

WHAT'S NEXT?



**Sixth Form Courses
Information Booklet
2019 - 2020**

Advice and guidance on an
important decision for your future.

Important Information about June 2020

Once the AS examinations are finished at the end of Lower 6th, you will be required to return to school for the last 3 weeks of June. During this time, you will begin your A2 courses, start the UCAS application process and complete a period of work experience. The return to school date is provisionally set as Monday 8th June 2020. The final date will be confirmed early in September 2019.

CONTENTS

Information about June 2020.....	1
Contents	2
Foreword	3
Sixth Form Entry Requirements and Offer	4-6
Skills and Dispositions for Success.....	6
Summary of subject entry requirements	7-8
Art and Design	9
Biology	10
Business Studies	11
Chemistry	12
Classical Civilisation	13
Computer Science.....	14
Drama and Theatre Studies.....	15
Economics	16
English Literature.....	17
Environmental Technology.....	18
French.....	19
Further Mathematics	20
Geography	21
Geology	22
German	23
Government and Politics	24
Health and Social Care	25
History	26
ICT	27
Latin	28
Life and Health Sciences	29
Mathematics	30
Media Studies	31
Moving Image Arts	32
Music	33
Nutrition and Food Science	34
Physics	35
Psychology	36
Religious Studies	37
Russian	38
Spanish	39
Sport (BTEC).....	40
Technology and Design	41

Foreword

You are about to make one of the most important decisions in your life. Your choice of A Level subjects will have an impact on your future study and career opportunities. The world of work is changing and in the future you will be part of a dynamic, ever shifting employment landscape which will require you to have the academic qualifications needed for success in your chosen career **and** the skills and dispositions that will allow you to thrive throughout your career.

Methody offers a wide range of subjects which are designed to prepare you for life beyond the College, and you and your parents will be supported by our team of Careers Tutors so that you can make the best choice. When making your choices, *consider which subjects you enjoy*. The depth and complexity of A Level courses compared to GCSE means you will have to spend many hours in school and at home over the next two years studying the subjects you have chosen. If you do not enjoy a subject, then it is unlikely that you will be able to give the sustained commitment required to succeed. The decisions to be made are highly personal to you. It is you who will be doing the work and taking the exams. It is your future and the choices in the end should be made by you.

This booklet is intended to help you make an informed decision. It includes up to date subject information which will assist you in your choices so please read it carefully. It is, however, only one part of the Careers and Employability programme listed below which is offered to you throughout the year in Form 5 and which is designed to give you as much information as possible to help you with your choices after your GCSE examinations.

Form 5 Employability and Careers Programme 2018 - 2019

Date	Event
Thursday 13 September 2018	Pathways Careers Convention
Wednesday 7 November 2018	Form 5 Parents' Consultation
Wednesday 7 November 2018	Visit to Skills NI Exhibition
November 2018 – March 2019	Lunchtime talks given by people in the Financial Services Industry
November 2018	DEL Careers Talks in classes
December 2018	Subject talks in classes
December 2018	New subject talks in assemblies
Tuesday 11 December 2018	Eye4Education Employability Workshops on Labour Market Information
Friday 11 January 2019	Form 5 Careers Day
Wednesday 13 February 2019	Form 5 Parents Information Evening
Thursday 28 th February to Monday 4 March 2019	Careers Interviews and completion of the A Level Choice form with a member of the MCB Careers team or a Vice-Principal
December 2018 to March 2019	Meetings with the Careers Adviser from DEL can be requested
August 2019	Post GCSE results careers interviews

Remember, we are here to support you and to help you achieve your potential. We want you to be a first class version of yourself, not a second class version of someone else.



Mr S. Naismith
Principal

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

The academic requirements for entry into the Sixth Form are as follows:

1. A minimum of 6 GCSE subjects at Grade C or above (all taken by the end of Form 5)
2. Students are expected to take three subjects to A Level. This means that for the majority of students, entry to Lower Sixth will require them to have achieved a minimum of 3 B Grades and 3 C Grades at GCSE including English Language and Mathematics.
3. Grade B or above in each of the subjects to be taken at A Level unless otherwise stated in this booklet. If the A Level subject is not available at GCSE then a Grade B or above in a related subject will be accepted. (A related subject is a subject taken at GCSE which requires comparable skills to a proposed A Level subject).
4. Students may request to take a 4th subject if they:
 - Intend to apply for a university course that requires 4 A Levels or
 - Intend to study Medicine, Veterinary Studies or Dentistry
 - Are studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level or
 - Have another compelling reason to study an additional subject.

In August, students who obtain less than the minimum entry requirements should arrange to see Ms Davison, Senior Vice-Principal, who will provide information on the support available to enable them to identify alternative pathways of progression.

What Will My Timetable in Sixth Form Look Like?

Most students will take 3 subjects for A Level. Some will take 4.

Supervised Study

Tutorial Period

Games (Optional)

Enrichment Programme (Optional)

1. In Lower Sixth, subjects which are modular consist of an AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Level with external exams at the end of Lower Sixth. AS grades are then awarded. For courses beginning in September 2019, all CCEA A Levels will be modular and the AS score will count towards 40% of the final A Level grade. However, subjects which are following an English examination board specification are linear. For these subjects the AS is a separate qualification and as such will not count towards the final A Level grade at the end of Upper Sixth. It is our policy that students who are taking linear courses will not be entered for AS examinations in these subjects.

The following modular A Levels will be offered for courses starting in September 2019

Art and Design, Biology, Level 3 BTEC in Sport, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Environmental Technology, French, Geography, German, Government and Politics, Health and Social Care, History, Life and Health Sciences, Mathematics, Moving Image Arts, Music, Nutrition and Food Science, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish, Technology and Design, ICT.

The following linear A Levels will be offered for courses starting in September 2019

Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama and Theatre Studies, Geology, Latin, Media Studies, Psychology and Russian.

A BTEC in Sport, equivalent to 1 A Level, will also be available from September 2019.

2. It is anticipated that all students will progress to Upper Sixth. However, if a student is significantly underachieving in the Lower Sixth Year then a meeting will be arranged with Mrs McCluggage as Head of Sixth Form and/or Ms Davison, the Senior Vice-Principal to discuss and identify alternative pathways of progression.

Choosing Your Subjects

All pupils in Form 5, along with their parents, will be asked to attend an interview with a member of the Careers Team or a Vice-Principal to talk about career aspirations and to fill in the choices form, which will then be passed to the Timetabling Office who will see if the subject combination chosen can be timetabled. These interviews will take place from 28th February to 4th March 2019. It is possible to make a change to your choice of A Level subjects after this date by sending in a letter from your parent / guardian to your Careers Tutor as soon as possible but any changes **are subject to timetabling constraints, such as class size, etc** and may or may not be possible.

To help you prepare for this interview it is important that you **do some research** and **think** about how you would answer the following questions.

- *What subjects are necessary and/or advisable for a particular higher education course or career?*
- *What opportunities do the subjects I would like to take for A Level open up, which do they close down?*
- *Does my choice form a well-balanced programme of study?*
- *Am I likely to be successful in these subjects?*
- *Why am I choosing these subjects?*
- *What are the skills and dispositions that I need to develop in order to be successful in my future working life and how will I develop them?*

Heads of Department of Psychology, Business Studies, Classical Civilisation, Economics, Environmental Technology, Health and Social Care, Life and Health Sciences, Nutrition and Food Science, Geology, and Government and Politics will give information about their specifications and the content of their subject in Whitla Hall assemblies in December 2018. Teachers of other subjects will give you information about their subject during a timetabled lesson.

Please Read the Following Information Carefully

1. A subject will be timetabled provided a large enough number of students opt for it. In some cases, special arrangements may be made for subjects with small numbers for example the number of taught periods allocated to subjects with small pupil numbers may be reduced and periods of independent study for the students have been timetabled to ensure provision remains comparable with other subjects.
2. If any subject is oversubscribed a selection process will take place.
3. If you choose Further Mathematics, you must also choose Mathematics **and** two other subjects. It is important to note that some universities will not accept Mathematics and Further Mathematics as 2 distinct A Levels.
4. If you chose A Level Mathematics but have not studied Further Mathematics at GCSE, you will have an extra amount of time for Mathematics on your timetable in Lower Sixth.
5. Russian and Latin L6th and U6th classes are taught concurrently.
6. ICT must not be chosen with Computer Science.
7. Life and Health Sciences must not be taken with Biology or Chemistry.
8. In Modern Languages some time is allocated for a conversation class.

9. You can take the following subjects in 6th Form without having studied them at GCSE: Business Studies, Classical Civilisation, Economics, Environmental Technology, Geography, Geology, Government and Politics, Health and Social Care, History, ICT, Life and Health Sciences, Media Studies, Nutrition and Food Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, BTEC in Sport,
- Please note**, if you have taken any of these subjects for GCSE then you will be required to achieve the subject entry criteria as given in this booklet to take it forward into A Level as your grade at GCSE is an indicator of future success in the subject.
10. The relevant Head of Department may give approval for study to a student who demonstrates clear evidence of knowledge, understanding and aptitude for Art and Design, Computer Science, Drama and Theatre Studies, Moving Image Art, Music or Technology and Design, without having taken the subject at GCSE. The decision may be based on a portfolio of work or an audition.

The Entitlement Framework

We are committed to providing access to the Entitlement Framework. If you want to study a subject not delivered by the College but by a school in the South Belfast Area Learning Community or Belfast Metropolitan College, you should arrange a second interview, with Mr Gibson (Entitlement Co-ordinator).

6th Form study is challenging. As well as qualifications you need to think about the skills and dispositions that will lead to success.

These include:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Time management and organization
- Oral and written communication
- Teamwork
- Creative problem-solving
- Initiative and enterprise
- Critical and analytical thinking
- Ability to apply knowledge and concepts
- Information gathering, evaluation and synthesis
- Emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills
- Adaptability
- Dedication and Self-discipline
- Resilience and Grit

You should consider the following questions in relation to skills:

- Analytical thinking – do you possess the ability to break down a problem into its component parts, identifying implications and causal relationships?
- Conceptual thinking – can you recognize patterns and the key underlying issues, making the complex simple and finding creative solutions?
- Teamwork – are you good at working with others – seeing issues from another person's point of view? Are you willing and able to work cooperatively and collaboratively with others?
- Communication and Influence – can you be persuasive? Can you convince others of a view or position?
- Leadership – do you enjoy teamwork and cooperation while leading a group of people, articulating a purpose for the group and motivating people to fulfil that purpose?

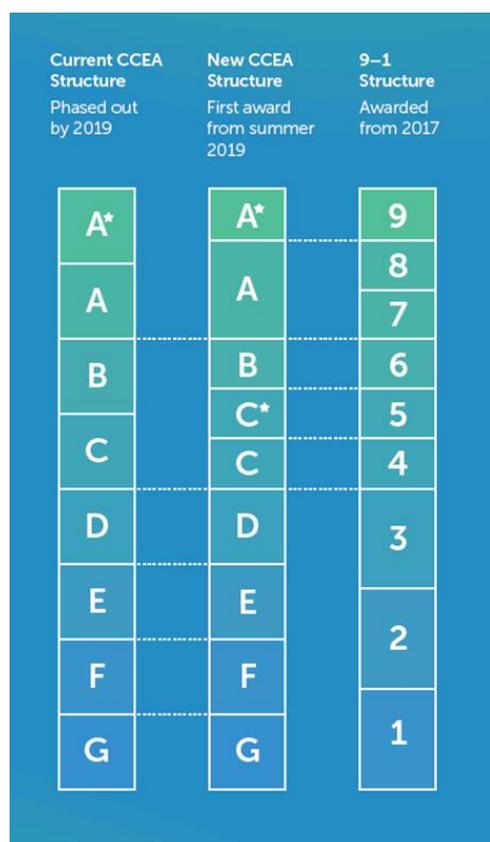
Summary of Requirements for Study

Subject	Minimum GCSE grade requirement in subject (if studied)	Alternative requirement (min grade B unless stated)
Art & Design	B	HOD approval on acceptable portfolio
Biology	B and B in Mathematics	BB in Double Award Science with A in Biology component.
Business Studies	B	English or Geography or Mathematics
Chemistry	B and B in Mathematics	BB in Double Award Science with A in Chemistry component.
Class Civilisation	6	History or English Language or English Literature or Latin or RE
Computer Science	B in Digital Technology (Programming) / Computer Science / Computing and B in Mathematics	
Drama & Theatre Studies	B in Drama and B in English Literature or English Language	HOD approval on acceptable audition
Economics	B	Mathematics or Geography or English
English Literature	A in English Lit and B in English Language	HOD approval
Environmental Technology	B in Mathematics	Technology or Physics or BB in Double Award Science
French	B	
Geography	B	English Language and Mathematics
Geology	B	English Language and Mathematics
German	6	
Government & Politics	B in English Literature or History	
Health & Social Care	B in English Language	Biology or BB in Double Award Science
History	B	A in English Literature or English Language
ICT	C* in Digital Technology (Multimedia) and C* in English	English Language or English Literature
Latin	6	
Life & Health Sciences	C* in Biology and C* in Chemistry	BB in Double Award Science
Mathematics (Route 1)	A in Mathematics and B in Further Mathematics	
Mathematics (Route 2)	A in Mathematics	
Further Mathematics And Mathematics	A* Further Mathematics and A* in Mathematics	

Subject	Minimum GCSE grade requirement in subject	Subject
Media Studies	B in English Language	
Moving Image Arts	B	HOD approval on acceptable portfolio
Music	B and grade 5 instrument or voice	HOD approval on acceptable audition
Nutrition & Food	B in Food and Nutrition	Biology or Chemistry or Physics
Physics	B in Physics and an A in Mathematics	BB in Double Award Science with A in Physics component.
Psychology	B in Mathematics	English Language or Biology or Chemistry or BB in Double Award Science
Religious Studies	B	
Russian	6	
Spanish	6	
Sport (BTEC)	B in PE	B in Biology or BB in Double Award Science
Technology and Design	B	B in Mathematics and B in Biology or Chemistry or Physics or BB in Double Award Science

In certain circumstances and if there is space in the class a C* may be considered in the following subjects: Business Studies, Classical Civilization, Computer Science, Environmental Technology, German, Health and Social Care, ICT, Life and Health Sciences, Russian and Sport (BTEC).

Comparison of new CCEA GCSE Grades with previous levels and the 9-1 system used in England



The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align, as the diagram shows:

- The bottom of grade A is aligned with the bottom of grade 7;
- The bottom of grade C is aligned with the bottom of grade 4;
- The bottom of grade G is aligned with the bottom of grade 1.

A*/9 are the highest grades available. The realignment of the A* with 9 and the introduction of the C* to align with grade 5 means that fewer A* and B grades will be awarded by CCEA than in previous years.



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above at GCSE.

Strong skills in drawing from first hand (from life) and strong problem solving skills. An ability to juggle coursework deadlines and to work independently to devise ideas for personal investigations arising from a set theme. Strong skills in research and extended writing are needed for the 1,000-2,000 word A2 Written Investigation. A willingness to take creative risks. A keen interest in historical and contemporary issues in Art and Design.

Desirable

A grade A in GCSE Art and Design. Students moving from another school to study at A Level should bring a portfolio of their work as evidence of their ability. A grade B or above in English Language is desirable due to the requirement for extended writing at A2.

Content

AS 1: Experimental Portfolio

A balance of directed creative and expressive workshops and self-directed research and investigation arising from a set theme

AS 2: Personal Response

Focused investigations leading to a substantial outcome arising from set theme.

A2 1: Personal and Critical Investigation

Self-directed research and investigation arising from set theme. A 1,000- 2,000 word Written Investigation

A2 2: Thematic Outcome

Focused investigations leading to a substantial outcome arising from set theme.

Assessment

AS 1: Experimental Portfolio

50% of AS, 20% of A Level

AS 2: Personal Response

50% of AS, 20% of A Level

A21: Personal and Critical Investigation

Practical Work 40% of A2, 24% of A Level

Written Investigation 20% of A2, 12% of A Level

A22: Thematic Outcome

40% of A2, 24% of A Level

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Students will either choose a Foundation Course in Art and Design or opt for direct entry to a specialist degree course.

Employment

The Creative Industries is one of the fastest growing areas of the UK economy with diverse career opportunities within Art and Design.

Other

Apprenticeships for young people are available through organisations such as Northern Ireland Creative Employment Programme and NI Screen.

From a student:

“A Level Art and Design really allows you to explore a range of techniques and media in a truly expressive way. Compared to GCSE we have more freedom to find what intrigues us within art. The A Level specification is very loose and you have more control, allowing you gain more confidence and independence. A Level Art and Design gives you transferable skills that are useful in industries other than the creative industries too.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in Biology for pupils following the GCSE Biology course.

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics is essential to cope with the mathematical content of the A Level course.

Desirable

Pupils should have studied GCSE Chemistry as a single science or as part of Double Award. The study of Chemistry at A Level alongside Biology would be of benefit for some topics.

Content

At each level, AS and A2, students must study all three units.

AS 1: Molecules and Cells

AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity

AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology

A2 1: Physiology, Coordination and Control, and Ecosystems

A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends

A2 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology

Assessment

AS 1: 15% of A Level

External written exam 1 hour 30 minutes.

Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.

AS 2: 15% of A Level

External written exam 1 hour 30 minutes. Students

answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.

AS 3: 10% of A Level

External written exam assessing practical skills 1 hour. Internal practical assessment.

A2 1: 24% of A Level

External written exam 2 hours 15 minutes.

Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.

A2 2: 24% of A Level

External written exam 2 hours 15 minutes.

Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.

A2 3: 12% of A Level

External written exam assessing practical skills 1 hour 15 minutes. Internal practical assessment

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Biology is essential for the study of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary in most institutions and highly desirable for studying Pharmacy. There are many other Biology based degrees on offer in most universities including; Biological Sciences, Genetics, Zoology etc.

Employment

The study of Biology is very useful in a wide range of employment areas, including the health industry, food production and environmental health, conservation and most recently the ever expanding biotechnology industry.

Other

Biology gives students an understanding and respect for living organisms. Students develop valued skills including analysis, evaluation, problem solving, research and an ability to understand complex processes, along with practical skills such as using a microscope, fieldwork and handling apparatus.

From a student:

“I studied Biology at A Level to allow me to apply for medical degrees. However, it has always been of personal interest and is a subject that is relevant to most people. There is a lot to learn at A Level but there is also lots of practical work and it is really interesting.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above if GCSE Business Studies has been taken, however, a C* may be considered if the student has achieved a grade C* or above in both Mathematics and English at GCSE as well. Those who have not studied GCSE Business Studies must have grade B in either English, Geography or Mathematics.

Desirable

An interest in business related content, ability to be creative and innovative as well as willingness to undertake additional reading around business topics.

Content

AS 1: Introduction to Business: This unit begins with what motivates individuals to develop business enterprises. It also covers topics such as importance of quality, recruitment, management and leadership styles, employee motivation and business operations.

AS 2: Growing the Business: Students explore the role of technology in growing a business as well as topics such as marketing and the use of e-business. Students also develop an appreciation of the role of accounting and financial information in business decision making and financial control.

A2 1: Strategic Decision Making: Students identify business objectives as well as how conflict can occur among various stakeholders. Students gain an insight into business planning and how to manage risk and uncertainty when developing business strategies through decision tools as well as the use of accounting and financial information.

A2 2: The Competitive Business Environment:

Students examine the macroeconomic framework and the impact of globalisation on business activities. Students develop an appreciation of the importance of ethics and sustainability on business decision making and culture as well as how businesses are affected by and react to a change in the dynamic and technology-driven business environment.

Assessment

AS 1: External written examination - 1 hour 30 minutes:
Two compulsory structured data responses.

AS 2: External written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes:
Two compulsory structured data responses.

A2 1: External written examination - 2 hours: Five compulsory structured data responses.

A2 2: External written examination - 2 hours: Six compulsory structured data responses.

What can you do with this subject?

Business Studies continues to be one of the most popular university and career pathways for students leaving Methodist College. It will provide students with an excellent broad-based preparation for careers and degrees in management, accountancy, product development, marketing, investment banking, international business, finance, actuary, retail or simply running your own business. Some of our students have recently entered business-related apprenticeships with companies such as PWC.

Throughout the course, the students will experience guest speakers and the opportunity to visit businesses to see how theory learnt in the classroom can be carried across into the real business world.

From a student:

“I have really enjoyed studying Business Studies and now hope to go on to study a business-related course at University. I believe studying Business Studies at A Level has allowed me to gain confidence in my overall ability as well as developing key skills in areas such as organisation, critical-thinking and communication as well as having a wide knowledge of how the business world works. Most importantly, this knowledge and development of transferrable skills are key in preparing me for the demands of future employment where there is a need for a flexible and adaptable workforce.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in Chemistry and a B in Mathematics

Desirable

An interest in the subject and science in general.

Content

AS 1: Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry

AS 2: Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry

AS 3: Basic Practical Chemistry

A2 1: Further Physical and Organic Chemistry

A2 2: Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

A2 3: Further Practical Chemistry

Assessment

AS 1: External written examination. 1 hour 30 minutes. (90 marks)

AS 2: External written examination. 1 hour 30 minutes. (90 marks)

AS 3: Practical Booklet A. 1 hour 15 minutes. (25 marks).

Practical Booklet B. 1 hour 15 minutes. (55 marks).

A2 1: External written examination. 2 hours (110 marks)

A2 2: External written examination. 2 hours (110 marks)

A2 3: Practical Booklet A. 1 hour 15 minutes. (30 marks).

Practical Booklet B. 1 hour 15 minutes. (60 marks).

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, forensic science

Employment

Laboratory technician, Research and Development, Pharmacy technician

Other

Biotechnology, Oil and gas, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Sustainable energy, Management

From a student:

“A Level Chemistry presents an unparalleled opportunity for lovers of problem solving as it is all about making connections between many of the topics studied at GCSE and the more in-depth understanding of them. There is a real satisfaction to be gained from the various aspects of the course falling into place. The wealth of information studied is enriching and relevant to so many aspects of everyday life.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade 6 or above if Classical Civilisation has been taken at GCSE (OCR).

Those who have not studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE Level must have obtained a Grade B (or equivalent) in a subject such as History, English Language, English Literature, Latin or Religious Studies.

Desirable

As the course is quite varied in nature, it should appeal to those with an interest in literature, politics, drama or history who wish to gain a knowledge and understanding of the literature and culture of the Greeks and Romans through studying a diverse range of ancient material.

Content

Unit 1: The World of the Hero: Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*: This component is solely focused on the study of Greek and Roman literature in translation.

Unit 2: Culture and Arts: Imperial Image: Through an examination of literature and visual/material culture, this component looks at the ways in which the Emperor Augustus conveyed his personal brand of rule to all the social classes of Rome.

Unit 3: Beliefs and Ideas: Democracy and the Athenians: The aim of this component is to examine the birth and development of democracy, what this meant to an Athenian and its positive and negative aspects as expressed by historians, dramatists and commentators.

Assessment

Three written papers are taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Unit 1: 2 hours 20 minutes – 40%.

Unit 2: 1 hour 45 minutes – 30%.

Unit 3: 1 hour 45 minutes – 30%.

Examination paper questions are varied and range in length from short answers to full length essays. Source-based questions appear on all of the papers.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Classical Civilisation can be studied at degree level on its own or in combination with other subjects.

Employment

The transferable skills gained are useful in a wide range of occupations such as author, historian, teacher, lecturer, civil servant, journalist, researcher, politician, diplomat and lawyer.

From a student:

“Classical Civilisation has been an enjoyable subject to study due to the diverse areas of the Greek and Roman worlds covered. It has been interesting to read through two of the world's greatest epics, to look at how the concept of democracy was born in Athens over 2500 years ago and how the first Roman emperor Augustus, much like many politicians today, sought to present his public image in a positive way. I have developed my research, analytical and critical thinking skills and found out that many of the burning issues of today were around in ancient times too!”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in Mathematics **and** Grade B or above in Digital Technology (Programming) / Computer Science / Computing, if studied

Desirable

Good problem solving ability

Logical thinking skills

Willingness to persevere with a task in order to develop an efficient, working solution

Content

AS 1: Paper 1 - On-screen examination

AS 2: Paper 2 - Written examination

A2 1: Paper 1 - On-screen examination

This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science

A2 2: Paper 2 - Written examination

This paper tests a student's theoretical knowledge of computer science

A2 3: Non-examination assessment

The non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem.

Assessment

A2 1: 2 hours 30 minutes on-screen examination (40%)

A2 2: 2 hours 30 minutes written examination (40%)

A2 3: Non-examination assessment (20%)

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Applied Computing
Computer Science
Software Engineering

Employment

Earn As You Learn schemes
(e.g. Kainos)

Apprenticeships (e.g. Deloitte
Brightstart)

Other

www.bcs.org

<https://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/computing-it/>

From a student:

"The opportunities in the Computing industry are increasing. It is a thriving industry and will allow me to work anywhere in the world, on lots of different projects. I may decide not to be a programmer but know that, with my A Level, I will be able to choose from a diverse range of careers. In fact, the jobs I will do may not exist yet – that is exciting!"



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE Drama **and** GCSE English Literature or English Language

Desirable

Grade A in GCSE English Language

Content

Unit 1: Devising

Unit 2: Text in Performance

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Assessment

Unit 1: Devising (80 marks and 40% of the qualification) Portfolio (60 marks) and Devised Performance (20 marks)

Unit 2: Text in Performance (60 marks and 20% of the qualification) Group Performance and Monologue/Duologue (60 marks)

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (80 marks and 40% of the qualification) Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation

Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text

Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Performing Arts Degree

Law Degree

Communications Degree

Bachelor of Arts in Drama

Employment

Professional Acting/Musical Theatre

Law

Advertising

Teaching

From a student:

“I have thoroughly enjoyed Drama because it has taught me a wide range of styles, methods and techniques that I have been able to put into practice when performing both inside and outside of school”.

“A Level Drama has exposed me to a variety of practitioners and styles which have helped me develop a better performance style. The theory side has provided me with a greater understanding of stage craft and therefore developed my acting as a whole.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above if GCSE Economics has been taken.

Those who have not studied GCSE Economics must have grade B in either English, Geography or Mathematics.

Desirable

An interest in current economic affairs, the ability to think critically and logically as well as ability to problem solve.

Content

AS 1: Markets and Market Failure: Students consider how market forces of supply and demand interact to allocate resources in local, national and international markets. Students will look at different forms of market failure and will evaluate possible methods of government intervention to remedy market failures.

AS 2: Managing the National Economy: Students analyse the impact of economic growth, inflation, unemployment and the balance of payments. They will assess the likely impact and effectiveness of different government policies.

A2 1: Business Economics: Students will examine what factors affect the nature of competition between firms. Students will examine how some firms are profit maximisers yet others may have alternative business objectives. They also analyse and evaluate competition policy.

A2 2: Managing the Economy in a Global World:

Students get the opportunity to understand the significance of globalisation, international trade, the balance of payments and exchange rates. They will analyse public finance, macroeconomic policies and the role of the financial sector in a global context.

Assessment

AS-1: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination consisting of short-answer questions, a multi-part data response question and one extended open-response question from a choice of two.

AS-2: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination consisting of short-answer questions, a multi-part data response question and one extended open-response question from a choice of two.

A2-1: 2 hour written examination consisting of short-answer questions, a multi-part data response question and one open-response question from a choice of two.

A2-2: 2 hour written examination consisting of short-answer questions, a multi-part data response question and one open-response question from a choice of two.

What can you do with this subject?

Employers place a high value on those who study Economics. Careers and university pathways for those who have studied economics include economist, banking, accountancy, data analyst, financial risk analyst, government economist, statistician, actuary, management consultant and stockbroker.

Throughout their studies, students are exposed to situations where they will learn to develop a wide range of valuable transferable skills, including: communication, numeracy, problem solving, time management and analytical skills.

From a student:

“Studying Economics completely changes the way in which you view the world. What is unique about Economics is the way you learn basic theories but are then able to think about them broadly and apply them to a range of real life examples - something which you don't have the opportunity to do in other subjects. I would recommend Economics to anyone who has an interest in current affairs, politics or fundamentally wants to understand how the world works. Economics enables you to study a subject which is hugely relevant in the real world, and employers value the analytical skills you develop as well as your ability to write discursively covering a spectrum of issues.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade A or above in English Literature **and** B in English Language

Desirable

Strong performance in Examination Units in GCSE English Language and Literature. A clear track record of punctuality and adherence to deadlines. A good grade at GCSE does guarantee success at A Level: we seek pupils who can demonstrate an active interest in Literature and reading both inside and outside of the classroom.

Content

AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900-Present and Drama 1900-present: A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams and selected poems by Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney.

AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre-1900: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte.

A2 1: Shakespearean Genres: King Lear.

A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre-1900 and unseen poetry

A2 3: Internal assessment

Assessment

AS 1: 2 hour examination

AS 2: 1 hour examination

A2 1: 1 hour 30 minutes examination

A2 2: 2 hour examination

A2 3: Internal assessment: 2500 word essay.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

English, Teaching, Journalism, Law, History, Politics, Classics, Media, Film, Current Affairs.

Employment

Teaching, Law, Journalism, Media & TV, editorial work, research & investigation.

Other

Covers a range of highly enabling skills, supremely applicable in future pathways.

From a student:

“Not only is the subject enjoyable and challenging, but there is an inherent quality and depth to the student who has committed to studying literature at such a rigorous level: you will emerge with an extremely marketable skill-set.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in Mathematics, however a C* may be considered if the student has achieved a grade C* or above in Mathematics, English along with a science based subject at GCSE.

Desirable

Having studied Technology or Physics at GCSE would be an advantage.

Content

AS 1:

Earth's Capacity to Support Human Activity:
how the use of fossil fuels affects climate and the environment and what action can be taken to mitigate this.

AS 2: Internal Assessment: An evaluation, by desktop research and practical investigation of a scenario for the installation of renewable energy technologies.

A2 1:

Building and Managing a Sustainable Future:
How human action affects climate and the environment and how technology can be taken to mitigate this.

A2 2: Internal Assessment:

An evaluation of a building, by desktop research and practical investigation of a scenario to the code for sustainable homes.

Assessment

AS 1: Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes 50% of AS, 20% A2

AS 2: Internal Assessment
Renewable Energy Technologies
50% of AS, 20% of A2

A2 1: Written paper 2 hours 30 % A2

A2 2: Internal Assessment
Environmental Building Performance and Measurement
30% of A2

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Many elements of the course echo the BEng degree offered by Energy and Building Services Engineering in UU

Employment

Significant employment opportunities in engineering, planning, manufacturing, technical support and management.

Other

Modern Apprenticeships

From a student:

“This subject is becoming increasingly relevant with more jobs and university courses arising in the Environment sector. The subject is 50% coursework based so if you devote enough time and effort into it and revise well for the examination, very high grades can be achieved.”

Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE French

Desirable

An interest in the subject or country. A desire to study a wide range of topics including Cinema, Music, Health matters, Education, Politics and Family and relationships.

Content

AS 1: Speaking

AS 2: Listening, Reading and Use of Language

AS 3: Extended Writing

A2 1: Speaking

A2 2: Listening and Reading

A2 3: Extended Writing

Assessment

AS 1: 11 minutes presentation and conversation

AS 2: 30 minutes Listening and 1 hr 20 minutes Reading paper

AS 3: 1 hour Writing paper

A2 1: Speaking research topic 6 minutes, Conversation 9 minutes

A2 2: Listening 45 minutes, Reading 2 hours 45 minutes

A2 3: Extended Writing 1 hour

What can you do with this subject?

Interpreting and translating; Teaching ; Civil Service; International Organisations; Industry and commerce; Travel, Tourism, Hotel and catering work; Journalism; Scientific work

From a student:

“It’s really hard work but I love it! It’s challenging but so rewarding when you work on a concept or grammar point that you hadn’t thought about before. I’m loving studying the film. It really has made the language interesting and makes you look at it from a different perspective.”



Entry Criteria

Grade A* in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics.

This course is intended for students who have a real interest in and enjoyment of Mathematics and who have proved themselves to be capable mathematicians.

Students will sit AS/A2 Mathematics in their L6th year and then AS/A2 Further Mathematics in their U6th year.

This subject will run over 2 subject choice blocks in each year.

Content

AS Further Mathematics

AS1 Pure Mathematics

- Further algebra and functions
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Vectors
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Vectors

AS2 Applied Mathematics [Mechanics/Statistics]

- Hook's law
- Work / energy / power
- Circular motion
- Sampling / probability
- Statistical distributions
- Bivariate distributions

Assessment

AS1 Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

AS2 Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

Content

A2 Further Mathematics

A21 Pure Mathematics

- Further algebra and functions
- Proof by induction
- Further complex numbers
- Further calculus
- Polar co-ordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations
- Numerical methods

A22 Applied Mathematics [Mechanics/Statistics]

- Simple harmonic motion / damped oscillations
- Centre of mass / frameworks
- Further circular motion
- Linear combinations of independent variables
- Sampling and estimation
- t-distribution / χ^2 test

Assessment

A21 Written examination 2hours 15minutes

A22 Written examination 2hours 15minutes

What can you do with this subject?

- This course provides an excellent basis for those wishing to study courses at university which contain significant mathematical content.
- Students will not have met many of the topics outlined above with the course providing significant challenge and extending mathematical thinking skills.
- As a STEM subject, the skills developed in studying AS/A2 Further Mathematics are valued by both universities and employers, especially in the growth employment sectors.
- A student considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge to study Mathematics, Engineering, Computing or one (or more) of the Physical Sciences would find it an advantage to study both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at AS/A2 Level.

From a student:

"I have always enjoyed the challenge that Mathematics has presented and by taking AS/A2 Further Mathematics I was able to study topics and concepts which extended my thinking skills and overall interest in the subject. Whilst the content at A2 Level can be demanding, the tailored resources produced by the department facilitates sound understanding of topics and provides a range of consolidation exercises up to and including examination style questions."

Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE Geography.

Those who have not studied GCSE Geography must have grade B in English Language **and** Mathematics.

Desirable

Students have studied GCSE Geography **and** a Science.

As written communication and elements of Mathematics are key components of Geography A Level, grade B in both Mathematics and English Language at GCSE are good indicators of success.

Content

AS 1: Physical Geography: Rivers, Ecosystems, Weather and Climate

AS 2: Human Geography: Population, Settlement, Development

AS 3: Fieldwork and Skills

A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management: Plate Tectonics – Theory and Outcomes, Dynamic Coastal Environments

A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography: Ethnic Diversity, Tourism

A2 3: Decision Making in Geography

Assessment

AS 1: Physical Geography 1 hour 15 minutes
40% of AS – 16% of A Level

AS 2: Human Geography 1 hour 15 minutes
40% of AS – 16% of A Level

AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques 1 hour
20% of AS – 8% of A Level

A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management 1 hour 30 minutes
24% of A Level

A2 2: Process and Issues in Human Geography 1 hour 30 minutes
24% of A Level

A2 3: Decision Making in Geography 1 hour 30 minutes
12% of A Level

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education:

Geography, Geology, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Law, PPE, Marketing, Sociology, Business, Architecture, Finance

Employment:

Cartographer, Surveyor, Teacher, Town Planner, International development / aid worker, Landscape architect, GIS officer, Environmental Consultant

Other

<https://www.rgs.org/>
<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/careers-advice/what-can-you-do-geography-degree>

From a student:

“I like A Level Geography because the classes are always engaging as we are learning about the different processes that happen in the world around us. The topics are all interesting and they can be directly linked to all aspects of real life.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in Geology

Those who have not studied GCSE Geology must have grade B or above in Mathematics **and** grade B or above in English Language.

Desirable

Any Science GCSE, Geography/Geology, Technology, a keen interest in the natural resources and the environment and a desire to learn about the processes and products that form the earth. The WJEC Eduqas A Level in Geology places problem solving at the heart of learning. Students are encouraged to think for themselves, reflecting the skills demanded by those engaged in the study of geology, and other disciplines, beyond A Level. This approach relies less on the memorising of facts and more on the application of understanding.

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geology/as-a-level/>

A Level Geology will introduce you to the science which studies the whole Earth. It covers a range of real life geological contexts (e.g. geohazards in Britain, managing resources, building roads and tunnels) and the challenges that face contemporary geoscience.

Content

AS: F1 Fundamentals of Geology

This section comprises **four** compulsory topics

F1 Elements, minerals and rocks

F2 Surface and internal processes of the rock cycle

F3 Time and change

F4 Earth structure and Global Tectonics

A2: Interpreting the Geological Record

This section comprises **four** compulsory topics

G1 Rock forming processes

G2 Rock deformation

G3 Past life and past climates

G4 Earth materials and natural resources

T1 T2 Maps and Geohazards

Assessment

Component 1: Geological Investigations

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
35% of qualification

Component 2: Geological Principles and Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
30% of qualification

Component 3: Geological Applications
35% of qualification

Written examination: 2 hours this is linked to Geological Themes T1-T5 that are covered in Upper Sixth

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Geoscience, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Geography, Civil Engineering, Geophysics or Geochemistry

Employment

Hydrology, Civil Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Energy consultancy

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/geologycareerpathways>

Other

Police, Forensic Science, Accountancy risk and hazard management, Government and Global Development

From a student:

"I am really enjoying the course and loving Leeds. All the poster / research work we did at A Level and how you really stressed the importance of independent learning has really helped me stay on top of my work in university. The current A2 pupils have enjoyed the practical elements and fieldwork, in particular, and also have had many opportunities to attend additional talks and take part in employment related tasks."



Entry Criteria

Essential

Level 6 at GCSE (AQA) or Grade B at CCEA or equivalent

Desirable

An interest in effective communication with others.

A willingness to develop your cultural and critical sensitivity.

A desire to learn more about literature, the arts, intellectual ideas, linguistics and history

Content

AS 1: Speaking

AS 2: Listening, Reading, use of Language

AS 3: Extended writing

A2 1: Speaking

A2 2: Listening, reading

A2 3: Extended Writing

The topics covered are Relationships and Culture and Lifestyle (AS) and Young People in Society and Our Place in a Changing World (A2)

Assessment

AS 1: 3-minute Presentation and 8-minute conversation

AS 2: Listening and reading comprehension, grammatical and lexical exercises

AS 3: One essay in German in response to a set film or literary text

A2 1: 1-minute presentation, 4-minute discussion and 9-minute conversation

A2 2: Listening and Reading

A2 3: One essay in German in response to a literary text

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education:

It is possible to study German on its own or jointly with other subjects, such as another language, business or management.

Employment:

Education, Journalism, Broadcasting, International Business, Advertising and Marketing, Tourism, Civil and Public Service, Diplomacy

Other:

Academic and research Communities

From a student:

"Learning German, increases university and employment opportunities as you are not restricted to just English speaking countries. German has allowed me to develop my analytical skills and visiting Germany hugely improved my confidence in terms of communicating with others. In this way, A Level German has given me important skills for any future career."



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in English Literature or History.

Desirable

Grade B in English Language

Keen interest in current affairs and politics

Content

AS 1: The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland

AS 2: The British Political Process

A2 1: Option A: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the United States of America and the United Kingdom

A2 2: Option A: Political Power

Assessment

AS 1: Written examination. 1 hour 15 minutes

AS 2: Written examination. 1 hour 45 minutes

A2 1: Written examination. 2 hours 15 minutes

A2 2: Written examination. 1 hour 30 minutes

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Government and Politics, History, English Language, English Literature, General Studies, Economics,

Employment

Law, business, finance, government services, education, journalism, public relations or political research

From a student:

“Government and Politics as a subject is both relevant and useful. I study this subject as it allows me to engage in meaningful conversation around BREXIT and Trump with my peers. Discussion in class is always fresh and engaging as we debate the big issues in today’s society.”

Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE English Language, however a C* may be considered along with a Grade C* in Biology.

Desirable

Grade B or above in Biology.

Points to note:

- This subject requires a considerable amount of extended writing therefore quality of written communication needs to be of a high standard to succeed.
- As part of this course pupils have to find their own placement in a Health and Social care setting for periods throughout the year for example a hospital, day centre, nursery school or primary school.
- A key is to consider the proportion of portfolio work required. This form of assessment can be beneficial to students who prefer working regularly on substantial pieces of work whilst being assessed throughout.

Content

In the AS units, students develop an understanding of good quality care and effective communication. They also learn about the health and well-being of the population.

At A2 students learn about how health and social care, and early years services, are tailored to meet the needs of specific service user groups. They also have the opportunity to study physiology, and can develop research skills in topics relevant to health and social care.

Assessment

AS Unit 1 - Internal assessment 10% of level
AS Unit 2 - Internal assessment 10% of A Level
AS Unit 3 - External 2 hour written assessment
 20% of AS level

A2 Unit 2 - Internal assessment 15% of A Level
A2 Unit 3 - External 2 hour written assessment
 30% of A Level

A2 Unit 5 - Internal assessment 15% of A Level

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

It can give students a sound basis for progression to higher education or work in health, social care or early years such as nursing, social work and early childhood studies.

Employment

Students develop knowledge, understanding, values and skills relevant to employment in the health, social care and early years sectors and to a range of degrees including nursing, allied health professions, social sciences, social policy, social work and early years.

From a student:

“Health and Social Care allowed me to gain an in-depth understanding of health and well-being and the health care industry. This course is very beneficial for those thinking about pursuing a career in health and social care, such as nursing, dietician etc. The coursework allowed me to gain experience in researching and writing concise reports, which may be of benefit when producing similar reports at university.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above if GCSE History has been taken.

Those who have not studied GCSE History must have grade A in either English Literature or English Language.

Desirable

Keen interest in the past, and developing analytical skills

Content

AS 1: Germany 1919-45

AS 2: Russia 1914-41

A2 1: Ireland Under the Union 1800-1900

A2 2: Partition of Ireland 1900-25

Assessment

AS 1: 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of AS and 20% of A Level. Students answer a short response question and a two-part source question.

AS 2: 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of AS and 20% of A Level. Students answer two questions from a choice of three. Each question has two parts, a short response and an extended essay.

AS 1: 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of AS and 20% of A Level. Students answer a short response question and a two-part source question.

AS 2: 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of AS and 20% of A Level. Students answer two questions from a choice of three. Each question has two parts, a short response and an extended essay.

A2 1: 1 hour – 50% of A2 and 20% of A Level. Students answer a synoptic essay.

A2 2: 2 hours 30 minutes – 40% of A level. Students answer three questions – source and essay questions.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Many History students go to university and study Law, Journalism, PPE, accountancy, History

Employment

Analytical, communication and recall skills learned can lead to employment in a range of jobs

Other

A well respected and recognised subject which for many becomes a hobby later in life!

From a student:

“Studying history has given me the confidence to challenge others opinions. We are encouraged to research and then come to our own conclusions about a range of topics – we often have debates in class showing a full range of viewpoints. They often get quite lively – I love it!”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade C* or above in English **and**
Grade C* or above in Digital Technology (Multimedia), if studied

Desirable

Good problem solving ability
Willingness to persevere with a task in order to develop an efficient, working solution

Content

AS 1: IT1 Information Systems

A written paper of two sections, A and B, presented in a question and answer booklet.

AS 2: IT2 Presenting Information Task

Candidates undertake DTP and multimedia tasks.

A2 1: IT3 Use and Impact of ICT

A written paper, presented as a question paper requiring a separate answer booklet.

A2 2: IT4 Relational Database Project

Candidates analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a problem of their choice requiring the use of a relational database.

Assessment

AS - IT1: 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (24%)

AS - IT2: Internal Assessment (16%)

A2 - IT3: 2 hours 30 minutes written paper (36%)

A2 - IT4: Internal Assessment (24%)

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Business Information
Technology
Information Systems

Employment

ICT is used in areas as diverse as manufacturing, education, finance, biotechnology and medicine

Other

<https://bringittoni.co.uk/>

<https://www.computerscienceonline.org/information-technology/>

From a student:

“Due to the increasing number of jobs available in the ICT sector, and others which involve the use of ICT, this course is preparing me for my future career, whatever it is”

“I often hear on the radio about the number of jobs coming to NI in ICT, for example, over 200 jobs in Cyber Security announced recently.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Latin in either the EDUQAS or OCR examination.

Desirable

An interest in developing a more detailed knowledge of the Latin language, acquiring the literary skills to read Latin literature, both prose and verse, with appropriate attention to literary techniques, styles and genres and applying analytical and evaluative skills.

Content

Unit 1: Unseen Prose and Verse Translation

The content builds on GCSE vocabulary and grammar and the unseen writers are known in advance – Livy for prose and Ovid for verse.

Unit 2: Unseen Latin Comprehension

Questions are answered on a passage from a prose writer.

Unit 3: Prose Set Texts

Passages from Tacitus *Histories* I (events after the death of Nero) and Apuleius *Metamorphoses* IV and V (the tale of Cupid and Psyche) are studied.

Unit 4: Verse Set Texts

Passages in Latin and English from Virgil *Aeneid* XI are studied.

Assessment

Four written papers are taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Unit 1: 1 hour 45 minutes – 33%.

Unit 2: 1 hour 15 minutes – 17%.

Unit 3: 2 hours – 25%.

Unit 4: 2 hours – 25%.

Prose and verse set texts are tested by comprehension, translation and short essays.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Latin can be studied at degree level on its own or in combination with other subjects.

Employment

The transferable skills gained are useful in a wide range of occupations such as author, accountant, computer operator, teacher, diplomat, civil servant, financial manager and lawyer.

Other

Latin is classed as a facilitating subject by the Russell Group of universities (www.russellgroup.co.uk).

From a student:

“Latin will provide you with a unique perspective on languages as it allows you to see from where many modern languages have originated. It helps to develop skills such as analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving, skills which would be very useful in a variety of careers. Through studying Latin, you will also explore some Roman history and mythology as you translate the works of historians, poets and politicians.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade C* or above in GCSE Biology **and** Chemistry. You should be aware this subject cannot be taken in conjunction with A Level Biology and Chemistry and it is not an acceptable qualification for Medicine, Dentistry or Pharmacy.

Desirable

The knowledge and understanding developed in GCSE Mathematics are also very relevant.

Content

AS 2: Human Body Systems

AS 3: Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes

A2 2: Organic Chemistry

A2 5: Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning

Assessment

AS 1: Experimental Techniques
33.3% of AS, 13.3% of A2

AS 2 and AS 3: 1 hour 30 minutes examinations
33.3% of AS, 13.3% of A2

A2 1: Scientific method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation
20% of A2

A2 2 and A2 5: 1 hour 45 minutes examinations
20% each of A2

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Wide range of careers including pharma, biomedical science, nursing and radiography.

Employment

Equips learners for a wide range of STEM careers and higher education pathways.

Other

Innovative science qualification developed with industry partners including Almac & Norbrook.

From a student:

This is a new subject being offered this year.



Entry Criteria

Route 1: Grade A or above in Mathematics **and** Grade B or above in GCSE Further Mathematics.

Route 2: Grade A or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Those students entering through Route 2 will be kept together in the +2 class where they receive 2 extra Mathematics periods over the two week timetable cycle.

Content

AS Mathematics

AS1: Pure Mathematics

- Algebra and functions
- Co-ordinate geometry in (x,y) plane
- Binomial expansions
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Vectors

AS2: Applied Mathematics [Mechanics/Statistics]

- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions

Assessment

AS1: Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes

AS2: Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes

Content

A2 Mathematics

A21: Pure Mathematics

- Algebra and functions
- Co-ordinate geometry in (x,y) plane
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods

A22: Applied Mathematics [Mechanics/Statistics]

- Kinematics
- Moments
- Impulse and momentum
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Hypothesis testing

Assessment

A21: Written examination 2 hours 30 minutes

A22: Written examination 1 hr 30 minutes

What can you do with this subject?

Mathematics continues to be one of the most popular AS/A2 subjects within MCB.

Students have developed strengths in the subject at GCSE Level and have a natural curiosity as to how topics are extended at AS/A2 Level.

As a key STEM subject, Mathematics develops key innovative transferable skills which build into many other subjects particularly within Science, Technology, Business Studies and Economics.

Studying Mathematics at AS/A2 Level provides the key to many developing sectors including ICT, accountancy, actuary, finance, medicine, dentistry, engineering and data analysis.

The majority of our A2 students move into university courses which have significant mathematical application whilst others move directly into STEM related posts with the option of further study.

From a student:

“During my time in MCB, my appreciation and interest in the subject has grown and provided me with the skills I needed to enter my chosen degree. The subject opens up so many possibilities and given the growth areas within STEM in current employment, the value in studying Mathematics at AS/A2 Level was clear.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in English Language.

Desirable

Given the wide range of visual and analytical skills assessed throughout the 2 years, we encourage students from a broad range of subject interests to pursue it. In order to achieve a good in A Level Media Studies a grade B GCSE English Language (with a real interest in the 'Multi-Modal' and 'Reading Non-Fiction' units) is advisable. Given the visual and creative slant to the subject, we particularly welcome applications from students with a strong background and/or interest in Art, ICT, Technology, Drama and Business Studies.

Content

Paper 1: Issues and debates in the media

Paper 2: Comparing and contrasting points of view

Coursework: Coursework project

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hour examination

Paper 2: 2 hour examination

Internal Assessment: Coursework project

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

English, Teaching, Journalism, Law, History, Politics, Classics, Media, Film, Current Affairs.

Employment

Teaching, Law, Journalism, Media & TV, editorial work, research & investigation.

Other

Well suited to an interest beyond the written word: audio-visual forms, online forms, print forms.

From a student:

"Media Studies is enjoyable and challenging and caters for many different learning styles. It covers a range of highly enabling skills, all of which are particularly suited to professional and business development in the 21st Century."



Entry Criteria

Essential:

Grade B or above in GCSE Moving Image Arts. A genuine interest in film. Strong lens-based skills. An ability to juggle coursework deadlines. Initiative and willingness to work independently in the development of personal ideas for film. Strong organisational skills and skills in extended writing as there is substantial written work at both AS and A2 Level.

Desirable:

Pupils are not normally permitted to take this subject at A Level without a GCSE in Moving Image Arts. However, students **may** be considered if they can demonstrate an equivalent level of skill and film knowledge at interview. Access to a film camera outside school would be useful. A grade B or above in English Language is desirable to the requirement for extended writing.

Content

AS 1: Foundation Portfolio – pre-production materials, 3-4 minute film or animation, evaluation (Statement of Intentions and Evaluation 2,600 words)

AS 2: Critical Response: 1 hr 30-minute online exam with questions on clips from set study areas.

A2 1: Advanced Portfolio – Illustrated Essay and Evaluation 2700 words, pre-production materials, 5-7 minute film or shorter animation.

A2 2: Advanced Critical Response: 2 hr 15 minute online exam with questions based on clips from set study areas and unseen clips

Assessment

AS 1: 60% of AS, 24% of A Level
AS 2: 40% of AS, 16 % of A Level

A21: 36% of A Level
A22: 24% of A Level

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Students go on to study a wide range of degree courses in film and broadcasting.

Employment

The Creative Industries is one of the fastest growing areas of the UK economy with diverse career opportunities within film and related areas.

Other

Apprenticeships for young people are available through organisations such as Northern Ireland Creative Employment Programme and NI Screen.

From a student:

“Moving Image Arts is a fantastic subject. It has an incredible balance between coursework and theory; you get to learn about the history of cinema through the 20th century, and simultaneously explore your own film-making ideas. I would thoroughly recommend this subject for any student interested in media, broadcasting, or the creative arts- MIA will definitely shine in your portfolio.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE Music along with Grade 5 in voice or instrument

Desirable

Grade 5 theory

Keen interest on all types of Music and willingness to get involved in performance opportunities.

Content

AS 1: Solo performance and composition

AS 2: Aural and Written papers

A2 1: Solo performance and composition

A2 2: Aural and Written papers

Assessment

AS 1: 64% One performance of between 5-7 minutes-external examiner. One piece of original composition

AS 2: 36% One Aural paper-1 hour and one written paper-2 hours-based on set works.

A2 1: 60% One performance of between 8-10 minutes-external examiner. One piece of original composition

A2 2: 40% One Aural paper-1 hour and one written paper-2 hours-based on set works.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Most universities offer music degrees and many also offer music technology. Many pupils go to music colleges which specialise in their chosen instrument or voice.

Employment

Broadcasting
 Composing
 Journalism
 Music industry support work
 Music technology and musical instrument technology
 Music therapy
 Sound recording
 Teaching
 Performing
 Conducting
 Librarianship eg in an orchestra
 Musical administration

Other

Some students join the forces and audition for military bands. Some go directly into careers involving music publishing. Some go to Belfast Met to study Music Technology.

From a student:

“I really recommend doing A Level music because it helps you to gain so much more understanding and appreciation when listening to and playing all types of music, as well as being in a class of like-minded people who share your interests and motivate you to do your best, resulting in a really enjoyable and engaging course to study.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE Food and Nutrition.

Those who have not studied GCSE Food and Nutrition must have at least a grade B in GCSE Biology.

Points to note:

There is no cooking at A Level in this subject.

At A2 teachers the research project allows for flexibility of choice, so that students can specialise in individual areas of interest to them. Through the research project students develop advanced study skills to help prepare them for higher education and the world of work. This provides students with the opportunity to develop a wide range of transferable skills and capabilities such as critical and creative thinking, decision-making, problem-solving, designing a research tool, analytical aptitude and target-setting.

Content

AS Unit 1 Principals of Nutrition - the study of macronutrients and micronutrients and other dietary constituents.

AS Unit 2 Diet, Lifestyle and Health - students investigate current research on diet, lifestyle and health such as eating patterns.

A2 Unit 1 Food Safety and Quality – the study of securing safe food supply from primary producer to consumer such as food safety.

A2 Unit 2 Coursework Assignment – a 4,000 word report on a research based activity. The students chosen topic should come from a topic covered in the A level course.

Assessment

AS Unit 1 Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes
20% of A Level

AS Unit 2 Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes
20% of A Level

A2 Unit 1 Written paper 2 hours 30 minutes
30% of A Level

A2 Unit 2 Internally assessed coursework
30% of A Level

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

The course provides a good foundation for higher education courses such as medicine, dietetics, sports science, food science, nursing, consumer studies, business studies and marketing.

Employment

Nutrition and Food Science is a fast-moving discipline that focuses on understanding the role of diet in maintaining a healthy human body and preventing disease. There are many career opportunities both at home and worldwide within this field of work as scientific knowledge and research develops.

From a student:

“I have always wanted to pursue a career in Nutrition and Food Science. I find the inter-relationship between diet, lifestyle and health very interesting. I have applied to study Nutrition at University because it is an area which is developing rapidly. I believe studying this subject at A Level will give me a head start and enable me to gain more in-depth knowledge and understanding of what I will study in the future.”



Entry Criteria

Essential:

Grade B in Physics
Grade A in Mathematics

Desirable

Physics is closely linked to maths, so studying the two together can improve your skills in both.

Content

AS 1: Forces, Energy and Electricity
AS 2: Waves, Photons and Astronomy
AS 3: Practical Techniques and Data Analysis

A2 1: Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motions, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics

A2 2: Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics

A2 3: Practical Techniques and Data Analysis

Assessment

AS 1: 1 hour 45 minutes examination (16%)

AS 2: 1 hour 45 minutes examination (16%)

AS 3: 2 x 1 hour examinations (8%)

A2 1: 2 hour examination (24%)

A2 2: 2 hour examination (24%)

A2 3: 2 x 1 hour examinations (12%)

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education:

Physics A Level is classed as a "facilitating subject" by the Russell Group of Universities, which means it can be useful for getting onto a wide range of university courses.

Employment :

Use your knowledge to develop new materials, machinery, and technology to improve our lives and help us explore the universe further, from computers to telescopes and spacecraft.

Other:

For useful information on Careers via school, technical and University routes, view the Institute of Physics website at www.iop.org/careers/index.

From a student:

"I was good at GCSE Physics and really enjoyed studying the different topics. It enhanced my understanding of the fundamentals of how our modern world works. I carried it on to A Level, both because I enjoyed it, and because it was essential for the University course I was applying to."



Entry Criteria

Psychology is the study of the human brain and behaviour. It is a Social Science and study at A Level will provide a solid understanding of How Science Works through engaging in a variety of scientific investigations and mathematical analysis.

Essential

Grade B in GCSE Maths. Psychology is a challenging A Level in which a wealth of material is covered and subject specific terminology is used. It requires a mix of literary, scientific and mathematical skills. In order to achieve good grades at AS and A Level Psychology.

Desirable

B grades in GCSE English and Science are also recommended.

Content

AS 1: Introductory topics in Psychology:

Social Influence

Memory

Attachment

AS 2: Psychology in Context:

Approaches in Psychology

Research Methods

Psychopathology

A Level 1: Issues and Options in Psychology:

Approaches and Biopsychology

Research methods

A Level 2: Options - Schizophrenia; Forensic

Psych, Cognition & Development

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hours Introductory topics in Psychology

Paper 2: 2 hours Psychology in Context

Paper 3: 2 hours Issues and Options in Psychology

All papers taken at end of second year of study.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Psychology provides a good introduction to higher education within the subject area but keeps paths open to explore the sciences and arts.

Employment

Psychology forms a significant component of: Medicine and related disciplines, Sales and Marketing, Human Resources Governmental departments, Law, Social work and Education.

Other:

Psychology promotes the development of scientific theories into how the mind and body works and encourages the application of these to all aspects of life today.

From a student:

“I really enjoyed studying Psychology, coming out of GCSE’s I was ready for a change, Psychology was new and different to anything I had studied before. It has been interesting to see the important role of clinical psychologists within the field of law. They assess people where they may be unfit to be tried.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B in GCSE Religious Studies

Desirable

Students should have an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to the study of religion. They should be willing to explore the way in which faith affects thinking and behaviour and to develop their knowledge and understanding of religion and ethics. Finally, students should be willing to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes.

Content

AS 1: An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

AS 2: Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Issues in Medical Ethics

A2 1: Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul

A2 2: Global Ethics

Assessment

AS 1: Examination 1 hour 20 minutes

AS 2: Examination 1 hour 20 minutes

A2 1: Examination 2 hours

A2 2: Examination 2 hours

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Religious Studies can lead to the study of theology and religion. However, it can also give access to a wide variety of arts and science courses.

Employment

Suitable for students who want to have an understanding of ethical and moral issues in a wide range of careers or issues of religion and faith in public life.

Other

Students study the development of Christianity in its formative years but also discuss and evaluate religious beliefs, practices and values in the contemporary world.

From a student:

“Religious Studies provides the opportunity to engage in class debate and improve your essay writing skills, while expanding your knowledge of topical issues, both religious and ethical. We would encourage you to study this subject as it provides essential skills for both university and life in the world of work.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Level 6 at GCSE (EDEXCEL)

Desirable

An interest in effective communication with others.

A willingness to develop your cultural and critical sensitivity.

A desire to learn more about literature, the arts, intellectual ideas, linguistics and history

Content

A2 1: Listening, reading and translation

A2 2: Response to literary and film texts

A2 3: Speaking

The topics covered are Russian Society and Culture in the post soviet world. Perestroika and the collapse of the soviet union.

Assessment

A2 1: Listening, reading and translation

A2 2: Two essays in Russian in response to a literary text and film.

A2 3: 2-minute presentation, 5-minute discussion and 9-minute conversation.

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education:

It is possible to study Russian on its own or jointly with other subjects, such as another language, business or management.

Employment:

Education, Journalism, Broadcasting, International Business, Advertising and Marketing, Tourism, Civil and Public Service, Diplomacy

Other:

Academic and research Communities

From a student:

“Learning Russian has given me more choices when applying to different university courses and it has been great fun as the classes are small.”



Entry Criteria

Essential

Level 6 at GCSE Spanish (AQA) or Grade B at CCEA or equivalent

Desirable

A lively interest in Spanish language and culture

Content

AS 1: Speaking

AS 2: Listening, Reading, use of Language

AS 3: Extended writing

A2 1: Speaking

A2 2: Listening, reading

A2 3: Extended Writing

Assessment

AS 1: 3-minute Presentation and 8-minute conversation

AS 2: Listening comprehension, Reading comprehension, translation from Spanish into English, grammatical and lexical exercises

AS 3: One essay in Spanish in response to a set film or literary text

A2 1: 5-minute discussion and 8-minute conversation

A2 2: Listening, reading comprehension, summary and translation

A2 3: One essay in Spanish in response to a set film or literary text

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

B.A. in Spanish or combined with another subject, e.g. Spanish and Law

Employment

Translating, Interpreting, Media, Business and International, Services, Travel and Tourism, Teaching

From a student:

"I am really enjoying studying Spanish A Level. It has equipped me with lifelong skills, such as effective communication, research and analytical skills. Furthermore, it has been fascinating learning about current and historical issues in Spain. Spanish is incredibly useful as it opens a lot of doors in varied career paths."

Entry Criteria

Essential

Grade B or above in GCSE PE

Those who do not have GCSE PE must have grade B in Biology or grade BB in Double Award Science

A keen interest in Sport, Health and Fitness is essential

Desirable

An interest in studying a sports related course at university

Takes part in regular sport or physical training

Content

AS 1: Anatomy and Physiology

AS 2: Sports Psychology

A2 1: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

A2 2: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Assessment

AS 1: 1 hour 30 minutes examination

AS 2: Written Assignments

A2 1: 2hours 30 minutes Scenario 'Controlled Assessment'

A2 2: Written Assignments

What can you do with this subject?

Further/ Higher Education

Satisfies the entry requirements for many sport related degree courses

Employment

Provides a base for many of the Fitness Industry qualifications

From a student:

"I struggled greatly with examinations; the BTEC in Sport meant a reduced volume of revision. It allowed me to focus on my assignments throughout the two years and I was able to achieve a Distinction * Grade (A* equivalent). Consequently, I gained a place in a Primary School training college to become a teacher."



Entry Criteria

In this course, students explore Technology and Design in a range of different contexts and scenarios, from the home and community to the world of business and industry. The course appeals to those who have an enquiring mind, a desire to solve problems and a sense of how the modern world deals with changing trends and demands.

Essential

Grade B in GCSE Technology and Design.

Those who have not studied GCSE Technology and Design must have a grade B in Mathematics or Physics.

Content

AS 1: Design and Materials and Systems and Control or Product Design

AS 2: Internal Assessment – Product Development

A2 1: Systems and Control or Product Development

A2 2: Internal Assessment – Product/System Design and Manufacture

Assessment

AS 1: study a common core of design and materials; and study a specialised area of Electronics

AS 2: carry out a product development on an existing product involving the production of a design folder and a developed product outcome.

A2 1: study in greater detail than at AS Level a specialised area of either Electronic and Microelectronic Systems, Product Design.

A2 2: carry out a design and make exercise involving the production of a design folder and a product outcome.

What can you do with this subject?

A qualification in Technology and Design can provide you with a basis for study in further or higher education in a wide range of disciplines such as engineering, product development and product design.

The qualification could also be used as an entry route into an apprenticeship in a career such as engineering.

The range of career options open to you is very wide due to the nature of GCE Technology and Design as it involves problem-solving, application of scientific principles to the design of products, the process of design itself and the use of materials and techniques such as computer-aided design. This can provide you with a useful basis for entry into careers such as product design, engineering, graphic design, teaching and architecture.

From a student:

“I really enjoy studying Technology at A Level because I am gaining an understanding of how products are developed, systems work and how everyday items are manufactured. I enjoy the challenge of the practical work and how I have developed as an independent learner through the course. I like that we get to use tools such as the 3D printer and Laser cutter as it gives me a great understanding of how items are made in industry.”