

Design and Technology

(Fashion and Textiles)

Exam Board

Eduqas

Entry criteria

Grade 5 or equivalent pass in a design technology or art-based subject, or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

This course consists of a written exam worth 50% and an extended 'design and make' project (of approximately 80 hours) worth 50%.

Overview

Fashion and Textiles provides students with an opportunity to develop design and manufacturing skills in a creative and innovative way. Students will be required to manufacture high-quality products and prototypes to meet a specific need or consumer group. The product may suit the client's need in the home or as a fashion item.

It is an exciting course, which will allow students to become aware of the place of design in society and the influences that designers have in the world in which we live. There will be opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as designing and making garments as part of the CEP Young Designer programme in Year 12.

Dance

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Dance at GCSE or entry test if not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

50% practical coursework.
50% written exam.

Overview

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. The specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance.

Students will be able to study a range of dance styles through studying set works that are relevant and exciting. Students can perform and choreograph in a style of their choice for the group work, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

Careers

This is a good qualification for anyone considering working in the performance/media industry. Not only will it develop students as performers, but also as practitioners looking to work in industry.

Design and Technology

(Product Design)

Exam Board

Eduqas

Entry criteria

Grade 5 or equivalent in a design technology-based subject, or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

Written exam worth 50% and an extended 'design and make' project (approximately 80 hours) worth the other 50%.

Overview

Product Design provides students with the skills they need to succeed in their chosen pathway. Students will be able to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impact on today's world.

This exciting course offers opportunities to develop design and manufacturing skills in a creative and innovative way. Students will gain specialist knowledge in design, materials, manufacture, and marketing with an emphasis on industrial practice and the application of computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacture.

Careers

Fashion and textiles is an excellent choice for anyone considering a career in any field of textile design, fashion design, teaching, interior design, soft furnishing, product merchandising and manufacturing.

Design and Technology

Students will be required to set their own design contexts and use iterative processes of design and manufacture to develop high quality prototypes. Due to the length of this process, students will need to be good coursework project managers.

Careers

Product Design is an excellent choice for anyone considering a career in any field of design e.g. graphic design, furniture design, product design, car design, architecture, jewellery design, engineering etc.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Drama at GCSE or entry test if not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

60% coursework and 40% exam.

Overview

Drama and Theatre Studies allows students the opportunity to combine a sophisticated practical and academic response to theatre in all its forms. Students will study set texts and the work of several theatrical practitioners as well as participating in group projects producing original performance work and performing scripted plays.

To be a high achiever, we expect students to work cooperatively and sensitively with others. Students should be able to give up time outside school hours and have a genuine interest in theatre. A willingness to experiment with new ideas and a sense of fun are also important.

Careers

This is a good qualification for anyone considering working in the performance/media industry. Drama and Theatre Studies gives an excellent background in the understanding of communication in all its forms; intrapersonal, interpersonal, and group communication.

English Language and Literature

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature.

Assessment

80% exam based with 2 exam papers. 20% coursework consisting of the study of 2 texts of the student's choice leading to 2 pieces of original writing (inspired by the study texts) and an evaluative commentary.

Overview

This is a great all-round course for creative writers and readers interested in exploring a wide range of literary and non-literary styles. You will study a diverse range of material: from famous speeches, film scripts and travelogues to Shakespeare and traditional prose.

You will read classics alongside a much broader variety of English texts, from genre features to language features, text structure to audience appeal – all with a view to perfecting your analytical skills and developing your own unique writing style. The Edexcel Anthology (provided with the course) includes a variety of texts with a particular emphasis on non-fiction and media extracts; there is something for everyone to enjoy!

Economics

Exam Board

Edexcel (Economics A)

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Mathematics.

Assessment

100% exam assessed. Students sit 3 papers; each 2 hours in length. The questions are a mix of multiple choice, data response, and essay questions across the 3 papers.

Paper 1 covers themes 1 and 3 (microeconomics). Paper 2 covers themes 2 and 3 (macroeconomics). Paper 3 is an synoptic paper covering all 4 themes.

Overview

In studying economics, you will gain an understanding of current economic issues such as 'Why do students pay tuition fees for higher education?', 'Can the government solve the pensions crisis?' and more contemporary issues such as the 2008 financial crash, Brexit, and the Eurozone crisis. You will be introduced to a range of concepts and theories that are used to explain how the real world operates.

Economics attempts to explain the behaviour of consumers, producers, and governments, using models and data looking at real world problems. Students need to enjoy working with numbers and graphical techniques.

The 4 themes are: markets, the UK economy, business economics, and global economics.

Students will be offered opportunities to take part in a number of external

competitions and visits during the 2-year course. We aim to visit Parliament each year and the City of London.

Careers

This course is useful for those who wish to pursue an economics/business-related profession or set up their own business. It is also ideal for those who plan further study in economics, business studies, law, accounting, finance, management or politics.

English Literature

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature.

Assessment

80% exam-based with 3 exam papers: drama, prose and poetry. 20% coursework: a 2,500-3,000 word critical comparison of 2 significant literary texts.

Overview

Our A-level English Literature course is for lovers of books, plays and poetry. Travel with us on a literary journey, from Romantic poets like Byron to modern-day classics; from Renaissance ideas in Shakespeare to contemporary philosophy and social issues in a modern novel. You could be delving into true crime, or scaring yourself silly with a modern ghost story.

You will navigate modern poetry alongside iconic drama texts. You will explore how texts reflect the time in which they were written, how themes and ideas travel across different texts and times, and how you can use critical theory to develop your own ideas.

English Literature

In Year 13 you will study 2 texts of your own choice in depth and will showcase your creative writing skills in a range of writing styles – something any budding novelist or journalist will relish.

Careers

English graduates do things as diverse as working in law, design and technology, computing, journalism, publishing, accountancy, TV, music, education, retail, catering, and writing.

Exam Board
WJEC Eduqas**Entry criteria**
Grade 5 in an English or
humanities-based GCSE.**Assessment**
70% examination
30% practical non-examined assessment.**Overview**

The Film Studies A-level course is very much aimed at developing and deepening your understanding of the way that films tell us stories, engage and entertain us, even how they sometimes show us the truth about our societies. You will be taught how to analyse film, how to understand how films relate to the contexts and genres in which they were made and, ultimately, how to make your own film.

The course provides an insight into a range of film styles and movements, developing skills in - and understanding of - the language of film and the messages and values encoded in its construction.

As well as studying film and the ways in which it makes meaning, you will create your own sequence: you will take sole charge of the production and demonstrate your skills in narrative, cinematography, editing, sound, and mise-en-scene.

In summary, the course will engage you with a whole range of different film styles and movements: from narrative to documentary; mainstream to experimental; familiar to unexpected; British to European; Hollywood to worldwide; contemporary to historical.

Please be aware that 18 Certificate films will be studied as part of the course.

Careers

The study of film provides an aesthetic, technical, and practical understanding of the medium, preparing you for higher education in arts subjects as well as further study and development of skillsets related to the industry.

Enrichment

Film and Media students have the opportunity to get involved with the Cineyouth project, working in collaboration with the Cheltenham International Film Festival and industry professionals.

Film Studies

NEW WJEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Food Science and Nutrition (Extended Certificate)**Exam Board**
WJEC**Entry criteria**
Grade 5 or equivalent pass in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE.**Assessment**
Assessment is a combination of written examinations and non-examined assessments (coursework).**Overview**

This qualification provides an in-depth understanding of food science, nutrition, and their application in real-world contexts. You will explore the relationship between diet and health,

food safety, and the development of innovative food products. The course combines academic theory with practical skills, preparing you for higher education or careers in areas such as dietetics, food science, public health, and product development. It is equivalent to one A level. Delivered over 2 years, the course is made up of 4 units:

Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages (25%). This is an external written examination. This unit develops knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition across the life stages.

Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills (25%) This is an internal controlled assessment (NEA). This unit develops your practical cookery skills by allowing you to plan, prepare, cook and present food items to meet the needs of a specific target audience.

Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production (25%). This is an external written examination. In this unit you will develop an understanding of hazards

and risks in relation to the storage, preparation, cooking and serving of food items in different environments.

Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems (25%). This unit allows you to understand the scientific properties of food to allow you to plan and carry out a range of experiments with the aim of solving real world food production problems.

OR Unit 5: Current issues in food science and nutrition (25%). This unit allows you to carry out your own investigation into current issues within the world of Food Science and Nutrition.

Careers

The food industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. There are many global opportunities in hotels and restaurants, nutritionists, sports coaches, fitness instructors, and care providers. Food Technology, Food Marketing, Food Product Development, Dietetics, Nutrition, Teaching, Catering, Nursing, Hotel Management, Environmental Health, Social Health, Sports Science.

French

Exam Board
AQA**Entry criteria**
Grade 5 in French at GCSE.**Assessment**

3 exams at the end of Year 13 which test all 4 language skills.

Overview

Studying French at advanced level undoubtedly increases your employment opportunities. We aim to develop an appreciation of France and its culture. Students will research information, take part in debates and explore their feelings about contemporary issues, all whilst building on their knowledge of French gained at GCSE.

There will be opportunities to experience the language outside of the classroom with our French foreign language assistant. We've aimed to make the French A-level compelling by basing the study topics around lifestyle and social topics that you'll be interested in and it could give you a competitive edge in the labour market too!

All 4 skill areas are tested based on current trends in French society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, and the study of a French film.

The topics covered are: the 'cyber society', the place of voluntary work and the changing role of the family, contemporary French music, cinema, and the heritage of France. In Year 13, students study further topics within social and political spheres in the French-speaking world as well as a literary text.

Careers

Only 1 in 10 careers with languages is in fields such as interpreting and teaching. Whether you are destined for a career in commerce, accountancy, the travel industry, medicine, or engineering, a language should be considered an invaluable skill.

Geography

Exam Board
AQA**Entry criteria**
Grade 5 in Geography at GCSE..**Assessment**

80% written examination
20% individual fieldwork investigation.

Overview

In Geography, students investigate relationships between human populations and physical environments. You will gain knowledge and understanding of modern issues at a variety of scales whilst being able to consider their own, and decision makers' role, value, and attitude towards these issues.

We aim to develop an appreciation of the dynamic nature of contemporary geography. The A-level course builds upon the learning established at GCSE, including both familiar and new topics. Students will research information, solve problems and conduct practical fieldwork.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in various fieldwork activities, including a residential whilst they complete an individual investigation in Year 13.

Careers

Geography students are able to apply their skills to achieve success in many different careers including commerce, scientific services, planning, travel, tourism, journalism, development, environmental management, and conservation.

German

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in German at GCSE.

Assessment

Three exams at the end of Year 13 which test all four language skills.

Overview

Studying German at an advanced level undoubtedly increases your employment opportunities. We aim to develop an appreciation of Germany and its culture. Students will research information, take part in debates and explore their feelings about contemporary issues, all whilst building on their knowledge of German gained at GCSE.

There will be opportunities to experience the language outside of the classroom through a variety of initiatives and the development of links. We've aimed to make the German A-level compelling by basing the study topics around lifestyle and social topics that you'll be interested in and it could give you a competitive edge in the labour market too!

All four skill areas are tested based on current trends in German society, artistic culture in the German-speaking world, and the study of a

German film. The topics covered are: the changing state of the family, "the digital world", Youth culture: fashion and trends, music and television, festivals and traditions, art and architecture, and Cultural life in Berlin. In Year 13, students study further topics within social and political spheres in the German-speaking world including reintegration and German reunification, as well as a literary text.

Careers

Only 1 in 10 careers with languages are in fields such as interpreting and teaching. Whether you are destined for a career in commerce, accountancy, the travel industry, medicine or engineering, a language should be considered an invaluable skill.

Health & Social Care

(Extended certificate) Level 3 AAQ

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science and at least a grade 4 in 2 related GCSEs.

Assessment

Extended Certificate (=1 x A-level)
4 units (50% externally assessed)

Overview

Our Health and Social Care qualification can be studied alongside other Level 3 qualifications. The course is designed for post-16 learners wishing to go on to further or higher level study, or directly into employment in this area. The qualification attracts UCAS points and is widely recognised by universities and employers. Many students opt for this qualification because 50% of the final assessment is comprised of ongoing coursework, and the assessment is not solely based on examinations at the end of Year 13.

Units include:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Human Biology and Health
- Principles of Health and Social Care Practice
- Promoting Health Education

Government & Politics

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in an English or humanities-based GCSE.

Assessment

3 exams at the end of Year 13, each 2 hours in length: UK politics; UK government; comparative politics (USA).

Overview

In Year 12 we aim to encourage an interest in and an understanding of British politics and American politics in Year 13, including the 'rise' of Donald Trump. Students will gain knowledge of important concepts and institutions related to the constitution, parliament, political parties, and electoral systems. Students study and discuss current political developments, such as the 2024 election and Brexit, visit the Houses of Parliament and Supreme Court, and get a chance to promote and debate political policy in the local council chambers.

Year 13 focuses on the study of important ideologies such as liberalism and socialism that have shaped many important historical and political events. Students also

analyse the American political system and compare it with the UK. There will be an opportunity to participate in political debate with other local schools. Study visits include a trip to the House of Commons.

Careers

The course is useful to students intending to pursue a wide range of social science courses at higher education. Students planning to embark on a career in law, journalism, social services, management, or politics will benefit from the course.

History

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in History if studied or a grade 5 in English Language/Literature.

Assessment

3 exams at the end of Year 13:
1. A breadth study on how Britain was transformed between 1918 and 1997 (30%)
2. A depth study on America in the 1920s and 1930s (20%)
3. An investigation into Tudor Rebellions (30%).
20% coursework on Civil Rights in the United States.

Overview

This course gives students knowledge and skills for life, including the ability to communicate clearly and to not accept everything at face value. It will help you to make greater sense of the world we live in by giving you increased understanding of the events and people who have helped to shape it.

Students undertake a breadth of study of how Britain was transformed between 1918 and 1997, conduct a study in depth on the USA in the 1920s and 1930s, investigate Tudor Rebellions, and produce coursework on American civil rights, which can be on a topic of choice from the end of the Civil War through to the assassination of Martin Luther King and emergence of Black Power.

Careers

This course can be taken alongside a variety of subjects and lead to a degree, higher level apprenticeship, or employment. For example, when combined with A-levels in Biology and Psychology, it could lead to a degree in nursing. Combined with English and History, it could lead to a BA in Primary Education. When combined with Sociology and Psychology, it could lead to a degree in social work.

Health & Social Care

History

Information Technology

(Level 3 BTEC)

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

At least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 4 in three related GCSEs.

Assessment

Extended Certificate (4 Units) is equivalent to 1 A-level

50% externally assessed. 30% of final assessment is comprised of ongoing coursework.

Overview

This Information Technology qualification can be studied alongside other Level 3 qualifications. We offer the course as an Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A-level) which is designed for post-16 learners wishing to go on to further or higher level study, or directly to employment in this area.

The qualification attracts UCAS points and is widely recognised by universities and employers. Many students opt for this qualification because 50% of the final assessment is comprised of ongoing coursework, and the assessment is not solely based on terminal examinations at the end of Year 13.

Mandatory units for the Extended Certificate:

- Information Technology Systems
- Cyber Security and Incident Management
- Website Development
- Relational Database Development

Careers

The qualification is for learners who wish to continue with education or employment in the IT or computing sector. It is designed to be studied over 2 years and supports progression to higher education and employment. This course can be taken alongside a variety of subjects and is ideal for preparing students for any career associated with IT or business.

Equally, IT is a valuable life skill and complements many other Level 3 subjects and future occupations.

Mathematics

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

3 externally assessed calculator examinations, each 2 hours in length. Candidates will sit 2 pure papers and 1 applied.

Overview

If you enjoyed GCSE Mathematics and you like problem-solving, this is the course for you. Many topics build on previous work at GCSE such as sequences, quadratics and trigonometry, whilst differentiation and integration provide interesting and stimulating new material to study.

Throughout the course you will tackle challenging problems that will develop your ability to think logically and help you become an independent learner.

A-level Mathematics provides a good grounding for those who take A-levels in Science, Geography, Design Technology, Business, Economics, and Psychology.

Mandarin

(Chinese)

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 6 in Mandarin at GCSE or proven fluency in the language.

Assessment

3 exams at the end of Year 13 which test all 4 language skills.

Overview

Studying Mandarin at advanced level undoubtedly increases your employment opportunities. Students will develop an appreciation of China and its culture. We've aimed to make the Mandarin A-level compelling by basing the study topics around lifestyle and social topics that you'll be interested in and it could give you a competitive edge in the labour market too!

Students will research information, take part in debates, and explore their feelings about contemporary issues, all whilst building on their knowledge of Mandarin gained at GCSE.

There are 3 final exams that test all 4 skill areas based on current trends in Chinese society, social issues as well as artistic culture, including the study of film and literature. Students will

also need to complete an individual research project.

In Year 13, students go on to study further topics on current issues in the social and political spheres in China.

Careers

Only 1 in 10 careers with languages is in fields such as interpreting and teaching. Whether you are destined for a career in commerce, accountancy, the travel industry, medicine, or engineering, a language should be considered an invaluable skill.

Further Mathematics

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

4 externally assessed calculator examinations, each 1.5 hours in length. Candidates will sit 2 pure papers and 2 'option' papers.

Overview

This A-level course is for students who truly love mathematics and want the challenge of studying a broader and deeper range of topics.

In addition to work in pure mathematics, applications of the subject to mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics are studied to provide a wide-ranging and inspiring course.

Students who may go on to study mathematics, engineering or physics at university would find Further Mathematics very useful, particularly if they want to apply to a higher tariff university.

Careers

Career opportunities are many and varied: accountancy, actuarial work, architecture, astronomy, banking, building societies, computing, economics, engineering, hospital administration, insurance, market research, quantity surveying, and teaching.

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Media Studies

Exam Board

WJEC Eduqas

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE Media Studies or in an English or humanities-based GCSE.

Assessment

70% examination

30% practical non-examined assessment.

Overview

The fundamental questions around the role of the media are addressed through this A-level course. The ever-changing complexity of the media landscape is studied through a theoretical framework based around the core concepts of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

A contextual element is applied to the above, often developing comparative skills relative to different texts.

The texts studied consist of advertising and marketing; film industry; music video; newspapers; radio; video games; television; magazines; online/social media.

There is a heavy emphasis on practical work – you will use skills in DTP and Moving Image to produce (for example) a sequence from a new television programme – putting

your analytical skills into practice. There is an engagement with theory embedded in all aspects of the course, developing analytical skill in tandem with practical work.

Careers

Media Studies is a launchpad into a range of careers and higher education opportunities in the media and entertainment industry – one that is worth billions to the UK economy

Enrichment

Film and Media students have the opportunity to get involved with the Cineyouth project, working in collaboration with the Cheltenham International Film Festival and industry professionals.

Music Technology

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry criteria

Grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at grade 4 in three other related GCSEs.

Assessment

40% Coursework, 35% Practical Examination, 25% Written Examination

Overview

If you have an interest in music and how it's produced, then this course is ideal for you. It is designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of music production software, commercial music and recording techniques.

You will develop and apply theory and practical skills through learning how to mix, master and produce your own music in Logic Pro, how to record live instruments, and creatively using digital audio. You will also develop an understanding of studio roles.

You do not need to be a performer to complete this course, but an enjoyment of music and a willingness to compose music are a must.

Music

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Music GCSE or entry test if not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

Performing (30%) - Coursework: Students will perform a 6-minute recital on an instrument of their choice. Students can offer singing as an option.

Composition (30%) - Coursework: Students present 2 pieces of composition – 1 completely free choice and 1 on a brief provided by OCR.

Listening and Appraising (40%) - Exam: Students sit an exam based on familiar and unfamiliar music studied throughout the course.

Overview

While some students will choose this course because they intend to study music at university or college, it is equally appealing to those who enjoy music or are looking for a subsidiary subject. The skills it develops complement other subjects very well.

This course is divided into three areas, the practical components – performing and composing, and the more theoretical listening and appraising. Students can follow different pathways according to their particular musical strengths.

Students will study pieces of music from four different areas of study: The Classical Concerto, Developments of Popular Music, Programme Music 1820-1900 and Innovations in 20th Century

Music. Students will build up their theoretical, aural and analytical skills by studying set works and through wider listening.

Careers

Studying A-level music can be a leap into music specific careers including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher. Music also complements a range of commonly studied A-level subjects like Maths, Physics, English and Biology in order to keep higher education options open.

Physical Education

Exam Board

OCR

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE PE or Merit in equivalent BTEC. Candidates must also be playing or coaching one competitive sport to a good standard outside of school to fulfil coursework expectations.

Assessment

3 exams worth 70%:
 1. Physiological factors affecting performance
 2. Psychological factors affecting performance
 3. Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

Non-exam assessed element worth 30%:
 1. Practical performance (1 sport)
 2. Evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement.

Overview

The A-level course equips learners with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding, and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical education.

The practical element consists of an assessment in 1 activity in both Year 12 and Year 13, either as a performer or coach, as well as an analysis and evaluation of a performance. Practical assessment is largely undertaken within students' own time.

The course is very much theoretical with an emphasis on 'sports science'. Students will be expected to research different media to help underpin the knowledge they have gained within lessons.

Careers

With this qualification, you can move into virtually any area in the music industry from studio production to live sound, even acoustic design.

Music Technology

Physical Education

Physics

Exam Board

Edexcel

Entry criteria

- Grades 6,6 in core and additional science, plus grade 6 in Mathematics.
- Grade 6 in Physics if studied as a single science, plus grade 6 in Mathematics.

Assessment

3 externally examined papers and the science practical endorsement which is internally assessed.

Overview

Physics is 'the study of matter, energy and the interaction between them'. Physics is really the study of everything in our universe; it is about asking fundamental questions and using observations and experiments to attempt to answer them. Our A-level course covers the study of the laws, theories and models of physics, and explores their practical application in a variety of real-life situations.

Topics studied and examined in the first 2 examined papers include working as a physicist, mechanics, electric circuits, further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields, nuclear and particle physics, materials, waves and particle nature of light, thermodynamics, space, nuclear radiation, gravitational fields and oscillations. The third examined paper will include questions that assess conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental

methods that will draw on students' experiences of the core practicals. To pass this element and be awarded the science practical endorsement, students must demonstrate that they are competent in these practical skills.

Careers

The 2-year course provides grounding for those who intend to read one of the physical sciences or engineering at university. It is often highly recommended for those students who are likely to study medicine, biological or chemical sciences, and is a well respected A-level for most other careers.

Religious Studies

(Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics)

Exam Board

Eduqas

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Religious Studies if studied OR Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Assessment

3 written exams at the end of Year 13; 1 for each of the 3 components of the course: religious studies, philosophy, and ethics.

Overview

This course presents students with an opportunity to grapple with some of the most profound questions that have puzzled philosophers since the time of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Does God exist? Why is there a universe, rather than nothing? Is there any point to pain and suffering? And how sure can we be when we try to answer these questions?

How to decide what is right and what is wrong – and how to tell the difference – is something that we ask ourselves every day. Students will consider answers to these questions by studying ethical theories such as utilitarianism, natural law and situation ethics and apply them to real-life situations. Students can test their instincts by debating about which is more important: happiness, loyalty or love? They will also consider whether the choices we make are really our own, or whether free will is just an illusion.

Students will also take an in-depth look at the world's largest religious tradition – Christianity – to learn its most important beliefs and its impact on the lives of believers. They will consider how relevant religion is in modern society and debate whether it should be.

Careers

Religious Studies is an academic A-level course that is seen as excellent preparation for a wide range of higher education courses. Students go on to pursue careers in law, politics, the civil service, journalism, and advertising, as they are adept at using persuasive reasoning. Business management consultancies and chartered accountants are enthusiastic about people who have studied the subject as they can think critically and communicate clearly.

Psychology

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Assessment

3 examinations, each 2 hours in length and all equally weighted.

Overview

Psychology is a science. It is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. As a science, knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills, and mathematical skills are assessed in all 3 exams.

Students studying psychology gain a broad overview of various topics central to psychology; develop an understanding of explanations of behaviour from different schools of psychological thought, and learn to analyse the strengths and limitations of the various psychological approaches. Students will analyse, interpret, and evaluate scientific information to make judgements and reach conclusions; and apply understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures to theoretical and practical contexts.

Students will also study the issues and debates pertinent to modern psychological research.

Careers

Psychology students can go on to study psychology at degree level and then to study specialist post-graduate psychology courses to access careers in the fields of educational, occupational, clinical, prison, community, and health psychology, as well as cognitive neuroscience and counselling.

Alternatively, students can access careers including social welfare, teaching, research, sales and marketing, finance, administration, and human resources with the skills developed through the A-level course.

Sociology

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 or equivalent in Sociology/Health and Social Care or in an English or humanities-based GCSE.

Assessment

This course is 100% examined. Students complete three two-hour examinations at the end of the course.

Overview

Sociology is the study of society, people, and human behaviour. As a Sociology student, you will analyse how society functions and explore the reasons behind patterns of behaviour.

In the first year, you will study a range of topics focusing on the family and the household, including the nature of childhood, family diversity, social

change, and wider societal issues such as the impact of divorce. You will also examine education through the lens of research methods, covering topics such as the function of education, and exploring how gender, class, and ethnicity influence educational achievement. Contemporary issues, including government policies, will also be discussed.

In the second year, you will explore the role of beliefs in society and consider the relevance of religion and its links to sociological theory. The synoptic module is very popular, as is the study of crime and deviance and its repercussions for society. Teachers on this course use a wide range of activities to support different learning styles. You will be continually assessed to support your progress and ensure that you reach your full potential.

The Sociology department has strong links with the University of Gloucestershire and the University of Bristol, and students have opportunities to attend open days and lectures.

Careers

Sociology is an academically respected subject valued by universities across the country. It combines well with subjects such as Psychology, History, English Literature, Religious Studies, Geography, Art, Business Studies, Criminology, and Health and Social Care.

Studying A Level Sociology can lead to a wide range of careers, including roles within the police, teaching, nursing, midwifery, social work, probation and prison services, the courts and tribunal services, the National Offender Management Service, counselling, management, and human resources. Because Sociology is the study of society and its people, employers value the critical awareness and analytical skills that sociologists bring.

Spanish

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in Spanish at GCSE.

Assessment

3 exams at the end of Year 13 which test all 4 language skills.

Overview

Studying Spanish at advanced level undoubtedly increases your employment opportunities. We aim to develop an appreciation of Spain and its culture, and make the A-level compelling by basing the study topics around lifestyle and social topics that you'll be interested in. Students will research information, take part in debates, and explore their feelings about contemporary issues, all whilst building on their knowledge of Spanish gained at GCSE.

All 4 skill areas are tested based on current trends in Spanish society, artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world and the study of a Spanish film. The topics covered are: the 'cyber security', modern and traditional values, equal rights, the influence of modern-day idols, Spanish regional identity and the heritage of Spain.

In Year 13 students study further topics within social and political spheres in the Spanish-speaking world as well as a literary text.

Careers

Only 1 in 10 careers with languages is in fields such as interpreting and teaching. Whether you are destined for a career in commerce, accountancy, the travel industry, medicine, or engineering, a language should be considered an invaluable skill.

Core Maths

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% Examination there is NO coursework. Two externally assessed calculator examinations, each 1.5 hours in length.

Overview

Core Mathematics is a course for those that want to keep refreshing their mathematical knowledge, gain new analytical and statistical skills, and support the mathematical content of their other courses.

Mathematics is effectively a language. It is used and applied in almost every career whether it be STEM related or not. This course focuses on applying your Mathematics skills gained at GCSE to real-life contexts. More specifically, Core Mathematics looks at financial calculations, statistical methods and graphical techniques.

So, if you're looking for a challenging, engaging and heavily applicable course – look no further than Core Mathematics.

Sport

(Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport)

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry criteria

Grade 4 in three related GCSEs.

Assessment

Extended Certificate (=1 x A-level)
50% externally assessed examination/50% coursework

Overview

This BTEC course equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific elements of sport, alongside developing knowledge of the business side of sport. This is combined with leadership in sport so learners will gain experience on how to coach, organise and lead sporting events.

The Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A-level, consisting of the following units: Anatomy and Physiology, Sports Leadership, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, and Professional Development in the Sports Industry. The wide nature of study engages students in new topics and highlights the quality of and range of future roles available in sport.

Careers

This qualification provides a foundation for many career opportunities, including sports coaching, military, emergency services, teaching, sports psychology, lecturing, the leisure industry, sports journalism, sport development, coaching, and business. It can also offer the opportunity to travel and teach sports in children's camps such as Bunacamp and Camp America, or study at a university abroad.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Exam Board

AQA

Entry criteria

By application form and an average GCSE point score of 6.

Assessment

5,000-word essay-based report and a production log on a subject of your choice, or a 1,000-word report, an artefact and a production log.

Notes

EPQ is a nationally-recognised qualification at Level 3. It is worth up to 28 UCAS points.

Overview

The Extended Project Qualification is an additional qualification you can take alongside your Level 3 courses. It helps to develop research skills, time management, essay writing and a whole host of other skills that would be very useful at university and in your future career. Many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

It lets you study your own interests. Whether it's focusing on subjects

Careers

Accountancy, Actuarial work, Architecture, Astronomy, Banking, Building Societies, Chemist, Computing, Data Analyst, Economics, Engineering, Hospital Administration, Insurance, Market Research, Physicist, Quantity Surveying, Software Engineering, Statistician and Teaching.

Subject-specific entry requirements

SCIENCE-BASED COURSES

Biology

- Grades 6,6 in core and additional science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Biology if studied as a single science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics

Chemistry

- Grades 6,6 in core and additional science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Chemistry if studied as a single science, plus grade 5 in Mathematics

Criminology (Level 3)

- At least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 4 in three related GCSEs

Physics

- Grades 6,6 in core and additional science, plus grade 6 in Mathematics
- Grade 6 in Physics if studied as a single science, plus grade 6 in Mathematics

Computer Science

- Grade 6 in Computer Science if studied, plus a grade 5 in Mathematics. Students who haven't studied GCSE Computer Science will need to take an entry test before being accepted onto the course

Psychology

- Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

MATHEMATICS-BASED COURSES

Mathematics

- Grade 6 in Mathematics

Further Mathematics

- Grade 7 in Mathematics

Level 3 Core Mathematics

- Grade 5 in Mathematics (enrichment option which can be taken alongside A-levels)

BUSINESS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business

- Grade 5 in Business if studied or a grade 5 in English Language/Literature

Vocational Business

- Grade 4 at GCSE Business or Level 2 Pass in Vocational Business if studied, OR Grade 4 in three related GCSEs

Economics

- Grade 5 in Mathematics

Geography

- Grade 5 in Geography at GCSE

Government and Politics

- Grade 5 in an English or humanities-based GCSE

Health and Social Care (Extended certificate) Level 3 AAQ

- Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science and at least a grade 4 in 2 related GCSEs

History

- Grade 5 in History if studied or a grade 5 in English Language/Literature

Religious Studies (Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics)

- Grade 5 in Religious Studies if studied OR Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Sociology

- Grade 5 or equivalent in Sociology/Health and Social Care or in an English or humanities-based GCSE

LANGUAGE-BASED COURSES

English Language and Literature

- Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature

English Literature

- Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature

Modern Foreign Languages

- For French, German, Spanish, grade 5 at GCSE and Mandarin, grade 6 at GCSE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

Physical Education

- Grade 5 in GCSE PE or Merit in equivalent BTEC (students must also be playing or coaching one competitive sport at a good standard outside of school to fulfil coursework expectations)

Sport BTEC

- Grade 4 in three related GCSEs

TECHNOLOGY-BASED SUBJECTS

Design and Technology (Product Design and Fashion and Textiles)

- Grade 5 or equivalent in a design technology-based subject, or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE

Food Science and Nutrition

- Grade 5 or equivalent pass in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE

Information Technology BTEC

- At least a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at least a grade 4 in three related GCSEs

ART AND PERFORMING ARTS

Art 3D Design, Fine Art and Art Photography

- Grade 5 in an art-based GCSE or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE

Art Graphics (Graphic Communication)

- Grade 5 in an art or graphics-based subject or entry portfolio if not studied at GCSE

Dance

- Grade 5 in Dance at GCSE or entry test if not studied at GCSE

Drama and Theatre Studies

- Grade 5 in Drama at GCSE or entry test if not studied at GCSE

Music Technology

- Grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature and at grade 4 in three other related GCSEs

Music

- Grade 5 in Music or entry test pass if not studied at GCSE

FILM AND MEDIA

Film Studies

- Grade 5 in an English or humanities-based GCSE

Media Studies

- Grade 5 in Media Studies or in an English or humanities-based GCSE

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

- By application form and an average GCSE point score of 6

University Degrees

Degree Apprenticeships

Higher Apprenticeships

Here are the A-level and BTEC qualifications that some universities and employers require for more popular subjects and jobs. Some courses and apprenticeships will require you to have relevant work experience such as architecture, law, journalism, teaching, medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, and nursing – check employer and university websites for their individual entry requirements.

Accountancy	Maths is useful. GCSE Maths and English at grade 6 or above are often required.
Aeronautical Engineering	Maths and Physics are usually required.
Architecture	Art and Design and a science is useful. A portfolio of work is often required by universities and businesses. Physics, Design Technology, or English are also considered useful.
Art and Design	Most entrants onto Art and Design degrees will have done a one-year art foundation course after completing sixth form or college, but this is also possible to complete as part of a degree course. A portfolio of work may also be required for a degree course or art-related apprenticeship.
Biochemistry	Chemistry is usually essential, along with a second subject of Biology, Maths, or Physics.
Biology	Biology is usually essential along with a second science or related subject such as Chemistry, Computing, Geography, Maths, Physics, or Psychology.
Biomedical Sciences	Biology is usually essential and for some courses, Chemistry may be too. Maths and Physics may also be desirable.
Business Studies Business Management Marketing	There are usually no essential subjects, though most may require Maths GCSE at grade 4/5. Essay-based subjects may support your application, as can Maths and sometimes Physics if you are considering finance/banking-related courses.
Chemical Engineering	Maths is usually essential and some may also require Chemistry or Physics.
Chemistry	Chemistry is usually essential and some require a second science or Maths.
Civil Engineering	Maths is often essential, plus a second science-related course such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and sometimes Geography.
Computer Science/IT	Maths is often essential, along with Computing or IT depending on the course or employer, and some require Physics or Further Maths.
Criminology	There are usually no essential subjects, however some universities may favour those who have previously studied Criminology.
Cyber Security	Maths is desirable, including for some, a grade 5/6 or above at GCSE and STEM subjects are desired by many.
Drama	There are usually no essential subjects, but arts or humanities-based subjects may help. Offers are often based on interview at drama college/university. Apprenticeships differ so check out individual applications.
Design Technology/Design	There are usually no essential subjects, though Design Technology is an advantage. Some may ask for achievement in an art-related subject such as Art, Design Technology, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, and Photography, depending on the course or employer.
Economics	Economics and Maths are often desirable. If not, you will usually require a Grade 6 at GCSE Maths.
Education/Teaching	There are usually no essential subjects, though GCSE Maths, English, and Science are often required, depending on the level you want to teach. Check what is required for PGCE or education courses. Teaching apprenticeships are usually post-graduate based.
Electrical Engineering	Maths is usually required along with a science such as Chemistry or Physics.
English	English Literature is usually required. A grade 5 is often required if you wish to study English Language.
Film Studies	There are usually no essential subjects. However, applications are enhanced by humanities subjects (e.g. English Literature, Geography – check individual universities).
Geography, Geology and Earth Sciences	You will often need to have studied Geography, Maths, Physics, Chemistry or Biology.

Health and Social Care	There are usually no essential subjects, but relevant subjects include Psychology, Sociology, Law, and Health and Social Care.
History	History is useful, but not essential. A background in other humanities is helpful too.
Law	There are usually no essential subjects. Politics is a good option and essay-based ones such as English and humanities-based subjects may also be useful.
Mathematics and Statistics	Maths is essential and Further Maths is useful. If studying only three A-levels check universities for Maths/Further Maths combinations, as not all universities accept this combination.
Mechanical Engineering	Maths and Physics are usually essential and Design and Technology may be an advantage.
Media Studies	Essay-based subjects may help. The social sciences or humanities are helpful but most universities/employers will not specify particular subjects.
Medicine and Dentistry	Biology and Chemistry are usually essential. Medicine, dentistry and veterinary science applicants are usually required to have excellent GCSE results in Maths, Science, and English. Dentistry can require 7 GCSEs at grade 7 and above.
Modern Languages	The language of your choice is desirable for Modern Languages courses and essential for individual language courses, except Mandarin where it is desirable. Other subjects that could complement a languages degree course are humanities and arts subjects.
Music	Music is usually essential. If you would like to apply for a performance-based course, you will often be expected to have achieved a minimum grade of 7 (or equivalent) in your main instrument.
Nursing/Midwifery	Biology is essential alongside GCSE science at grade 4 or above. Some may ask for other science-based courses such as Chemistry, Maths, Physics, and Psychology.
Paramedic	Science or a social science is usually required at A-level, as well as GCSE science at grade 4 and above.
Philosophy Religious Studies	There are usually no essential subjects, but at least one essay-based subject such as English, History, and Philosophy is an advantage in some cases.
Physics	Physics and Maths are usually essential.
Policing	There are usually no essential subjects, but essay-based ones, PE, and social sciences may enhance your application.
Politics	There are usually no essential subjects but Sociology, History, Economics, Maths, and Philosophy may help. Politics departments also tend to favour essay-based subjects like English, Religious Studies, or Psychology, and Science can be an advantage.
Psychology	A range of subjects are useful, including Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Maths and Further Maths, Geography, Physics and Psychology. A grade 6/7 in English Language, Maths and Science at GCSE may also be required.
Sociology	There are usually no essential subjects. Other subjects that will be useful, however, are Psychology, History, Geography and Media Studies. Any humanities or social science subject that requires analytical and research skills will be useful.
Software Engineering	Two STEM subjects are usually essential such as Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Computer Science.
Sports Science/PE/Physiotherapy	You will often need at least two from: Biology, Chemistry, Maths, PE, Physics, and Psychology.
Veterinary Science	Biology and Chemistry are usually essential and some may require a third science or another subject. Medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science applicants are usually required to have excellent GCSE results in Maths, Science, and English.

Careers by subject

Art	Ceramics design maker, Model maker, Sample machinist, Jewellery designer, Furniture restorer, Sign writer, Furniture designer, Illustrator, Costume designer, Fashion designer, Textile designer, Animator, Architect, Photographer, Art therapist, Set designer.
Biology	Neuroscientist, Climate change analyst, Botanist, Biotechnologist, Biologist, Optometrist, Pathologist, Chiropractor, Radiographer, Reflexologist, Biomedical scientist, Phlebotomist, Ecologist, Audiologist, Tree surgeon, Dental technician, Dermatologist, GP, Critical care technologist, Healthcare science assistant, Dentist, Surgeon, Orthoptist, Zoologist, Microbiologist, Nutritionist, Dietician, Physiotherapist, Midwife, Osteopath.
Business	Facilities manager, Supply chain manager, Business adviser, Franchise owner, Stock control manager, Chief executive, Business project manager, Land and property valuer/auctioneer, Business development manager, Marketing executive or manager, Digital marketing officer, Retail buyer, Retail merchandiser, Sales manager, Quantity surveyor, Pay roll manager, Credit manager, Business analyst, Pensions manager, Financial manager.
Chemistry	Pharmacist, Pharmacy assistant or technician, Chemical engineer or technician, Chemist, Pharmacologist, Nuclear engineer, Orthoptist, Clinical scientist, Dispensing optician, Laboratory technician, Gas mains layer.
Computer Science	IT service engineer, IT security coordinator, Network manager, Network engineer, Software developer, IT support technician, Systems analyst, IT project manager, IT director, Computer systems administrator, Forensic computer analyst, IT trainer, E-learning developer, Web designer, App developer, Computer programmer, Software quality assurance engineer, Computer games developer, Office equipment service technician.
Criminology	Police officer, Prison officer, Probation officer, Social worker, Youth worker, Civil Servant, Community development worker, Crime Scene Investigator, Detective, Paralegal, Social researcher, Solicitor.
Design and Technology	Product designer, Sign maker, Architect, Furniture designer, Furniture restorer, Packaging technologist, Model maker, Fashion design assistant, Fashion designer, Footwear designer, Pattern grader, Stonemason, Ergonomist, Design and development engineer, Jewellery designer, Computer games developer, Sample machinist, Advertising art director, Carpenter, Costume designer, Graphic designer, Tailor, Glass engraver, Community arts worker.
Drama and Theatre Studies	TV or film camera operator, Classical musician, Video editor, Wardrobe assistant, Lighting technician, Director of photography, Costume designer, Producer, Choreographer, Set designer, Actor, Drama therapist, Screenwriter, Stage manager, Prop maker, Audio/Visual technician, Make-up artist.
Economics	Economist, Investment analyst, Financial adviser, Bank manager, Tax adviser, Banking customer care manager, Financial manager.
English Language and Literature	School teacher, Publishing editor, Newspaper or magazine editor, Editorial assistant, Solicitor, Bookbinder, Police officer, Barrister, Paralegal, Human resources officer, Legal secretary, Religious leader, Training manager, Further education lecturer, Road traffic accident investigator, Librarian, Sound engineer, Online tutor, Bid writer, Medical secretary, Sports journalist, Licensed conveyancer, Legal executive, Court usher.
English Literature	Bid writer, Author, Sub-editor, Copy editor, Magazine journalist, News journalist, Web editor, Translator, Media researcher, Proof reader.
Film Studies	Director of photography, Video editor, TV or film camera operator, Photographer, TV or film production manager, TV or film producer or director, TV or film sound technician.
Geography	Hydrologist, Soil conservationist, Water conservationist, Geoscientist, Geotechnician, Environmental consultant, Town planner, Oceanographer, Environmental health officer, Palaeontologist, Geological and Petroleum technician, Cartographer, Meteorologist, Surveying and mapping technician, GIS technician, Rural surveyor, Countryside ranger, Environmental economist, Sustainability consultant, Conservation scientist, Countryside officer.

Government and Politics	Member of parliament, Broadcast journalist, Diplomatic service officer, Emergency management director, Civil service, Immigration officer, Charity worker.
Health and Social Care	Care home manager, Care home advocate, Foster carer, Mental health worker, mental health nurse, Communication support worker, Probation officer, Care assistant, Palliative care assistant, School nurse, Care worker, Occupational therapist, Acute care nurse, Prison instructor, School psychologist, Art therapist, Drug and alcohol worker, Social worker, Sociologist, Substance misuse outreach worker, Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Psychiatrist, Family support worker.
History	Historian, Broadcast journalist, Diplomatic service officer, Translator, Tour manager, Curator, Interpreter, Solicitor, Conservator, Barrister, Antique dealer, Crown prosecutor, Paralegal, Archaeologist, Archivist, Civil service executive officer, Local government officer, Member of parliament, Anthropologist.
Mathematics	Mathematician, Insurance underwriter, Mechanical engineer, Data analyst-statistician, Financial adviser, Nanotechnologist, Automotive engineer, Non-destructive testing technician, Electronics engineer, Astronaut, Electronics engineering technician, Investment analyst, Aerospace engineer, Naval architect, Marine engineering technician, Marine engineer, Management accountant, Insurance risk surveyor, Structural engineer, Electrical engineer, Public finance accountant, General practice surveyor, Mortgage adviser, Materials engineer.
Media Studies	TV presenter, Radio broadcaster, Web editor, Journalist, Copy editor, Broadcast journalist, Printing administrator, Newspaper or magazine editor, Editorial assistant, Media researcher, Magazine journalist, Sub editor, Image consultant, Publishing editor, Photographer, Graphic designer.
Modern Foreign Languages	Translator, Interpreter, Broadcast journalist, Teacher, Consultant, or working in Media, PR, Finance, Banking, or Tourism for a charity or a business trading internationally.
Music	Acoustics consultant, Actor, Musician, Music therapist, Music director, Sound engineer or technician.
Philosophy and Ethics	Broadcast journalist, Community development officer, Charity director, Family support worker, Solicitor, Further education lecturer, Civil service administrative officer.
Photography	Art editor, Reprographer, Photographic stylist or technician, TV or Film director or producer, Audio visual technician, Cinema projectionist, TV or film camera operator, Photographer, Director of photography, Video editor, Visual merchandiser.
Physical Education	PE teacher, Fitness instructor, Personal trainer, Sports physiotherapist, Sports coach, Sports development officer, Sports scientist.
Physics	Materials engineer or technician, Heat treatment operator, Domestic appliance service engineer, Automotive engineer, Helicopter pilot, Nuclear engineer or technician, Electricity generation worker, Electricity distribution worker, Energy engineer, Gas service technician, Commercial energy assessor, Electronics engineering technician.
Psychology	Barrister, Forensic psychologist, Arbitrator, mediator, and conciliator, Community development worker, Psychologist, Consumer scientist, Cognitive behavioural therapist, Counsellor, Life coach, School psychologist, Hypnotherapist.
Sociology	Forensic psychologist, Broadcast journalist, Community development officer, Diplomatic service officer, Interpreter, Counsellor, Social worker, Sociologist, Consumer scientist.

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