



HARROW
SCHOOL



THE SIXTH FORM

2021-2023





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THE SIXTH FORM AT HARROW

This booklet has been prepared to inform boys' choices for their studies in the Sixth Form. The transition from the Fifth Form, with the milestones of GCSEs behind them, is an important stage in boys' academic careers at Harrow, bringing the opportunity to choose from a wide range of A level and Elective subjects. In making their choices, boys can play to their academic strengths and develop their intellectual passions.

In the Sixth Form, boys will find that they need to take more responsibility for organising themselves. Divisions are smaller, the atmosphere is more informal, and boys will generally look for more initiative from boys in their approach to academic work. We will expect boys to read widely, both in relation to and beyond their subjects. Prep may be set some weeks in advance and boys will need to plan ahead, ensuring that work is not left to the last minute.

Through attendance at super-curricular lectures and engagement with the Elective courses, boys will get a taste of teaching and learning at university. To excel in that environment beyond Harrow, they will need to be critical thinkers, to articulate difficult ideas and to grow in confidence, in debate and intellectual discussion. Boys should be proactive in taking the opportunity to develop their skills and attributes as much as their knowledge and understanding. The A level courses offered at Harrow and outlined in this booklet will help boys to make that transition. Their linear format, with public examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth year, also lends itself to teaching and to learning in a university style.

Sixth Form life presents not only amazing academic and intellectual opportunities but also an even greater range of co-curricular experiences. This is a time for boys to develop their leadership qualities, to take on responsibility and to be excellent role models for younger boys at Harrow: a proving ground for the integrity, discernment and courage they will have to show when school-life is concluded.

The Sixth Form years in any school are a time of great personal growth and development, and that is particularly true at Harrow. To make the most of it, boys will need to be self-aware, to analyse their weaknesses regularly and, at the same time, build up their strengths and their portfolio of academic and other skills. We will offer every possible support, in the form room, in Houses and more generally. At the same time, we will encourage boys to take the initiative and responsibility for themselves, their learning and their future. The deadline for preliminary subject choices is 3 February, and Elective choices will be made in the Summer term.

Alastair Land
Head Master

TIMELINE

2021

24 JANUARY

- Talk: 'A levels and University'

28 JANUARY

Fifth Form parents' meeting, Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall, 7.30–9pm (online)

3 FEBRUARY

Subject choices entered online

25 APRIL

- Careers Convention, Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall, 7.15–9.15pm

MAY/JUNE

(I)GCSE examinations

JUNE/JULY

- Work experience
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions

27 AUGUST

- (I)GCSE results published
- Subject choices confirmed with House Masters

7 SEPTEMBER

Start of Autumn term

ACADEMIC LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

Moving into the Sixth Form represents an exciting and important transition for a boy at Harrow. These two years provide an opportunity for engagement and participation in myriad aspects of School life, not least of all from an academic perspective. Boys in the Sixth Form enjoy more academic independence – there are longer deadlines, for example, enabling learners to manage their time, prepare for the freedom of university, and to direct their focus into those areas which they find particularly interesting or academically worthwhile. Doing fewer subjects also enables them to explore the disciplines in greater depth and breadth. Boys in the Sixth Form have more autonomy and alongside this comes a responsibility to evolve as learners, to take the opportunities afforded to them, and to ensure that they are prepared for life after Harrow. Most boys in the Sixth Form help to run academic societies, arranging programmes of speakers and helping with logistical arrangements.

One important way that boys demonstrate both their aptitude and enthusiasm is through project-based work. This includes a wide range of opportunities such as prize essay competitions run by Oxbridge colleges and other institutions, the Engineering Education Scheme, or Olympiads and challenges. Boys who engage with such opportunities demonstrate the resilience and determination to focus on a project over an extended period. They also collaborate with their peers and develop their research techniques.

Academic opportunities in the Sixth Form are extensive and varied; boys should seek to make the most of these during the two years and develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that will help them thrive in life after Harrow.



2022

MAY/JUNE

- Internal end-of-year examinations
- Forecast grades confirmed
- UCAS preparation course
- Academic tutor assists with drafting UCAS application

SUMMER

- Project-based work
- University visits

AUGUST

- Upper Sixth subjects confirmed with House Masters

SEPTEMBER

- University application forms completed
- Any gap year plans decided

OCTOBER

- Applications to Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses
- All UCAS applications completed electronically before the end of the first half of term
- Finalise US university applications

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- University Subject Tests
- University offers begin to arrive
- Oxbridge and other university interviews

2023

MAY/JUNE

- A level examinations

AUGUST

- A level results
- University places confirmed; otherwise enter Clearing or withdraw and re-apply

CHOOSING YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS



All boys choose four subjects to study in the Lower Sixth. They also choose Electives, which they will study throughout the year. Final A level subject choices are due on the Wednesday following the Fifth Form parents' meeting.

RECENT CHANGES TO THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum consists of A levels. The main features of these qualifications are that assessment is almost exclusively by examination and that the whole syllabus is assessed at the end of the course in a terminal examination rather than in modules spread over two years. AS levels still exist but they have been decoupled from A levels, no longer counting towards those final qualifications. We do not offer stand-alone AS levels in the Harrow curriculum because we want boys to have greater choice over their programmes of study in the Upper Sixth, with the option to continue to take all four of their chosen subjects to their examined conclusion. We no longer offer Pre-U qualifications and these qualifications are being withdrawn nationally during the next few years.

Boys will sit Trials in all their subjects at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms. Their performance in those internal examinations will be considered by Heads of Subject when they make predictions for UCAS at the end of their Lower Sixth year. Those predicted grades will also be informed by a more holistic assessment of boys' progress through the course, both by their division Masters and by the relevant Heads of Subject. It will not be possible for boys to retake internal examinations at the start of the Upper Sixth. As in our current system, boys will be able to drop one subject before starting the Upper Sixth, but usually not before the end of the Lower Sixth.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Boys should consult widely before they finalise their subject choices. A good starting point is to consider which subjects they most enjoy, as success will come more naturally in them. If they have a specific university or course in mind, they will need to investigate the particular expectations and requirements for it. Boys might also want to think about potential careers, and to identify the subjects that might best help to prepare for them. Throughout the process, they should discuss their options with their House Masters and Tutors, with other beaks and with their parents.

NEW SUBJECTS

There are some subjects offered in the Sixth Form that boys have not met before in an examinations context: Business, Economics, History of Art, Music Technology, Photography, Politics, Sports Science, and Drama and Theatre. The introduction to some of those subjects in the Fifth Form Elective programme should help to inform boys' choices. Please read the notes on these subjects carefully, and please do not hesitate to seek advice from the relevant Heads of Subject.

ELECTIVES

Electives are unexamined courses, which beaks elect to offer and which boys in turn choose to complement their examined subjects or to contrast with them. Electives may extend vertically beyond formal syllabuses or horizontally away from boys' four examined areas of study. Our offering of Electives is different every year and, later in the year, boys will have the opportunity to choose Electives for their Lower Sixth year.

SYLLABUSES

Full details of syllabuses for A level courses can be found on examination board websites. Syllabus codes for all courses offered at Harrow are given under individual subject headings on the following pages.

EXTRA LANGUAGES

Arabic, Cantonese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish are available at any level off the timetable but such lessons are charged at an additional cost. The Head of Modern Languages can supply details. Boys should discuss any interest in those languages with their House Masters and indicate it on their subject choice forms.

Any boy who wishes to study Classics at university and who has not yet taken Classical Greek GCSE may attempt that qualification in one year.

THE CURRICULUM REVIEW

During the last 18 months, we have conducted a comprehensive review of all aspects of our curriculum to ensure that it equips all boys for the evolving challenges and opportunities of the future and to ensure that they leave Harrow real-world ready. We spoke with recruiters, executives and directors from world-leading companies, exciting start-ups and different sectors of the economy. We sought the views of world leaders, university chancellors and curriculum experts. Your sons will be among the first Harrovians to benefit

from the curricular changes brought about by the review. Principal among these are greater coherence, flexibility and opportunity within the Super-Curriculum. Structured support will be in place to help boys with completing important project-based work, acquiring other accredited qualifications and experiencing a wider suite of Electives. The curriculum review also concluded that the developing of social, cognitive and digital literacies were imperatively important. We are continuing to map and embed these across all aspects of a boy's Harrow experience to make sure that all learners develop the employability they need for the 21st century.

If you have any questions about the Sixth Form curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Michael Gray
Director of Studies
mepg@harrowschool.org.uk



“If boys have in their sights a specific career then they must be careful to find out exactly what is required before they embark on their A levels.”

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE



Starting with an initial talk in the Fifth Form and continuing throughout the Sixth Form, boys will be given advice about appropriate university choices. Among other things, in the Lower Sixth, boys are taught how to use the Course Search database on the UCAS website, which gives information about every course currently available at British universities. Boys have already been set up with a user account for Unifrog, a software package that uses sophisticated admissions data to suggest suitable universities and courses, and which links to a boy's careers profile. In addition to these online resources, each boy should speak to his Tutor about his initial thoughts on university.

The School also runs a number of university fairs over the course of the academic year. In the Autumn term, there are separate Canadian, European, and Australasian university fairs. At the end of the Summer term, there is a UK and Higher Education universities fair. There is a comprehensive programme of American university visits to the School, supplemented by the School's two tours to the East Coast and the West Coast of the USA.

When considering subject options, it is important to bear several points in mind. If a boy has in his sights a specific career for which specialist training is essential or desirable, he must find out exactly what is required. These careers tend to be in the sciences, medicine, dentistry and engineering, but the advice can apply to arts and languages subjects too. The table on page 40 of this booklet gives a broad indication of what is required for degrees in some of these subjects. Remember, however, that different universities apply different rules and it is best to consult individual prospectuses and to seek advice from informed sources before reaching decisions. The Russell Group 'Informed Choices' guidance (www.informedchoices.ac.uk/) clearly explains which qualifications are needed for certain degree courses and gives assistance in getting the right balance in combination. In addition, House Masters, Heads of Subject, academic Tutors and the Head of Careers are all well placed to offer help. If there are no specific subject requirements for the course a boy wishes to follow after leaving Harrow (e.g. law or management), the best advice is to choose subjects that interest him and in which he is most likely to achieve the best grades. This approach will provide him with the most effective insurance for gaining a university place. Further advice about the university application process, including applying to Oxbridge, can be found in the Universities Handbook, circulated towards the end of the Autumn term in the Lower Sixth.

Charles Bailey
Academic and Universities Director
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AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES



A significant number of Harrovians make successful applications to universities in the USA each year and a programme of events takes place at Harrow for those who wish to pursue this path. We host visits from the admissions

officers of several prestigious colleges and universities, and offer guidance throughout the application process on making a college list, preparing for standardised testing and on other components of the application. Courses are provided for boys in the Lower Sixth in preparation for the ACT or the SAT, the tests that candidates for most American universities must sit in advance of any application. Further details about forthcoming events, significant dates and useful resources are communicated to the boys by email and via Firefly.

American universities have much to offer in terms of the breadth and flexibility of their curriculums as well as the often state-of-the-art working and living environments they provide for students. A degree at a North American university will typically last four years, and will normally allow students to maintain a degree of academic breadth in their course options, enabling them to explore their interests beyond a particular subject area. Furthermore, North American universities typically offer small class sizes and a greater number of contact hours with academic staff than is currently possible under the British university system. Most American universities revolve around a campus, a unique community enabling students to develop their academic, social and extra-curricular interests with a high degree of advisory follow-up from faculty members. Boys may find that many American universities offer a similar lifestyle to that of Harrow School but on a larger scale.

Most American universities currently require applicants to take the SAT or ACT and either two or three SAT Subject Tests. This must be arranged by boys individually via the collegeboard.org (for SAT) or act.org (for ACT) websites. SAT or ACT tests occur throughout the year and comprise Mathematics (and

Science for the ACT), Reading Comprehension and Writing sections. The SAT is marked out of 1600, and the median applicant to Ivy League and other top US universities will have achieved a score between 1450 and 1500. The ACT is marked out of 36 and students applying to the above-mentioned institutions should aim for a score of 34+. Boys at Harrow usually prepare for the ACT and for SAT Subject Tests and sit them in the Lower Sixth.

The current SAT Subject Test arrangements favour those who are strong in any combination involving Mathematics, science and modern languages. They are currently offered in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Latin. There are no Subject Tests offered in Ancient History, Art, Business Studies, Design & Technology, Economics, Geography, Politics, Theology & Philosophy or Theatre. There are two versions of History offered (US History and World History), but neither has much of an overlap with what is taught at Harrow and they are not recommended.

The American university application process requires several sets of documentation including at least three letters of recommendation and different sets of essays for each institution. Therefore, it is advisable to undertake research and preparation early to afford an applicant the best chance of being successful. Ideally, boys should do that during the summer holiday after the Lower Sixth. Deadlines for application vary but the most important dates are (all in the Upper Sixth): 1 August (applications go live on the Common App); 1 November (deadline for Early Applications); 30 November (deadline for University of California institutions); 1 January (deadline for regular applications).

Katarzyna Piotrowska-Fletcher
Master-in-Charge of US Universities
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CAREERS



There can be no simple answer to the question of how to choose a career; there is no single path to be followed. There are, however, three key principles to remember: first, you should aim to do something that will bring you happiness and fulfilment; second, no one else can (or should try to) choose for you; third, it is important to keep one's options open for as long as possible. For most careers, the choice of subjects is not crucial, but certain careers do require specific subjects. For instance, Chemistry and Biology are essential for Medicine, while Mathematics and Physics are fundamental requirements for Engineering.

All Fifth Form boys currently have the opportunity to take a careers aptitude test. Alongside a substantive interview with Mr Wright, the School's specialist Careers Advisor, the results of these tests can help considerably with their Sixth Form subject choices, their choice of third-level course and, ultimately, their choice of career. At the end of the Fifth Form, boys will have a chance to undertake work experience, which can usefully support a UCAS application. Work experience can also help to focus boys on potential careers and rule out those for which they might not be suitable. Further interviews with the Careers Advisor will take place throughout the Sixth Form. The Careers Department aims to ensure that all Harrovians have the baseline skills needed to obtain such placements and will seek to facilitate connections with prospective employers.



Career paths in the future will be more uncertain, and boys must start to build up their portfolio of transferable skills.”

Having embarked on their new courses, boys can explore more carefully the kinds of careers open to them by:

- visiting the Careers section of the Vaughan Library and the Careers subject area on Firefly;
- attending term-time careers talks;
- attending a Careers Experience Course in the holidays (www.isco.org.uk);
- talking to people actively engaged in the careers that interest them, for example at the Careers Convention each January; and
- building up a portfolio of transferable skills such as team-work, communication, problem-solving, IT skills, interview technique and CV writing.

As the world of work becomes more complicated and flexible, and especially now in the COVID-19 context, such preparedness becomes all the more critical. The School's Careers Advisor will also offer one-to-one sessions with each boy to guide them in all these endeavours. Careers provision at Harrow is continuing to develop year on year as the School seeks to provide boys and OHs with the knowledge and skills to thrive over the course of their entire careers, wherever those may take them.

David Finnegan
Head of Careers
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OUTLINE OF SIXTH FORM SUBJECT CHOICES





ANCIENT HISTORY

Exam board: OCR
A level: H407

Ancient Historians study the richly varied political, social, economic and cultural lives of the Greek and Roman worlds, all in translation. The Greek and Roman world stands at the beginning of western civilisation and, though remote in time from the present, it is also in many respects peculiarly close to it; many of the fundamental issues of human society which still exercise us today were first formulated in ancient times. The Ancient History course involves the study of the societies and cultures of the Athenian Greek and Roman worlds through their written texts, art and architecture, and other material remains like coins and inscriptions.

Ancient History works well in almost any combination of A levels and provides a solid foundation for the pursuit of any arts or humanities degree. Boys who enjoyed Ancient History at GCSE will enjoy all new material in its closer study at A level. However, the GCSE is not a requirement for the A level: boys with no previous experience of Ancient History are welcomed.

It should be noted that keen historians often choose Ancient History A level alongside the History A level. Given the different periods and challenges presented by the source material in Ancient History, the two disciplines do not overlap.

Course details

Candidates study two defined periods of Greek and Roman history.

Greek Period Study

The Greek World at War: Athens, Sparta and Persia (492-404BC)

Roman Period Study

The Julio-Claudian Emperors (31BC-AD68): from Augustus to Domitian

Candidates also choose two depth studies on the ancient world.

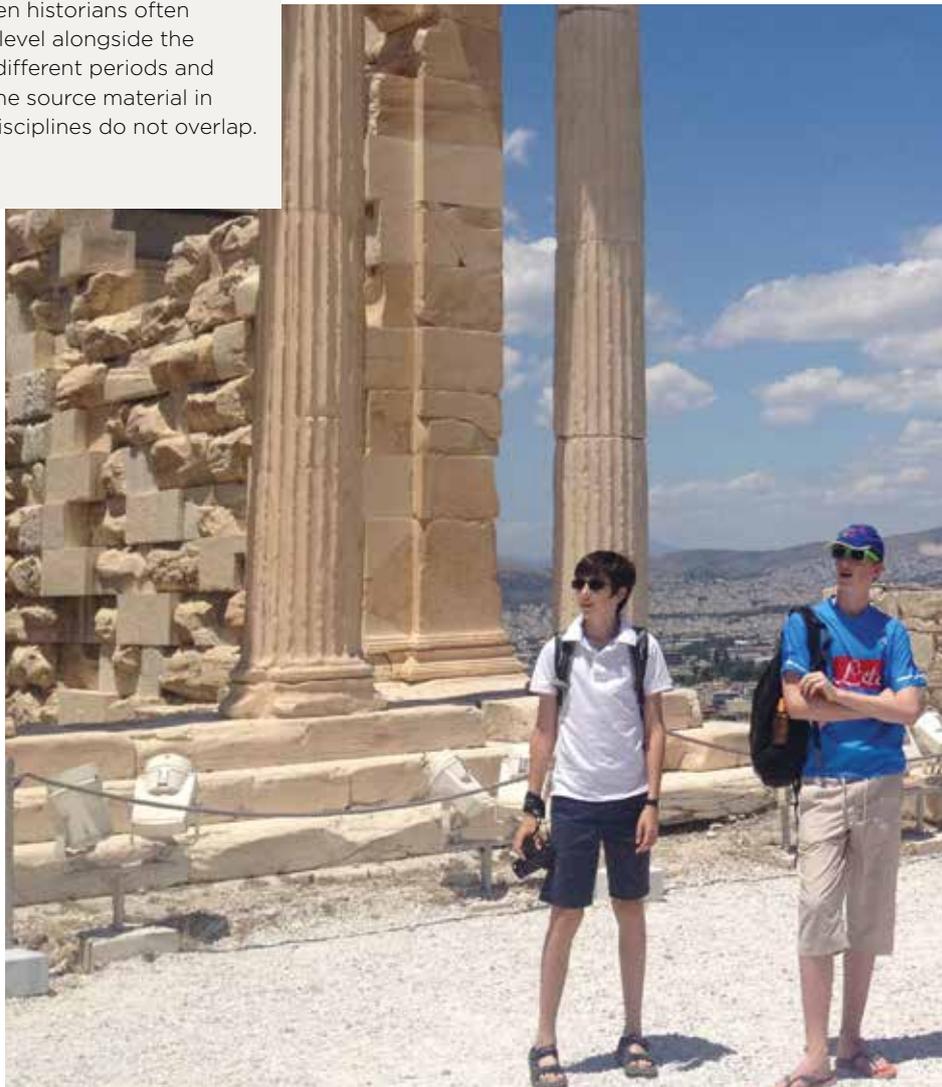
Greek Depth Study (one of):

- The Politics and Society of Sparta (478-404BC)
- The Politics and Culture of Athens (c.460-399BC)
- The Rise of Macedon (359-323BC)

Roman Depth Study (one of):

- The Breakdown of the Late Republic (88-31BC)
- The Flavians (AD68-96)
- Ruling Roman Britain (AD43-c.128)

Steven Kennedy
Head of Classics



FINE ART

Exam Board: Edexcel
A level: 9FAO

Fine Art at Harrow is a vibrant and exciting subject with an outstanding reputation for diverse and mature work. The nature of Fine Art is such that no two years are ever the same. The department keeps in step with the shifting themes and ideas of contemporary art through visits to galleries and museums in London. There is an annual trip to Frieze, arguably one of the most important showcases for contemporary art practice, along with Pasmore Society trips to gallery spaces in and around London. Boys at Harrow also have regular opportunities to see the type of work produced at A level by the constant flow of exhibitions in the Pasmore Gallery and Shepherd Churchill Hall. We also have a rich tradition of attracting professional artists to exhibit their work, undertake residencies, run workshops and work one on one with boys. Recent artists include Tessa Farmer, Anthony Whishaw RA, Alison Lambert, Peter Randall Page, Jane McAdam Freud (daughter of Lucian Freud), Jenny Saville RA, Chris Orr RA, BP Portrait Award winner Susanne Du Toit and Turner Prize winning artists Gilbert & George RA.

Some boys choose Art because they need it for a university course (such as Architecture), some because it is a passion and many because it complements their other subjects so well. All boys who opt for Art at Harrow are guaranteed a first-rate visual education. We have an excellent reputation for placing boys at Oxford and Cambridge universities and the Slade School of Fine Art. Art can also be studied at most American Ivy League universities including Harvard, and an increasing number of boys are submitting art portfolios to these universities to strengthen their applications. The department has an excellent reputation for placing boys at the very best art institutions in the UK and further afield including the University of Arts, London, and Glasgow School of Art.



Assessment

- 60% coursework, internally marked and externally moderated.
- 40% externally set assignment, internally marked and externally moderated.

Mark scheme

Each assessment objective is worth 25%.

- Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.
- Record in visual and/or other forms ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on work and progress.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, oral or other elements.

Lower Sixth Year

Coursework

To explore a theme agreed at the beginning of the year meeting the Assessment Objectives outlined above. The project acts as a vehicle for pupils to learn foundation skills in Fine Art – experiencing life drawing and personal development of a theme, culminating in an ambitious final piece. Boys are encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media and techniques. Each boy is allocated a studio space where they can see their work develop, along with that of other boys.

Upper Sixth Year

Coursework

Candidates continue with independent studio activities, working in an unlimited range of media. Alongside practical work boys are required to produce a Personal Study – a written and illustrated essay based on their own area of interest comprising 1500-3000 words.

Externally Set Assignment

The paper is set at the beginning of the Spring term and the preparatory time is approximately one term, ending in a 15-hour timed test in which the candidate will complete a final piece.

Each of the units requires supporting studies (sketchbooks with annotation) and evidence of development over time in response to a theme.

Laurence Hedges
Director of Art

BIOLOGY

Exam board: OCR
A level: H420

Biology is a very relevant, stimulating and demanding A level subject. Successful candidates are scientifically minded, numerate and able to articulate ideas and concepts on paper in a clear, logical way. It is well supported by Chemistry and Mathematics A levels which, along with Biology, should be taken by boys who intend to study Biological Sciences, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine at university.

Course details

The course comprises six modules.

One – Development of practical skills in Biology

Two – Foundations in Biology

- Cell structure
- Biological molecules
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids
- Enzymes
- Biological membranes
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

Three – Exchange and transport

- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in animals
- Transport in plants

Four – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
- Biodiversity
- Classification and evolution

Five – Communication, homeostasis and energy

- Communication and homeostasis
- Excretion as an example of homeostatic control
- Neuronal communication
- Hormonal communication
- Plant and animal responses
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration

Six – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

- Cellular control
- Patterns of inheritance
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability



Successful candidates are scientifically minded, numerate and able to articulate ideas and concepts on paper in a clear, logical way.”

The course is assessed by three written exams at the end of the Upper Sixth.

Paper One

(2 hours 15 minutes; 37% of marks)

- Based on modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions

Paper Two

(2 hours 15 minutes; 37% of marks)

- Based on modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
- Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions

Paper Three

(1 hour 30 minutes; 26% of marks)

- Based on all modules
- Short-answer and extended-response questions

There is a significant emphasis on mathematical skills, which account for at least 10% of the marks across all three papers.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment; practical skills are examined solely in the written papers. However, there is a practical endorsement to fulfil, which requires that a minimum of 12 key practical activities be undertaken and a range of practical competencies met. These are assessed internally. A 'pass' for this component of the course is published alongside the A level grade that a candidate achieves.

Nick Keylock
Head of Biology



CHEMISTRY

Exam board: OCR Chemistry A A level: H432

Those considering a science-based degree must take Mathematics and either Physics or Biology to A level. Further Mathematics is expected as standard for entry to the best universities; it increases the chance of acceptance in most cases and certainly improves ultimate success. Mathematics underpins the core of all physical-science courses. There is a preference for Physics at some institutions and Oxbridge colleges, although Biology can be equally acceptable for some courses. Natural Science and Materials Science are examples of courses that offer variants of the more traditional routes.

Many institutions offer excellent career insight and progression with industrial placements, usually in a four-year Masters or 'sandwich placement'. Since chemical reactions lie at the heart of understanding how living systems function, an A level in Chemistry is essential for the study of Medicine, Veterinary Science and other related degrees.

Chemistry is the study of the elements and their compounds; everything we see, touch or taste is composed of chemicals – all our body parts from the DNA in our cells to the enzymes that catalyse the vital reactions that keep us alive. Throughout history, quality of life has improved through synthesised chemicals such as fertilisers, medicines to protect us from disease, polymers to clothe us and fuels that keep us warm and transport us. Where chemistry has caused problems, it is chemistry that will help solve them e.g. the hole in the ozone layer and plastic pollution. Computers, phones and televisions would not exist but for the materials inside them developed and manufactured by chemists.

IGCSE requirements: Chemistry grade 8 and Mathematics grade 8

Boys must be mathematically competent to cope with the content of the linear A level course. The course will suit anyone with a strong interest in how the material world functions and how chemists are able to manipulate materials for the benefit of mankind.

Throughout the two-year course, there will be regular tests and assessments to enable boys to monitor their understanding of the theoretical components. Assessment of practical work is examined through detailed questions in the written exams to give context to the theory work. Candidates must also log their experimental and practical skills in a dated laboratory notebook, which is subject to scrutiny by the examination board. The practical accreditation is reported separately from the grade.

The OCR Chemistry A course at A level is split into six modules.

Module One – Practical Skills

Candidates must complete a wide range of practical experiments throughout the course. This module outlines the how the skills are developed throughout the whole two-year course. They are assessed in two ways. Questions in all written papers examine candidates' understanding of practical skills, while they must also achieve a 'practical endorsement' on their final A level certificate to demonstrate a level of competency in a range of skills.

Module Two – Foundations of Chemistry

Much of the basic material that underpins all further study of this subject, including new ideas in atomic structure, electrons, bonding and redox, is covered here.

Module Three – Periodic Table & Energy

Here, the core ideas met at IGCSE are developed and extended. This includes enthalpy changes, reaction rates and equilibria, together with the chemistry of groups 2 and 7 and periodicity.

Module Four – Core Organic Chemistry

This major area of chemistry receives a much higher profile than it did at IGCSE. The subject is introduced through a study of hydrocarbons, leading to an expansion of knowledge into alcohols and haloalkanes. At this point, we introduce ideas about infra-red (IR) spectroscopy and mass spectrometry as tools to analyse molecular structure.

Module Five – Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements

Building on some ideas of reaction rates and equilibria from Module Three, they are placed on a more quantitative foundation. We also introduce the concept of pH as a measure of the concentration of $H^+(aq)$, buffer solutions and electrode potentials (important when considering new energy sources such as fuel cells). The module finishes with a study of the chemistry of the metals in the centre of the Periodic Table.

Module Six – Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Content from Module Four continues to be developed. New homologous series include compounds of benzene (aromatic chemistry), carbonyl compounds, carboxylic acids, nitrogen compounds, polymers and organic synthesis. Finally, the important technique of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy is explored, together with its role in the elucidation of the structure of organic molecules.

There are three written papers, all taken at the end of the two-year course.

Paper One – Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry.

(100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins, 37% of A level)

This paper covers the content of Modules One, Two, Three and Five. There are 15 multiple-choice questions,

and 85 marks will come from structured questions and extended-response questions.

Paper Two – Synthesis and analytical techniques

(100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins, 37% of A level)

This covers material from Modules One, Two, Four and Six. The format of the paper is the same as Paper One.

Paper Three – all the modules studied

(70 marks, 1 hr 30 mins, 26% of A level)

The paper only has structured questions and extended-response questions, covering all the theory and practical skills.

Christian Penhale
Head of Chemistry



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: DESIGN ENGINEERING

Exam board: OCR
A level: H404

The course is designed to strengthen boys' critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling them to develop and make prototypes/products that solve real-world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. They will also learn how to use and embed digital technology creatively within their designs, while using a range of modern and smart materials, robotics, 3D printing and industrial machinery.

Course structure

Paper 1 Technical Theory **(1hr 30mins written paper, 26.7% of mark)**

This paper is set out over four sets of questions that predominantly cover technical principles within Design Engineering. Boys will be required to:

- Analyse existing products;
- Demonstrate applied mathematical skills;
- Demonstrate their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques; and
- Demonstrate their understanding of wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries

This component will be assessed at the end of the course in a written examination worth 50% of the overall qualification.

Paper 2 - Problem Solving **(1 hr 45 mins written paper, 23.3% of mark)**

This component has a series of longer answer questions that require learners to demonstrate their problem-solving and critical evaluation skills. Boys will be required to:

- Apply their knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products; and
- Demonstrate their higher thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations and suitability of design solutions.

Coursework: Iterative Design Project **50% of mark**

The Iterative Design Project requires boys to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. Learners identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of their own choice, and create a portfolio of evidence in real time through the project to demonstrate their competence.





DRAMA AND THEATRE

Exam board: AQA
A level: 7262

Drama and Theatre A level develops boys' practical and analytical skills in performance, and enhances appreciation and understanding of theatre from critical and applied perspectives.

The subject gives boys the opportunity to develop and refine their communication and practical skills, to undertake in-depth research and analysis and to pursue a high level of critical and creative reflection. There is no requirement to have studied Drama for GCSE in order to pursue the subject at A level. The course is accepted by all universities and, in recent years, boys have gone on to study for Drama-related degrees at top universities including Oxford, Bristol, Durham, Exeter and Manchester. Boys have also gained places at leading actor-training institutions in the UK and America.

Harrow's thriving dramatic tradition and well-resourced Ryan Theatre mean that boys have the opportunity to develop their practical work to a very high level. Theatre trips are a regular feature of the course, and the School's location also enables boys to take advantage of innovative, high-quality performance work in and around London. In 2019 and 2020, 100% of boys taking the subject achieved A* grades overall.

Course content

The A level is a two-year, fully linear course; practical assessments take place across the two years and the written paper is sat at the end of the course.

Boys will:

- Study and stage extracts from at least five plays, as critics and practitioners;
- Go on regular theatre trips and write about the productions seen;
- Devise an original piece of theatre, and document the process; and
- Study the methods of influential theatre practitioners.

Boys will be assessed:

- Through their own work as practitioners – performers, directors or designers (30%);
- By demonstrating their collaborative and creative skills in class and through their reflective writing on the process of theatre making (30%); and
- Through writing about plays they study and see in a formal examination (40%).

Boys might consider taking A level Drama and Theatre if:

- They have enjoyed their experiences of drama – as an actor, technician, writer or director – and want to develop their craft further;
- They enjoy seeing theatre and discussing it in detail;
- They enjoy lessons that are active and group-focused;
- They want to make their own practical work, as well as learning about what other people have created; and
- They see themselves applying for a university course or career that will require inter-personal, group-work or presentation skills.

Adam Cross
Director of Drama



ECONOMICS

Exam board: AQA
A level: 7136

Economics is the study of how societies allocate scarce resources in the face of unlimited human wants. Through studying Economics, boys will:

- Develop an understanding of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life;
- Learn to explain a variety of real-world phenomena from an economic perspective; and
- Learn to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of the government within it.

A good economist needs to be able to analyse economic data, to interpret graphs and tables, to identify trends and to explain these using economic theory. This requires a clear mind and an ability to think logically and to write good quality English.

For those boys considering an Economics degree, Mathematics A level is strongly recommended.

IGCSE requirements: Mathematics grade 7



A good economist needs to be able to analyse economic data, to interpret graphs and tables, to identify trends and to explain these using economic theory.”

Course structure

A level Economics is a linear course, with all assessment occurring at the end of two years. The assessment is made up of three papers:

Paper One: Markets and Market Failure (33.3% of A level) (120-minute exam – data response and essay questions)

Microeconomics looks at the behaviour of individuals and how the interplay of supply and demand determines prices and quantities in specific markets. The operation and failings of the price mechanism are used to analyse the behaviour of consumers and firms. The actions of firms in different industries are explored in greater depth through the models of market structure from monopoly to more competitive structures. Boys also gain an understanding of the labour market and the factors which influence wage rates and the distribution of income and wealth. Developments in UK markets and Government microeconomic policy are explored in their global and EU contexts.

Paper Two: National and International Economy (33.3% of A level) (120-minute exam – data response and essay questions)

Macroeconomic models are used to explain the behaviour of the national economy and to explore issues such as consumption, investment, inflation and unemployment. Boys will gain an understanding of recent economic developments and will use their knowledge to assess government and central bank policy, as well as the role of financial markets and the banking system. Aspects of the international economy, such as trade, exchange rates and membership of the Euro, are studied in the context of both EU and global events.

Paper Three: Economic Principles and Issues (33.3% of A level) (120-minute exam – multiple-choice questions and case study questions)

This synoptic paper requires boys to apply their knowledge of all aspects of the course outlined in Papers One and Two and tests their ability to produce extended responses drawing on a previously unseen case study.

David Morgan
Head of Economics

BUSINESS

Exam board: Edexcel
A level: 9BS0

Through studying Business, boys will:

- Develop an understanding of a range of core business concepts;
- Learn to apply core business concepts to business contexts on a local, national and global scale;
- Develop a strategic view of business opportunities and issues; and
- Build commercial awareness.

Business requires a reasonable level of numeracy. The most important quality of a successful Business student is an eagerness to understand why and how real-world businesses survive, thrive and sometimes fail. Boys should be able to analyse both extended pieces of writing and numerical data and apply both to short-answer questions and essays.

There are no specific GCSE requirements for the study of Business in the Sixth Form.

Course structure

A level Business is a linear course, with all assessment occurring at the end of the two years. The assessment is made up of three papers:

Paper One: Marketing, People and Global Business (35% of A level) (120-minute paper – data response and extended writing questions)

Boys learn how businesses identify opportunities and explore how businesses focus on developing a competitive advantage through interacting with customers. They develop an understanding of how businesses need to adapt their marketing to operate in a dynamic business environment. Boys also explore how businesses recruit, train, organise and motivate employees, as well as the role of enterprising individuals and leaders. They investigate businesses that trade on a global scale and explore their reasons for doing so. Finally, they develop an understanding of the competitive global environment and consider the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities.

Paper Two: Business Activities, Decisions and Strategies

(35% of A level) (120-minute exam – data response and extended writing questions)

Boys develop an understanding of raising and managing finance and measuring business performance. They learn the importance of using resources efficiently in a business to ensure that goods or services can be delivered effectively, efficiently and to a high standard. They also consider the external influences that have an impact on businesses, including economic and legal factors. Boys learn to take a strategic view of business opportunities and issues. They consider the effects of change and how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty. Further to this, boys will learn how to evaluate corporate objectives and analyse how businesses grow.

Paper Three: Investigating Business

(30% of A level) (120-minute exam – data response and extended writing questions)

This paper requires boys to apply their knowledge of all aspects of the course outlined in Papers One and Two and tests their ability to produce extended responses drawing on a pre-released case study.

Ellie Heatherill
Head of Business

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam board: OCR
A level: H472

English Literature at A level is an intellectually lively and challenging discipline that can be combined successfully with all subjects. This two-year course will appeal to those who take pleasure in reading a wide variety of literature, who enjoy expressing their opinions and developing independent ideas, who would be stimulated by a subject that draws upon their other academic interests, and who want to keep their options open for further study. English Literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education and is highly regarded by employers in many competitive fields.

The course develops skills that are useful in all careers: the understanding of how to read critically and discerningly, and the ability to write and speak accurately, persuasively and with confidence in one's own judgments. Ideally, candidates should have a good IGCSE in the subject but, even with a modest grade, they will have a reasonable chance of securing a respectable A level grade, given adequate commitment over the two-year course.

English seeks to foster creative talent as well as academic success, and boys are encouraged to enter a range of competitions throughout the year and to submit work for the creative-writing magazine. The L P Hartley Creative Writing Society fosters the talents of those boys who are serious about writing. The Sheridan Society invites writers and lecturers to the School, organises trips and other reading-related events, and also encourages Sixth Form boys to give talks on topics of their choice.



This is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education and is highly regarded by employers in many fields.”

Course details

The aim of the A level specification is to encourage candidates to:

- Read widely, ambitiously and independently, exploring ways in which different texts relate to each other and to the literary tradition;
- Develop and effectively apply their skills of analysis and criticism;
- Explore the historical, social and cultural contexts of the texts they are studying, considering their implications for how we read and understand those; and
- Respond to and engage with others' interpretations of texts, reading a wide range of literary theory and criticism.

Candidates will be required to show knowledge and understanding of a minimum of eight literary texts, including at least two examples of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole. They will have the opportunity to focus on areas of individual interest.

Component One: Shakespeare and Pre-1900 Poetry and Drama

2.5-hour exam (40% of mark)

- Shakespeare plays include: *Hamlet*, *Measure for Measure*, *Coriolanus*, *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III*, *The Tempest*.
- Poetry includes Chaucer's *Merchant's Prologue and Tale*, Milton's *Paradise Lost* Books 9 and 10, Tennyson's *Maud*, Coleridge's *Selected Poems*, Rossetti's *Selected Poems*.
- Drama includes *Edward II* (Marlowe), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Goldsmith), *The Duchess of Malfi* (Webster), *A Doll's House* (Ibsen), *An Ideal Husband* (Wilde).
- The exam will consist of two written tasks on the Shakespeare play, one of which will involve close reading, and a comparative essay on poetry and drama.

Component Two: Comparative and Contextual Study

2.5-hour exam (40% of mark)

- Candidates will be examined on at least two texts in a specific topic area. Topics include American Literature 1880-1940, The Gothic, Dystopia, Women in Literature, The Immigrant Experience.
- The exam will consist of a close-reading task looking at an unseen passage and a comparative essay on two set texts from the chosen topic.

Component Three: Literature Post-1900

3000-word coursework folder (20% of mark)

- Candidates will study three texts for two essays; the texts will include one prose text, one poetry text and one drama text. All texts will be post-1900 and at least one will have been published or performed after 2000.
- One essay will be a close reading of a passage and the other a comparative essay.

Lucy Ashe
Head of English



GEOGRAPHY

Exam board: OCR
A level: H481

Geography at A level encompasses key elements of social and life sciences, focusing on the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. The OCR A level specification is relevant to 21st-century issues, complex and broad. There is ample space for discussion, reflection and independent research which will encourage boys to become critical and reflective learners, able to articulate opinions and provide evidenced arguments in a range of situations.

The wide-ranging nature of the specification makes Geography a perfect complementary A level to both the arts and the sciences, as well as providing an excellent preparation for boys wishing to progress to degree-level study of the subject.

The application of knowledge learnt in the form room to the real world is a core element of Geographical enquiry. A level Geographers will build on the fieldwork carried out at GCSE through an enhanced focus on independent research and the production of an investigative geographical report. Boys will spend Expeditions Week of the Lower Sixth year on a residential field course run by the Field Studies Council at their centre in Slapton, South Devon, to support this element of non-examined assessment. In addition, learners will be assessed through three examined papers at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Course details

Component One: Physical Systems (22% of A level)

Through the study of physical systems, boys will develop an understanding and appreciation of landscape systems, contextualised through either coastal landscapes, dryland landscapes or glaciated landscapes, and Earth's life support systems, which encompasses the water and carbon cycles vital to our planet.

Component Two: Human Interactions (22% of A level)

Boys will explore human interactions through the study of Global Connections, with a choice between focusing on the systems of trade or migration and the governance of human rights or sovereignty on a global scale, and Changing Spaces; Making Places, which gives learners an insight into the nature of places and the fluidity of their meanings and representations. Within the question papers for Physical Systems (One) and Human Interactions (Two) there will be a combination of short-answer questions that carry a low tariff, medium-length questions of six to ten marks and higher tariff extended-response questions of 16 marks.

Component Three: Geographical Debates (36% of A level)

Geographical Debates allow boys to explore in depth two from a choice of five of the most challenging, dynamic and fascinating issues of the 21st century. With choices between such wide-ranging topic areas as climate change, disease, food security, oceans and tectonic hazards, there are debates to appeal to all, with the implications on people and the environment being at the heart of this component. Within the question paper for Geographical Debates (Three), there will be a combination of short-answer questions of three marks, medium-length questions of six marks, synoptic questions of 12 marks and extended-response questions of 33 marks.

Component Four: Investigative Geography (20% of A level)

The Investigative Geography component gives boys the freedom to undertake an independent investigation linked to any aspect of the specification. This component is designed to encourage boys to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic while developing a number of geographical and study skills relevant to higher education or within the world of work.

Piers Lemoine
Head of Geography



HISTORY

Exam board: OCR
A level: H505

History is one of the central humanities, embracing the study and understanding of all aspects of past human experience: individual and collective; political, social, cultural, economic and religious; the public and the domestic; the material and the intellectual; the sacred and the profane. The sources, primary and secondary, range from the written word and statistical data to the visual arts. Beyond intrinsic academic interest, History provides training in critical analysis, literary expression and the evaluation of widely contrasting evidence. This is a rigorous and demanding A level, but also an extremely rewarding one.

Unit One

(25% of the total A level)

Comprises a substantial and coherent period of British history, for example Alfred the Great and the Making of England 871-1016, the Later Tudors 1547-1603, or the Early Stuarts and the Origins of the English Civil War 1603-60. It is examined via a combination of traditional essay questions and also source-based questions, which require boys to interpret and evaluate historical evidence.

Unit Two

(15% of the total A level)

A coherent period of non-British history, for example Charlemagne 768-814, the American Revolution 1740-96, or the French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774-1815. It is examined via traditional essay questions.

Unit Three

(Worth 40% of the total A level)

A thematic study over a period of at least 100 years, and also three in-depth studies of events, individuals or issues that are key points within that theme, for example English Government and the Church 1066-1216, Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485-1603, The Ascendancy of the Ottoman Empire 1453-1606 or Britain and Ireland 1791-1921. Boys learn how to treat the whole period thematically but also to use their detailed knowledge of the depth-study topics to evaluate different interpretations of key events.

Unit Four

(Worth 20% of the total A level)

A 3000-4000-word coursework essay on a topic of their choice, which is marked at Harrow and moderated by OCR.

Rob Potter
Head of History

HISTORY OF ART

Exam board: Edexcel
A level: 9HT0

In a world increasingly saturated by the image, History of Art – with an emphasis on visual literacy – has never been more relevant. The subject also incorporates the study of ideology, examining objects as the product of specific economic, political, artistic, social and religious structures.

The A level course provides a rigorous introduction to the subject, offering a broad contextual overview of the art historical canon from 500 BCE to present day while focusing on particular historical moments, themes and methodological approaches. It also incorporates an unseen element whereby boys are encouraged to hone the core competency of visual analysis to evaluate and interpret images.

First-hand experience of art is key, and Harrow is perfectly placed for regular trips into London and its many internationally renowned museums, commercial galleries and art fairs. Equally important are trips further afield that have recently included Florence, Venice, Paris and the East and West coasts of America.

The subject encourages vital transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, time management and effective written and oral communication. While the subject naturally favours boys with an interest in research and writing, the subject requires no prior knowledge, nor the study of Art, and complements a wide range of other subjects including the sciences. Successful candidates are rigorous, enquiring and critical.

Universities welcome applications from History of Art students wishing to study Art History, Architecture, Law, English, History, Philosophy, Theology and many other subjects. History of Art is offered by all Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.



History of Art
 is the study of
 wealth and power.”



Paper One: Visual Analysis and Themes

- Visual Analysis: in the first third of the paper, students analyse and interpret three unseen photographs of a painting, a sculpture and a building, deploying specialist terminology.
- Themes: the remaining two thirds of the paper are dedicated to two thematic topics:
 - Identities in art and architecture
 - War in art and architecture

Boys will study artworks from beyond the Western canon of art to make both historical and geographic links. In addition to the selected artworks themselves (spanning painting, sculpture and architecture), boys will also study secondary sources.

Paper Two: Periods

Boys will focus on specific historical moments to see how contemporary beliefs and ideas are reflected in the visual arts. Boys will study two periods for this paper as follows:

- Invention and illusion: the Renaissance in Italy (1420-1520)
- Brave new world: Modernism in Europe (1900-39)

Juliet Bailey

Head of History of Art



LATIN

Exam board: OCR
A level: H443

Classical subjects have always been central to the study of the humanities. Latin is a vibrant, intellectually stimulating and rigorous discipline that works well in combination with almost any other A levels. It provides a solid, arguably even essential, foundation for any arts degree. As well as providing the key to an unsurpassed treasury of literature, history and philosophy, Latin has the very practical and, ultimately, highly employable benefit of producing thinkers, enquirers, creators and problem solvers, skills that are valued greatly by university admissions tutors and graduate employers alike. Boys who coped with and enjoyed Latin GCSE will already have most of the basic skills with which to make a successful start to the study of Latin at A level.

The two-year course in Latin caters both for those who enjoy nuance of expression as well as those who relish the code-breaking logic of an inflected language, and will give them an opportunity to express their thoughts on an enormously influential corpus of Latin literature. Boys will learn how to think logically and analytically while deepening their understanding of their own culture.

The Classics Department takes a dynamic approach to A level study, regularly offering Oxbridge open days, seminars, theatre trips and study tours abroad. Sixth Formers will have the privilege of using the excellent book collection in the Deno Leventis Library, a space which is also used for seminars and text readings. For Lower Sixth Latin lessons, we are joined by English and Italian students from St Dominic's (the local sixth form college). There is a vibrant culture of scholarship within the department with several beaks engaged in their own academic research projects.

As a result, the Classical Society is an energetic and innovative body, meeting regularly to hear boys, beaks and external speakers present on areas of personal interest. The Plumtre Scholarship offers Sixth Form Classicists the chance to compete for a series of prestigious academic prizes, and there are also reading competitions to enter and prize essays to prepare.

GCSE requirement: grade 8 in Latin

Course details

The A level in Latin aims for candidates to:

- Acquire the language and literary skills to read texts in the original language;
- Apply analytical and evaluative skills to original texts in Latin;
- Develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world;
- Make an informed personal response to literature;
- Develop a sensitive and analytical approach to language generally; and
- Develop the research and analytical skills to become independent learners.

Paper One

Unseen translation (33%)

Boys will translate one passage of unseen Latin prose and one passage of unseen Latin verse (taken from Ovid) into English.

Paper Two

Prose composition or comprehension (17%)

Boys will either answer comprehension and grammar questions on an unseen passage of Latin prose (taken from Livy) or translate a short passage of English prose into Latin. While the composition is a challenging option, it provides great intellectual satisfaction and preparation for this discipline has often proved very popular.

Paper Three

Prose literature (25%)

Boys will study two Latin prose set texts. They will also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

The current set texts are taken from Cicero, *Philippics II*, and Tacitus, *Histories I*.

Paper Four

Verse literature (25%)

Boys will study two Latin verse set texts. They will also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

The set texts for 2022 will be Virgil, *Aeneid* Book II and Horace, *Odes*.

CLASSICAL GREEK

Exam board: OCR
A level: H44

The A Level in Classical Greek has been designed to help boys develop their understanding of the Classical Greek language as well as ancient literature, values and society. Boys hone their language skills with the aim to read unadapted literary texts both prose and verse from a wide range of authors, from Homer, Plato and Herodotus to Thucydides and Euripides. Boys will broaden their understanding of literary, historical and cultural features of the Athenian world, and acquire the literary skills which enable them to pay close attention to literary techniques, styles and genres.

GCSE requirement: grade 8 in Greek

Course details

Paper One

Unseen translation (33%)

Boys will translate one passage of unseen Greek oratorical prose and one passage of unseen Greek verse (taken from Sophocles) into English.

Paper Two

Prose composition or comprehension (17%)

Boys will either answer comprehension and grammar questions on an unseen passage of Greek prose (usually taken from the genre of political or forensic oratory) or translate a short passage of English prose into Greek. While the composition is a challenging option, it provides great intellectual satisfaction and preparation for this discipline has often proved very popular.

Paper Three

Prose literature (25%)

Boys will study two Greek prose set texts. They will also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

The set texts for 2022 are taken from Plato's *Phaedo*, Herodotus, Book 7, and Xenophon's *Anabasis* Book 4.

For examination in 2022, the unseen prose passage will be Thucydides.

Paper Four

Verse literature (25%)

Boys will study two Greek verse set texts. They will also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

For 2022, the set texts will be from Homer, *Iliad* 18, Euripides, *Medea*, and Aristophanes, *Peace*.

For examination in 2022 the unseen verse passage will be taken from Sophocles.

Each year, the Classics Department organises study tours abroad to Greece, Italy and other countries of Classical interest. Boys are strongly encouraged to go on these visits.

Steven Kennedy

Head of Classics





MATHEMATICS/ FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Exam board: Edexcel
A level Mathematics 9MA0
A level Further Mathematics (codes vary)

Mathematics is a vital part of all areas of modern life and the A level course provides a sound background to any boy wishing to pursue Mathematics or a Mathematics-based degree.

IGCSE requirement for A level Mathematics: grade 8 in Mathematics (although a grade 9 is preferred).

IGCSE requirement for A level Further Mathematics: grade 9 in Mathematics (most boys will present with an additional qualification in Mathematics).

Course details

At Harrow, boys study the Edexcel A level course for both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. A level Mathematics consists of three examinations, two in Pure Mathematics and one in Statistics and Mechanics, each carrying an equal weighting. For

Further Mathematics, boys take another four or five examinations, two compulsory units and two or three optional ones. The exact options that will be offered will depend on the division. Both courses are fully linear and all examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Candidates who are at present in the top Mathematics division in the Fifth Form should consider themselves strong candidates, with a good possibility of pursuing a Further Mathematics course. Boys in the second division who have done well at the Additional Mathematics studied in the Fifth Form can also consider studying Further Mathematics. The Further Mathematics course is ideal (in some cases crucial) for anyone considering a degree in a science, engineering, computing or economics. If a boy who opts for Further Mathematics is eventually not able to complete the full double A level, there is an option to return to single Mathematics at any point over the two-year course.

New boys entering the Sixth Form who wish to study the Further Mathematics course should contact the Head of Subject and ensure that they have studied an extended mathematical content before entry to the Sixth Form at Harrow. They will then be placed in appropriate divisions.

James Ashton
Head of Mathematics

MODERN LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese: Pre-U: 9778

French: Edexcel A level 9FRO

German: Edexcel A level 9GNO

Italian: Edexcel A level 9INO

Japanese: Edexcel A level 9JAO

Russian: Edexcel A level 9RUO

Spanish: Edexcel A level 9SPO

Studying languages in the Sixth Form is excellent preparation for boys considering studying Modern Languages at university, but equally worthwhile for those with other aspirations, because languages are perfect complementary subjects. Modern languages combine particularly well with Classics, English and History, and can also combine strongly with Economics and Mathematics for those considering university and career options in business and finance, and with the sciences. Major European pharmaceutical companies such as Bayer and Novartis are based in the UK as well as on the Continent and language skills are sought after among their prospective employees.

A degree in Modern Languages is excellent preparation for a career in the diplomatic and security services, as well as a strong foundation for a legal career. Many FTSE 100 companies stress that language skills give applicants a distinct advantage.

Almost, all languages in the Sixth Form follow the Edexcel A level courses, with terminal assessments in all four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. For full details of the courses please visit the Edexcel website [qualifications.pearson.com](https://www.edexcel.com/qualifications).

Boys will normally be prepared for these examinations by two beaks, with a further period each week in smaller groups with our excellent and experienced native-speaker language assistants. The structure of the A level courses is broadly the same for all languages, with some exceptions for Japanese, which is listed separately below.

IGCSE/GCSE requirement: grade 7 in the relevant language

the target language and complete two essays in the target language on either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

Candidates should produce responses that show critical appreciation of features such as: key concepts and issues; characterisation; form and technique of presentation e.g. the effect of narrative voice in prose text, effect of camera work in film; social and cultural setting. In their writing they should present viewpoints, develop arguments, draw conclusions, analyse and evaluate the texts they have studied. A full list of the prescribed literary texts and films can be found in the specifications in the Edexcel website. Recent texts and films taught in the department include Voltaire: *Zadig et Micromegas*; Solzhenitsyn: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*; Benigni: *La vita è bella*, and Salles: *Diarios de motocicleta*.

Paper Three

Speaking (30%); Internally conducted and externally assessed test of approximately 18 minutes

There are two parts to the test. In the first part, candidates present and discuss ideas and issues arising from a stimulus card with a choice of two topics. Candidates' interaction, their knowledge of the target language society and culture, and accuracy and range of language are assessed. In the second part, candidates present and then discuss independent research they have conducted on a topic relating to the cultural and social context of the language studied. It is possible for centres to choose for larger cohorts to be examined by an external examiner appointed by Pearson Edexcel.

Japanese: A level: 9JAO

Paper One

Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (research question) (40%); Written paper, 2 hours 30 minutes

There are three parts to the test. In the first part, candidates translate an unseen passage from Japanese into English. The second part is a reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres.

Candidates must respond to a series of comprehension questions. The third part is based on independent research selected and carried out by the candidate. Candidates read a text and then answer a question, incorporating information and ideas from both the text and their research findings.

Paper Two

Translation into Japanese and written response to works (30%); Written paper, 2 hours 40 minutes

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

Paper Three

Listening, reading and writing (30%); Written paper, 2 hours 15 minutes

There are two parts to the test. In the first part, candidates complete a listening comprehension test. In the second part, they summarise a transcript and a text that are based on the same sub-theme.

Candidates then evaluate the points of view in both sources, stating which views they agree with and why.

Boys intending to study modern languages in the Sixth Form are strongly advised to attend study trips over the course of the Lower Sixth year, either those organised by the Modern Languages Department or arranged privately, to help them develop their linguistic abilities in a native-speaker environment. There is a department travel prize in honour of a former languages beak that can be awarded to one or possibly two boys to help with this.

Henry Johnson
Head of Modern Languages

Specific guidance on Mandarin Chinese Pre-U is available on the Parents' Portal on Firefly.

Course structure

Paper One

Listening, reading and translation (40%); Written paper, 2 hours

Candidates complete a series of reading and listening exercises from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as a translation from the target language into English. They are assessed on their ability to understand gist and main ideas, interpret complex language, identify explicitly and implicitly stated ideas, draw inferences, synthesise information, and identify vocabulary and structures by applying close reading skills.

Paper Two

Written response to works and translation (30%); 2 hours 40 minutes

Candidates translate an unseen passage from English into



MUSIC

Exam board: Edexcel
A level: 9MU01

The Edexcel course leads on naturally from GCSE and has the advantage that many of the musical activities undertaken by Harrow musicians will count towards their examination. However, the course is very broad and much more than simply an extension of instrumental study. The A level develops skills in analysis and close listening, harmony and counterpoint, and free and stylistic composition. An extremely wide range of music is studied and boys develop the confidence and ability to engage in a mature and intelligent way with unfamiliar works and styles. As a serious and rigorous subject that is highly regarded by top universities, A level Music helps to develop not only musical awareness but also other core academic skills such as essay writing and independent research. The subject combines well with both humanities and sciences in this regard. Although an A level in Music demonstrates a wide range of abilities to admissions tutors across all subjects, many boys discover while studying Music that they would like to pursue it further at university. In recent years, Harrovians have been awarded choral and organ scholarships to prestigious Oxbridge colleges and achieved outstanding first-class degrees in Music.



In recent years Harrovians have been awarded choral and organ scholarships to prestigious Oxbridge colleges and achieved outstanding first-class degrees in Music.”

Course details

Component One

Performing (30%)

Candidates perform as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble for a minimum of eight minutes. This is recorded and sent off for assessment by the Edexcel examiners. To be confident of achieving full marks in this module, performances should be of grade eight level.

Component Two

Composing (30%)

Candidates develop their composition skills and create a four-minute piece in response to a chosen brief (20%). Pupils also complete a shorter technique-based exercise such as a Bach Chorale (10%).

Component Three

Appraising Music (40%)

This unit focuses on listening and musical analysis. Candidates study set works, identifying important musical features and exploring their social and historical contexts, in preparation for a two-hour written examination. This examination includes questions on the set works, listening questions including dictation, and essays including questions requiring candidates to compare a familiar work with an unfamiliar work. The six areas of study, each of which comprises three set works, are:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

William Church

Head of Academic Music

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Exam board: Edexcel
A level: 9MT0

Requirements: No formal qualification in Music is necessary for this course, although a keen interest and basic knowledge of music, sound, science and general technology is required. Musical creativity is essential for the composition paper.

Course content

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Music Technology consists of two externally examined papers and two non-examined assessment components. Students must submit their non-examined assessment (NEA) and complete the examinations in May/June in the year of certification.

Component One: Recording

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed
20% of the qualification

Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

Assessment overview

One recording, chosen from a list of ten songs provided by Edexcel, consisting of a minimum of five compulsory instruments and two additional instruments.

Component Two: Technology-based composition

Non-examined assessment: externally assessed
20% of the qualification

Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

Assessment overview

One technology-based composition chosen from three briefs set by Edexcel.

Component Three: Listening and analysing

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
25% of the qualification

Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Edexcel.

Assessment overview

Section A: Listening and analysing (40 marks) – four questions, each based on unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Edexcel (10 marks each).
Section B: Extended written responses (35 marks) – two essay questions. One comparison question, which uses two unfamiliar commercial recordings from the CD (15 marks). The second essay uses the final unfamiliar commercial recording on the CD (20 marks).



Candidates study the development of technology and popular music in the 20th century along with practical modules in engineering, producing, analysing and composing.”

Component Four: Producing and analysing

Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes
(plus 10 minutes' setting-up time)
35% of the qualification

Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided by Edexcel in the examination.

Assessment overview

Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks.

Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

Sean McWilliam

Head of Music Technology

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam board: EDEXCEL
A level: 9PY01

Photography is all about artistic expression and communicating personal ideas about the world around us. It can be used to record, document and present examples of everyday life in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. The new linear A level is divided into two disciplines: film-based photography and digital photography. The course will start in the Lower Sixth year by looking into the traditional black and white photographic processes. This will then develop into digital photography as part of the Upper Sixth coursework component.

The aims, assessment objectives and assessment criteria are common to all Art and Design courses: candidates for Photography may spend less time in the studio, but will be expected to spend more time in the field taking photographs.



Each assessment objective is worth 25% and there are four objectives:

- Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
- Record in visual and/or other forms ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on work and progress.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, oral or other elements.

There are two components to the A level, one coursework and two exams. Sketchbooks are used to record the exploration and development of a boy's ideas and may account for 60% or more of the total mark for both of the two modules.

The Upper Sixth year demands a greater level of competence and will challenge boys to understand creative problem solving.



A boy with an enthusiasm for photography will find the course stretches his horizons and introduces him to the work of professional practitioners and the history of photography.”

Component One

Coursework: Personal investigation

This component is weighted at 60% of the total qualification – internally marked and externally moderated. Boys will develop their assessed responses from themes developed from personal starting points.

As part of this component, boys will process their own black and white films and print photographs in the darkroom, using the traditional process. The idea is to produce images that make the ordinary look extraordinary. Digital photography is also used to bring colour into the personal investigation, experimenting with different camera techniques to produce a wide variety of interesting work. Work in sketchbooks will be set as prep.

In the Upper Sixth, the aim is to develop boys' ability to resolve successfully the problems that emerge as an inevitable part of the process of creating photographic work. This will challenge their independent creativity and they will also work closely on the work of other photographers. This component will include a personal study, which requires boys to research, evaluate, analyse and establish coherent and sustainable links between their understanding of their own emerging photographic practice and that of historical and contemporary references. The study will take the form of a formal dissertation of no more than 3000 words.

Component Two

Exam: Externally set assignment

This component is weighted at 40% of the total qualification – internally marked and externally moderated. This is based on a theme chosen by the board. Last year's theme was Variation and Similarity, and the boys have a term in which they must research and shoot their ideas. They have a 15-hour examination in which they must complete a sketchbook and final piece or pieces. This is a real test of organisation and planning.

A boy with an enthusiasm for photography will find the course stretches his horizons, introduces him to the work of professional practitioners and the history of photography, and develops in him the critical faculty to evaluate his own work and that of others. The course would suit anyone at Harrow, not just the boys already decided on a Photography or Art and Design course at university. The Photography course gives boys an Art and Design qualification at A level, developing excellent research skills that are highly regarded by top universities.

Darren Bell

Head of Photography

PHYSICS

Exam board: OCR Physics A
A level: H556

GCSE requirement: Physics grade 7 and Mathematics grade 7

If boys wish to study Physics or Engineering at university they must take Mathematics at least to A level. Further Mathematics will give access to degrees at the best universities, as well as improving their chances of making a success of their studies there.

Physics is very much the subject of the age. It has the reputation of being a difficult subject because of its unique conceptual challenges.

It requires a particular, often counter-intuitive way of thinking that can be difficult to acquire but which, once mastered, has innumerable benefits in the long run, such as enhanced problem-solving skills. This is the main reason why physicists are so highly sought after in the workplace in fields as diverse as engineering, finance, education, IT, communications and government research.

The Physics and Astronomy Department at Harrow offers a uniquely broad range of additional academic opportunities for our A level boys. We run a series of first-year-undergraduate-level engineering projects for up to 25 of our Lower Sixth boys every year, targeted particularly at those who are considering reading Engineering at university (Engineering is now

one of the most popular university courses among Harrovians). All Lower Sixth physicists follow a coding course with us, gaining invaluable computing experience before embarking on a university science course, where such a skill is essential. We also offer research project opportunities in Astrophysics with access to our state-of-the-art Rayleigh Observatory.

Course content

The course consists of six modules:

Module One seeks to develop practical skills in Physics. These skills are assessed in a written examination at the end of the course rather than through coursework. They also lay the foundations for the extensive practical work which is undertaken, leading to a practical endorsement at the end of the two years.

Module Two deals with foundations in Physics, such as mathematical techniques, units and measures, and data analysis.

Module Three looks into mechanics, including motion, forces, work and energy, and materials.

Module Four is concerned with electrons, waves and photons, covering such diverse topics as electricity, quantum phenomena and waves.

Module Five looks into the Newtonian world (momentum, oscillations, gravitational fields and thermal physics) and astrophysics.

Module Six takes us into the exciting worlds of particle physics and medical physics.

James Bedford
Head of Physics





POLITICS

Exam board: Edexcel
A level: 9PLO

The aim of this course is to encourage interest in and enthusiasm for the study of politics, and to enable boys to develop an insight into some of the political beliefs that are central to an understanding of the modern world. No previous study or knowledge of politics is required, just a good work ethic and a recognition that the subject will involve plenty of reading, note taking and essay writing.

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No previous study
or knowledge
of politics
is required.”

Component One: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

This unit introduces boys to the key channels of communication between government and the people (political parties, elections, pressure groups etc.). It also explores the ideological framework in which politics operates by studying the key ideas associated with socialism, conservatism and liberalism.

Component Two: UK Government and Optional Political Ideas

This unit covers the major governmental processes in the UK by looking at the structure and operations of Parliament, the judiciary, the prime minister and the UK's constitutional arrangements. Moreover, boys will explore nationalism as an alternative ideological perspective to balance those studied in Component One.

Component Three: Comparative Politics

This unit explores global politics. Boys will gain an understanding of the relationship between the state and globalisation, global approaches to economics, the environment and human rights, as well as the interaction between local, regional and international units of power.

There is no coursework in either the Lower Sixth or the Upper Sixth.

Politics is particularly compatible with History or Economics and with humanities and social sciences generally, but it would also combine perfectly well with Mathematics, languages and scientific subjects. In terms of preparation for higher education, an A level qualification in Politics would be an interesting string to the bow of any university applicant, and would serve as a useful introduction to a university Politics degree, including Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at Oxford, or Human, Social and Political Science (HSPS) at Cambridge. It is particularly useful for boys considering careers in law, finance or politics.

Alastair Cook
Head of Politics

SPORTS SCIENCE

Exam board: OCR
A level: H555

The A level Sports Science specification content is divided into four components. Each component is further sub-divided into topic areas.

Components One to Three are assessed by written examination papers.

Component Four is a non-examined assessment (NEA), internally assessed and externally moderated. The written papers are designed in manageable parts rather than long papers, thus helping candidates to manage the course.

Component One: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

This group of topics focuses on the key systems of the human body involved in movement and physical activity. The boys will develop their knowledge and understanding of the changes within these body systems before exercise, during exercise of differing intensities, and during recovery. Application of this theoretical knowledge will enable boys to understand how changes in physiological states can influence performance in physical activities and sport. Boys will be expected to be able to interpret data and graphs relating to changes in these body systems.

Component Two: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

This component focuses on the psychological factors affecting physical activities and sports, including models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities; how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person; and group dynamics and the effects of leadership and stress on performers. Through the study of this component, boys will gain a deeper understanding of the underlying psychological factors that influence our performance in physical activity and sport.

Component Three: Socio-cultural and Contemporary Issues

This component focuses on the sociological and contemporary factors that influence and affect physical activity and sport for both the audience and the performer, and how sport affects society. It includes the emergence and evolution of modern sport, and how social and cultural factors shaped the characteristics of sports and pastimes in pre-industrial and post-industrial Britain. The impact of the modern Olympic Games will be understood, as well as the impact on society of hosting global sporting events. Ever-evolving modern technology and its influence on sport performers and spectators will be understood and practical examples will be used to show the effect of modern technology.

Component Four: Performance Within Physical Education

Boys will be required to undertake two parts within this component.

Part One

Performance/coaching of a sport or activity from the approved DfE list.

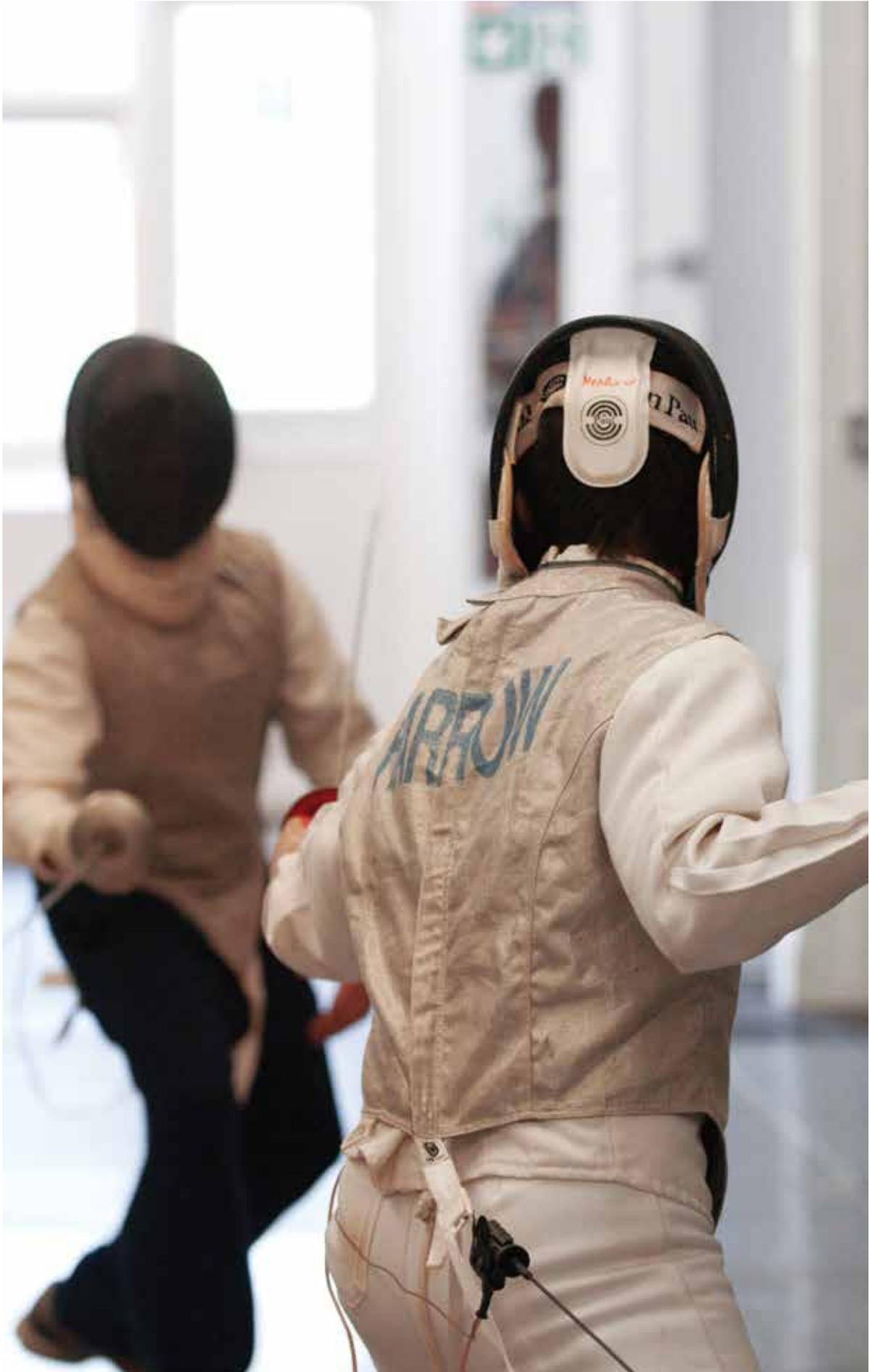
Part Two

The Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) of a sport or activity from the approved DfE list. This does not have to be the same sport or activity that was undertaken in part one, although it can be. Boys will identify and justify the major area of weakness within the performance to make priorities for improvement, and will propose a long-term (two to three months) development plan to improve the area of performance identified. This component is assessed via NEA.

Richard Finch
Director of Sport



Boys will gain an understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin sport and physical activity, and will be able to demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach.”





THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

Exam board: EDUQAS
A level: 601/8700/1

The course develops the ability to think analytically and critically. Religious Studies at A level has changed enormously over the last few years and is now one of the most intellectually stimulating and rigorous subjects available. Boys are expected to consider ethical and philosophical topics that form an integral part in the day-to-day thinking and lives of a large proportion of the world's population. Boys will develop skills of confident critical evaluation and analysis, which they will practise in discussions and in essay writing. Boys do not need any personal belief to study the subject - just an interest in the questions involved. It is an academic subject highly regarded by universities for admission to study arts or humanities and social science degree courses. The ethics units also combine well with science A levels to prepare boys for science and medical degrees.

Paper One

Written examination (2 hours) on Philosophy of Religion

The content for this paper explores some of the main contemporary philosophical issues and questions about religion, such as belief in God or the conviction that life has both meaning and purpose. It will also engage with arguments and debates on religious and non-religious views of life, which focus on some key areas of controversy that shape the modern world, including the problems of evil and suffering. In addition, it will look at the nature and influence of religious experience, philosophical language science and the works of scholars who have contributed to these debates.

Paper Two

Written examination (2 hours) on Religion and Ethics

The content for this paper is focused on exploring both common ground and controversy in dealing with issues that arise in the areas of morality and religion in the context of the modern world. There will also be a study of some of the underlying ideas and concepts behind these issues, as well as questions about how ethical and religious ideas and solutions may be applied in practice in contemporary social, political and personal situations. The paper also covers issues such as equality, war and peace, and sexual ethics.

Paper Three

Written examination (2 hours) on Theology

The content for this paper focuses on the interconnections of religious beliefs, values and teachings, and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world. As part of this study, specific sources of wisdom authority and sacred texts are studied and examined. This component allows the boys to explore the significant social and historical developments in theology, including the contemporary challenges of secularisation, migration, science and gender politics, as well as a more general discussion about the relationship between religion and society.

John McAleer

Head of Theology & Philosophy

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Boys are expected to consider ethical and philosophical topics from more than one point of view and to express themselves coherently in essays.”



PREFERRED SIXTH FORM SUBJECTS

This table is a rough guide to the Sixth Form subject choices preferred for some types of degree at British universities. Each university and degree course sets its own admission standards, so it is not possible to be prescriptive: the current university prospectuses are the best source of guidance. *HEAP 2021: University Degree Course Offers* by Brian Heap is also a helpful resource.

For a science degree, the third or fourth subject may be a contrasting one such as a language or humanity without compromising the essential requirements. Indeed many universities welcome this additional breadth. Anyone considering a science degree must take Mathematics.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE	PREFERRED SUBJECTS
Agricultural Science	Two sciences, especially Chemistry and Biology
Architecture	Mathematics, Physics and Art
Biological Sciences	Biology and Chemistry
Chemical Sciences	Chemistry, Mathematics and either Physics or Biology
Computer Science	Mathematics and Physics
Economics	Mathematics
Engineering	Mathematics and Physics, often Design & Technology
Geological Sciences	Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics
Materials Science	Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
Mathematics	Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics
Medicine and Medical Sciences	Chemistry, Biology and Physics
Modern Languages	At least two languages
Psychology	One or two sciences and Mathematics
Veterinary Medicine	Chemistry and Biology

SUBJECTS OFFERED AT HARROW IN THE SIXTH FORM

Boys should choose a total of FOUR subjects. We are asking that boys choose one subject from each of the four groups. The timetable will then be constructed with the aim of making it possible to accommodate all preferred combinations of subjects. If a boy's preferred choice does not fall within these groups, he should speak with Mr Bailey, the Academic and Universities Director. We will endeavour to accommodate any choice but cannot guarantee it.

As the timetable is constructed, it becomes increasingly difficult for changes to boys' programmes to be successfully accommodated and boys should therefore seek to make definitive choices in the first instance. Occasionally, unforeseen changes in circumstance may mean that the precise list of subjects offered can change. Such changes will always be notified to boys and parents at the earliest opportunity. Boys study four subjects (some Further Mathematicians may study five) throughout the Lower Sixth year and then carry on either three or four of these to A level in the Upper Sixth. Their choices will be collated under the supervision of House Masters and Tutors.

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Art	Art	Art	Ancient Greek
Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Ancient History
Design & Technology	Economics	Business	Business
Drama and Theatre	Geography	Economics	Chemistry
Economics	History	English	Economics
French	History of Art	French	English
Geography	Italian	History	History
German	Photography	Mathematics	Mathematics
Japanese	Physics	Further Mathematics	Music Technology
Latin	Politics		Photography
Mandarin	Spanish		Physics
Music			Politics
Politics			Theology & Philosophy
Russian			
Sports Science			
Theology & Philosophy			

Boys wishing to study Further Mathematics must choose Mathematics in group C. They should then choose **at least two** other subjects from the other three groups. It is possible for boys taking Further Mathematics to take three other subjects, one from each group A, B and D.

The deadline for submitting subject choices is Wednesday 3 February.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARE SOME A LEVELS CONSIDERED 'SOFT SUBJECTS' AND NOT APPROPRIATE FOR COMPETITIVE UNIVERSITIES?

The answer is yes, but Harrow does not offer many such subjects. The most competitive universities are quite clear about subjects they prefer. The University of Cambridge says the best subjects for those wishing to keep their options open are a language (ancient or modern), Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, History, Mathematics, Physics and Further Mathematics. For those inclined towards the arts or social sciences, they recommend all the subjects previously mentioned as well as Ancient History, Economics, Geography, Politics, History of Art, Music and Religious Studies.

For those considering a degree in sciences, their suggestions are Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, as well as Design & Technology for some courses. The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities has a digital platform to help guide students called 'Informed Choices' <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>. This gives detailed advice that boys might want to use to complement this booklet. Other competitive universities like UCL and LSE list 'preferred' and 'non-preferred' A level subjects on their websites. It is important to bear in mind that whilst some subjects might be 'non-preferred' for certain courses, they may be 'preferred' for others. It is thus important to research carefully what universities expect. The Universities Team, along with Heads of Subject and House Masters, can advise boys which Sixth Form courses are right for them and their ambitions.

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF A LEVELS?

Art, Photography, and Design & Technology require boys to do practical work outside timetabled lessons. Modern languages require boys to take oral lessons outside the timetable.

DO SOME SUBJECTS HAVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Yes, some A level subjects should only be tackled at Harrow by boys who achieve certain minimum grades at GCSE/IGCSE. This is because our experience shows that boys not achieving these grades at GCSE/IGCSE will not be successful at A level. Please see the accompanying notes on the subject pages throughout this document. Boys hoping to study Mathematics at A level should achieve a minimum of grade 8 at IGCSE, while boys wishing to study Further Mathematics should have a grade 9 at IGCSE. In order to take a Modern language, boys need to earn at least a grade 7 at IGCSE. Boys should also have at least a grade 7 in Mathematics at IGCSE if they want to take Economics.

HOW MANY A LEVELS SHOULD BOYS TAKE?

All Harrovians start with a full timetable of four subjects while some Further Mathematicians may start with five A levels. Each year, some boys drop a subject as they enter the Upper Sixth, but it is worth noting that more than half of all Harrovians finish with four or more A levels. While completing three A levels is average in the UK, Harrovians are well above average, and the most competitive courses in the UK expect boys here to achieve at a very high level. The most competitive US universities expect boys to continue with four A levels.

HOW MUCH TEACHING TIME IS THERE IN EACH SUBJECT?

Boys will have around five hours' teaching time per week for each of their subjects, usually split between two Masters. Boys studying Further Mathematics will have additional time for Mathematics each week. The Electives will be taught over three periods per week.

WHAT OTHER TESTS ARE THERE IN THE SIXTH FORM?

The most competitive universities and courses require applicants to take a range of aptitude tests: the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford require candidates to sit tests for a wide range of courses, details of which can be found here: www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/. Cambridge University also requires STEP papers for a few subjects such as Mathematics and Engineering. Imperial College London sets three subject-specific tests. Candidates applying for Medicine will sit either the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) or the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). Some other university courses require additional tests and details can be found here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>. We offer preparation in the Sixth Form for these tests. Boys applying to American universities will need to take the SAT or ACT, as well as SAT Subject Tests.

IS ADMISSION TO THE SIXTH FORM AUTOMATIC AFTER GCSES?

There is no formal hurdle for returning to the Sixth Form. Conversations about a boy's academic suitability for the Sixth Form should be discussed with a boy's House Master during his Fifth Form year.

DO NEW BOYS JOIN IN THE SIXTH FORM?

Each year, a small number of new boys join in the Sixth Form. Competition for these spaces is incredibly competitive (ten applicants per place).

BEFORE ENTERING CHOICES WITH HOUSE MASTERS BY WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY, BOYS MUST:

- Check that their Sixth Form choices prepare them for the universities and university courses that most interest them.
- Consider which subjects, at this stage, might be the best preparation for their intended career.
- Discuss their choices with their parents, House Master and Tutor.
- Speak to Heads of Subject about any new subjects that they have not studied before.





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writing to the Head Master's Executive PA (ryancs@harrowschool.org.uk)