Prior Park College

Sixth Form

COURSE BOOKLET

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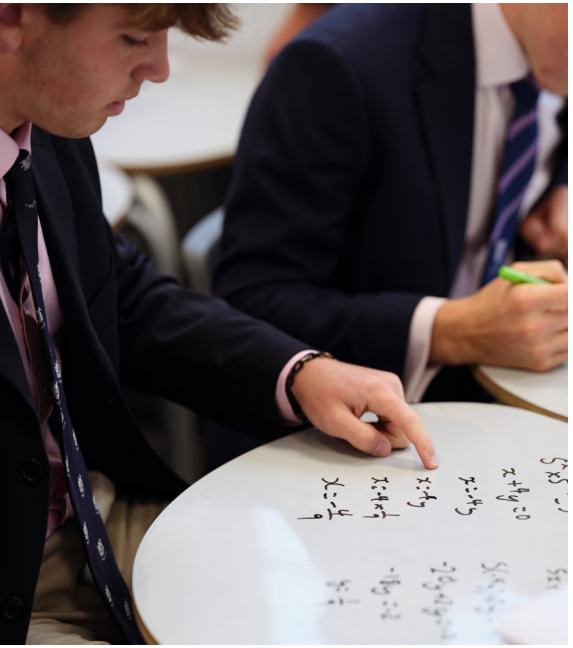
INTRODUCTION

The Sixth Form experience at Prior Park is a time of preparation for adult life and transition from school to university or the world of work.

It is an intellectually stimulating time and is a period of greater collaboration between students and teachers. By doing fewer subjects in greater intensity, you will get close to mastering the material you are being examined on.

Prior's Sixth Form Centre provides a perfect environment to not only study but also socialise, and you will quickly feel part of a happy and supported community that will stay with you long after your time in the Sixth Form ends.

WHAT SHOULD I STUDY?



We believe A Levels provide the appropriate depth of knowledge for students to flourish intellectually, whilst being broad and rigorous qualifications that are highly regarded by universities and potential employers.

In most cases, Lower Sixth students select three A-Level (or equivalent BTEC) subjects with an opportunity to select a fourth qualification such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Further Maths.

Students make an initial choice from a menu of up to 28 taught subjects, with most offering A-Level courses and some offering L3 (BTEC). Many international students also take supplementary A-Levels in their native language.

Choosing Sixth Form subjects

Achieving grades that reflect your innate ability is the most important requirement for accessing a university place that is appropriate for you. These grades are likely to be more forthcoming if you choose to study subjects in which you have genuine academic interest and motivation.

All the A Level courses offered at Prior Park provide a solid foundation for university entry, but for some institutions, including Oxbridge and the Russell Group of leading universities, it is also necessary to have the right combination of subjects to maximise a student's chance of securing an offer of a place. If prospective Sixth Form students have a clear career path in mind, they are advised to contact universities directly to check that their subject combinations are acceptable for the courses in which they are interested.

As an initial guide, we have produced the list below, which shows typically helpful Sixth Form courses for various university subject areas. The list is, of course, not exhaustive, and many courses have no specific subject requirements at all.

UNIVERSITY SUBJECT	HELPFUL SIXTH-FORM CHOICES
Architecture	Art, DT, Maths
Art & Design	Art, DT
Biology	Biology, Chemistry
Chemistry	Chemistry and another Science discipline
Computer Science related	Maths, Physics, Computer Science
Dentistry	Chemistry, Biology
Drama	Drama, English
Economics	Maths, Economics
Engineering	Physics, Maths, Further Maths, DT
English	English, History, MFLs
Geography	Geography
History	History
Law	Any essay-based subject, Maths
Maths	Maths and often Further Maths
Medicine	Chemistry, Biology. Maths/Physics can also be helpful
Music	Music
MFLs	Relevant MFL
Philosophy	TPE is helpful but not essential
Physics	Physics, Maths, Further Maths is helpful but not essential
Politics	History
Psychology	Psychology, Biology (not necessarily essential)
Sports	PE, Biology
Veterinary	Chemistry, Biology, Maths

The EPQ

A strong feature of the Sixth Form has been the increasing popularity of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This qualification allows students to broaden their experiences in Sixth Form by undertaking a research project that they must design and carry out. Our students have achieved truly outstanding results, with Prior Park established as a beacon of excellence in the quality of EPQs produced, excelling against both state and other independent schools.

Further advice on your choices

Help with subject choice can be sought from Heads of Department, subject teachers, tutors, Housemasters/ Housemistresses and our excellent independent careers advisor. External applicants are advised to use the careers services at their own school but we can arrange opportunities to talk with us about possible subject combinations once a student has accepted their offer of a place.

SUBJECT OPTIONS PROCESS

Michaelmas Term: Start of term

September: Sixth Form Open Evening
This is an initial introduction to the Sixth Form at Prior Park. It includes talks from the Headmaster, Deputy Head (Academic) and current Sixth Form students, and the opportunity to get advice from Heads of department on possible Sixth Form subject areas.

Throughout Michaelmas term
Subject choice advice from tutors. Options Assemblies from Academic team. Individual guidance available from Careers advisor.

October: INITIAL SUBJECT INTERESTS collected
We collect initial subject interests from internal U5 students and registered external applicants. These are students' initial choices of subject areas they are interested in studying in the Sixth Form.

Choices are made via an online form.

Half Term

November: Autumn Assessments
Assessments for U5 students.

November: Final Sixth Form options generated
We analyse students' initial subject interests.

First, we look at which subjects make the most sense to offer as final choices. Normally, subjects with reasonably high initial uptake (10 or more initial subject interests) will run automatically, while others are subject to review.

Second, we look at individual students' choices to make sure we think they are the best fit.

December: Final Sixth Form options released. FINAL SUBJECT CHOICES collected.
We release the list of subjects offered as final choices for the following year, and students choose their final three (or four) subjects via an online system.

January: Deadline for FINAL SUBJECT CHOICES
After this time, we will begin constructing the timetable for the following year. Students are still able to change their mind after this deadline, but there might be additional constraints on what they can choose depending on the timetable construction.

Please look carefully through this course booklet and use it in conjunction with attending the Sixth Form Open Evening and Taster Day to find out all that you can. Do not hesitate to ask questions. The Sixth Form is ultimately your opportunity to develop and refine your talents towards a rewarding future career and a fulfilling life.

Mr Chris Gamble
Deputy Head, Academic

ART

EXAM BOARD

OCR Fine Art www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/as-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have achieved at least a Level 6 in GCSE Art.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Studying Fine Art is essentially about learning to pursue a personal creative journey and communicating that journey to others. During the first year of the course, students are introduced to a broad range of processes and materials, enabling them to develop their own visual language. They also gain insight into issues and concerns of historical and contemporary art forms and they learn to place their own artwork within a wider context. Art students learn critical, evaluation and presentation skills and are required to work with independence. As the course progresses, they produce an extensive body of work on a theme of personal interest.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

60% Personal Investigation (coursework project) undertaken over three terms. This includes an extensive portfolio of preparatory and experimental studies, one or more resolved pieces and an essay of 3000 words.

40% Set Task. This is a response to a starting point set by the examination board. It includes preparatory work undertaken over one term and culminates in a final piece produced in examination conditions over 15 hours, spread over three days.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English, History, Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Classics, Music, Maths, Geography, Business, Modern Languages and the Sciences. Either Textile Design, Product Design or Photography.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Traditional career options followed by A Level Art students include the visual art industries, graphic design, illustration, animation, film/theatre design/costume production, fashion textiles, advertising, typography, fine art, history of art, curatorship and museology. However, business communities increasingly look to Fine Arts graduates to inject creative thinking skills into marketing and management strategy. Forward-thinking universities also value A Level Art for the emphasis it places on independence and self-direction.

BIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD

AQA www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/a-level/biology-7402

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in separate Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science. A grade 6 in GCSE/iGCSE Maths is also required.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

A Level Biology gives our students a modern understanding of many different levels of biological organisation. These range from biological molecules all the way through to whole ecosystems. Four units are studied in L6: Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms exchange substances with their environment and Genetic Information, variation and relationships between organisms. In U6 a further four units are covered: Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms respond to changes in the internal and external environment, Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, and the Control of gene expression.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three, 2 hour exams taken at the end of the two year course.
Paper 1 assesses the four units studied in L6.
Paper 2 assesses the four units studied in U6.
Each of these papers contribute 35% of the marks towards the A Level.
Paper 3 covers all units and represents 30% of the A Level. The style of question varies from short and long answered questions, extended response questions, comprehension questions, critical analysis of experimental work and an essay.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Biology can be learnt in tandem with other sciences or as a standalone STEM subject. The most complements subjects are Chemistry, Psychology, Geography and Sports Studies. The importance of GCSE Maths is underscored in the entry requirements asked.
It is a subject which can be studied simply out of interest and it is a well-regarded A Level qualification for non-science university applications.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Biomedical Sciences, medical sciences, dentistry, veterinary services, zoology, botany, microbiology, genetics, marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecology, environmental biology, physiotherapy, sports injury, anthropology and psychology.

BUSINESS

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A Level/Business Studies/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446914694_GCE2015_A_BUS_WEB.PDF

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 in Maths and a Level 6 in English Language/History/Geography/Business/Theology.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Students learn about how business ideas are generated and how these can be turned into an operational organisation. Students will gain an understanding of the nature of enterprise and the role of the entrepreneur in business creation. They study various functions and areas of business including accounting and finance, marketing, operations and people in organisations, as well as the external influences that can impact on how they operate. Business provides learners with the ability to apply basic business concepts to a wider range of contexts, understand and apply sophisticated concepts and techniques, analyse, interpret and evaluate complex business information and take a more strategic view of business opportunities, problems and issues.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three, 2 hour exams taken at the end of the two year course. The papers will be based on different types of organisation or Entrepreneurs, from small local businesses to global multinational corporations. The papers will have no specific content but will apply the syllabus material to the context of the chosen business case study. Recent businesses that have appeared in the exam papers include Ikea, Virgin Trains and British Airways.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Geography, History, DT, Theology, Psychology and Modern Languages.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

The number and diversity of careers that can be accessed with a business degree makes it an appealing choice of study for many students. Undergraduates start their courses studying a wide range of topic areas, gaining a foundation in many aspects of the commercial world. As they progress through the course, students can focus on particular aspects of business and shape the course to match their own interests. Business graduates can find employment in many different sectors, not limited to those you would typically associate with business in general. Careers with a Business degree could include roles in accounting and finance departments, marketing and advertising, retail, sales, human resources and business consultancy.

CHEMISTRY

EXAM BOARD

Exam Board: AQA A Level (7405) www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/chemistry-7404-7405/specification-at-a-glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 7 in Chemistry or Level 7:7 in dual award Science.
Level 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The course encourages students to; Develop essential knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Chemistry and the skills needed for their use in new and changing situations; Develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment; Sustain and develop their enjoyment and interest in Chemistry and bring together knowledge of ways in which different areas of Chemistry relate to each other. We have close links to the University of Bath Chemistry Department. During U6, students undertake a project to synthesise and purify aspirin after which we visit the university to analyse this aspirin sample using their computerised instrumental technology.

During lessons the mysteries of GCSE Chemistry are unravelled and we get a chance to use a wider range of chemicals and equipment making practicals more interesting and challenging. The course also delves deeper into areas of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with topics on enzymes and proteins, DNA and action of anti-cancer drugs. During the course, a way of thinking is developed which can help in everyday situations and can also increase your awareness to chemicals in the environment around us. It is not a course to be taken lightly, but it is very enjoyable.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Relevant Physical and Inorganic Chemistry.
Paper 2: Relevant Physical and Organic Chemistry.
Paper 3: Covers all units and represents 30% of the A Level.
In addition to their A Level grade, students will also work to obtain a practical skills endorsement – pass or fail.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Biology, Physics and Mathematics.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Chemistry plays a vital role in a technological society. It is a vital qualification in many fields (medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, chemical engineering, pharmacology and graduate nursing). However, as with all science subjects, the skills that are learnt make A Level Chemistry a highly regarded qualification, whatever course of study is chosen in the future.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

EXAM BOARD

OCR ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/classical-civilisation-h008-h408-from-2017

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE in the subject, although helpful, is not necessary. Students must have at least a Level 6 GCSE in either Classical Civilisation, History or English Literature.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The World of the Hero
Students study either Homer's Odyssey or Iliad: the earliest European literature and the society that produced it, and Virgil's Aeneid, Rome's great epic.

Greek Theatre
The first and definitive drama of Europe, and the beliefs, fears and assumptions of Athenian society.

Belief and Ideas
Students will investigate an area of Classical thought, from ideas about politics and correct governance, to what is 'right' and 'wrong' when it comes to love and desire, to the nature of gods and their relationship with mankind.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three written papers at the end of the course, one on each component.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Classical Civilisation can be combined with almost any other subject to make a suitable package for university entry.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Classical Civilisation is a modern and wide-ranging course. It is recommended for those who are interested in Classical literature, culture and history, but who want a course that does not depend on attainment in a language.

The Classical subjects are recognised by the academic, professional and business worlds as holding the mark of distinction, and people with its training have proved their ability to solve problems, think precisely and communicate clearly. People who have opted for this subject at A Level go into a wide range of careers such as law, marketing, journalism, medicine, publishing, civil service and computing.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD

OCR A-Level Computer Science H446 https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have Level 6 in Maths and a science at Level 5 or above. GCSE Computer Science is recommended but not essential.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The aim is to give students a thorough understanding of how computers work, the principles of software development and some coding. Students also develop an understanding of algorithms, cybersecurity and network topologies. There will also be a focus on developing the key computational thinking skills of abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition and algorithmic design. As part of the course, there is a section on the impact of Computer Science on society, looking at the legal, ethical, moral and social aspects of our modern lives.

It is not a course that develops digital literacy skills in students e.g. office applications. The focus is on a deeper understanding of Computer Science as a subject.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

80% exam and 20% individual project.
There is a paper for both units, each worth 40% of the final mark.
The individual project gives the students the opportunity to create a substantial programming project that needs to be planned, monitored and evaluated throughout.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Maths, Physics, DT

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Although not a requirement for many Computer Science/ICT degrees, universities and employers do recognise that students who have completed the A-Level are at an advantage over other students as they already have an understanding of programming and key Computer Sciences principles. Careers are varied and can include: software development, network management, ICT support, web design, database administration, games development, prosthetics, cybersecurity analyst, IT consultant, technical writer and UI/UX developer.

DESIGN: THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

EXAM BOARD

OCR Three Dimensional Design (H605) AS and A Level - Art and Design - H200, H600 - OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should have achieved at least a Level 6 in GCSE Design & Technology. A major pre-requisite of this course is that the student is able to draw and be comfortable using computers.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The Three Dimensional Design course encompasses the true essence of design. On the course, students will develop a broad view and understanding of design, developing their capacity to design and make products from a range of materials and demonstrate problem solving skills. The course also considers broader issues including the complex relationships between design, society, environment, materials, manufacture and marketing. The course is delivered in the bespoke 6th Form Product Design Studio located in the beautiful Old Ball Court. Being recognised as a Centre of Excellence, the studio is fully equipped with all the latest technologies and equipment, giving students access to some of the very best facilities the design industry has to offer.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

60% Personal Investigation. This open brief, design and make project is undertaken over three terms and includes an extensive design portfolio with a final 3D Outcome. This is then supported by a 3000 word essay in response to the project.

40% Set Task. A short design and make project in response to a starting point set by the examination board. It includes a small investigation portfolio undertaken over one term and culminates in a final piece produced in examination conditions over 15 hours, spread over three days.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Most subjects but primarily Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Geography, Business Studies or Art.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

With a qualification in design, you could go on to higher education or work in the engineering, manufacturing or design industries. Many students go on to study design-based courses at university. From there, careers are possible in interior design, architecture, product design, engineering in all its forms, fashion and graphic design as well as the new avenues of virtual product design based on computer aided design (CAD), materials science, or even Formula 1 racing design.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

EXAM BOARD

Edexel qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 in English Literature and Level 6 in GCSE Drama if taken (previous drama experience is preferred but not essential).

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Drama covers the history, theory and practice of Theatre throughout the ages. The course is divided into three distinct categories: Devised drama; scripted performance and theoretical drama. The course aims for a practical focus whilst still maintaining the academic rigour of the humanities in terms of research, associated reading, structured coursework and written examination. The students will develop their own unique theatre piece which will be performed publicly; this is based upon an existing, published play text and applies the teachings and theories of a theatre practitioner. Students can opt to perform or to work as a designer for their group. They will also take part in a scripted performance, which is externally examined and they will take a written exam based upon close textual reading and their own theatrical experiences. We regularly take the students to the theatre; watch live streamed performances of theatre performances and hold workshops in order to students as wide an exposure to the world of theatre as possible.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Component 1: Devised theatre (40%). This constitutes 25% practical application. 75% portfolio work. Internally marked and externally moderated. Component 2: Scripted theatre (20%). The students prepare a group piece and individual performances for external examination during a public performance. For Components 1 and 2, students can opt to take a design pathway. Component 3: Written exam (40%). Students study two set texts and the work of another different significant theatre practitioner. They also analyse and evaluate a professional performance that they have seen.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English, History, Psychology, Sociology, Classics and Art.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Drama is a well-respected subject amongst all universities with courses on Drama available across the country. The course also prepares students well for Performing Arts, Film Studies, Journalism, Law, English and of course drama school and other professionally related areas. Employers are often attracted by candidates with an interest in drama because of the life lessons that drama provides. Confidence, an ability to think on one's feet, working as part of a team, reliability, project management, presentation skills and creative thinking. Drama encourages the very best interpersonal and time management skills, which are an everyday requirement in today's workplace.

ECONOMICS

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel AS and A level Economics A 2015 | Pearson qualifications

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Level 6 in Maths and a Level 6 in English Language/History/Geography/Business/Theology.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Fundamentally, Economics is about analysing choices and, at its heart, it is about advising humans on how to use scarce resources efficiently to achieve their chosen goals. Economics provides students with the Macro and Microeconomic theory to construct an analytical toolkit. This can then be used to consider economic problems and evaluate governments' responses. In Microeconomics we study markets, their failure and the policies used to try to solve that failure. The Macroeconomics side of the course considers fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies that are used to achieve major economic goals: low inflation, full employment, steady growth and balanced trade.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three, 2 hour exams taken at the end of the two year course. There will be separate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics papers. The third paper will have no specific content but will apply the syllabus material for the other two exams to the real world by way of an unseen 'theme'. Recent themes have been Housing and Hosting the Olympics.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Maths, Geography, History, Business, Theology, Psychology, Modern Languages and the Sciences.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Economics has become an increasingly popular subject nationally, especially at undergraduate level but degrees don't have to be in pure Economics. Students may opt to study PPE, Land Economy, Econometrics, Environmental Economics, Actuarial Sciences, International Relations, Business, Management, Economic Development, Marketing or Finance & Accounting.

Economists work in manufacturing, transport, communications, banking, insurance and investment industries, as well as in government agencies, consulting and charitable organisations. Employers value economic graduates' understanding of decision-making, their research and analytical skills, and ability to view problems in their national and international context.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD

OCR ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/english-literature-h072-h472-from-2015

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The OCR specification encourages candidates to read widely and independently, to explore literary texts for their own intrinsic interest and significance and to set them within their literary, cultural, and historical contexts. We will study radical, innovative texts alongside major canonical works, giving you a sense of the diversity of literature in English. As well as developing analytical skills, you will learn how to write extended essays and to carry out research: skills which underpin many degree courses and are highly valued by universities.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Unit 1: Shakespeare and Poetry pre-1900 - 2hr 30min exam (40%)
We will study *Hamlet* and *Webster's Duchess of Malfi* along with Chaucer's *The Merchant's Tale*.

Unit 2: Comparative and Contextual Study, Dystopia - 2hr 30min exam (40%). We will study Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. The prose texts will be studied as part of a wider tradition of dystopian fiction, which will give students the opportunity to explore works by Kafka, Cormac McCarthy, Stephen King, PD James, Doris Lessing and H.G Wells among others. We will look at the historical and social factors that shape dystopian fiction, its impact on popular culture, and its links to other genres including satire, the Gothic, thrillers, young adult writing, and science fiction.

Unit 3: Coursework component: Literature post-1900
Students will complete a coursework folder (20% of the total A Level) consisting of one critical or re-creative piece based on one text (an opportunity to write creatively), and one essay based on linked texts. For this unit we will study *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Pat Barker's *Regeneration*. Students will also study Seamus Heaney's *District and Circle*.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English combines particularly well with History, Drama, Theology, Latin, and Modern Language A Levels.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

The skills you learn through studying A Level English Literature are highly valued by universities and employers and will help prepare you for the extended writing required at that level. The ability to analyse literature is a key skill required for Modern Languages degrees. The ability to conduct independent research and to evaluate and analyse are also very useful transferable skills, opening up opportunities in a diverse range of fields, including Law, Journalism, Politics, Media and Education.

FRENCH

EXAM BOARD

AQA www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 at GCSE in French.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

French in the Sixth Form is a dynamic, varied and challenging subject which requires students to develop a broad range of transferable, highly marketable skills. The AQA specification is designed to be extremely accessible to young people living in a globalised society. The A Level course focuses on aspects of society in French speaking countries along with political, intellectual and artistic culture.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing
The first paper requires the students to respond to texts and spoken passages. This counts for 50% of the A Level and lasts two and a half hours.

Paper 2: Writing
The second paper sees students writing two essays on either two books or a book and a film. It lasts two hours.

Paper 3: Speaking
The speaking element of the examination comprises of a presentation followed by a discussion based upon its subject matter. Prior to the examination the student will complete a research project that will allow them to investigate a subject matter of their choice.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

French may be taken with any combination of subjects at A Level.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Language graduates traditionally have one of the highest employment rates of all subject areas. While many of our students go on to study pure language degrees, there is increasing demand for graduates of all disciplines to be proficient in languages. Not only this, but our students will be working in multinational companies, either in the UK or abroad. Hence most universities now offer a wide range of courses such as Engineering, Business, Politics, Law and Economics combined with French and the opportunity of a work placement abroad.

GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Geography/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Pearson-Edexcel-GCE-A-level-Geography-specification-issue-2-FINAL.pdf

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Level 6 and above in Geography, English Language, Maths and Sciences.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

As Geographers we study the complex interactions between people and the environment. The L6 course provides a coherent grounding in Physical and Human geography with topics including: Tectonic hazards and their management; Glaciated landscapes; Urban regeneration and globalisation. U6 students go on to study the Carbon cycle and energy security; Water cycle and water insecurity; Superpowers and global development. We hope to produce lateral thinkers who are curious about the world around them.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes, Physical Systems and Sustainability. 2hr 15min (30%).
Paper 2: Dynamic Places, Human Systems and Geopolitics. 2hr 15min (30%).
Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation. 2 hr 15min (20%).
Coursework Independent Investigation 3000-4000 word fieldwork data collection report (20%).

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Maths, Economics, History, Business, Theology, Psychology, Modern Languages and the Sciences.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

The department has an excellent track record of exam success and many of our students go on to study Geography and Environmentally based subjects at Russell Group universities. A survey of Geography graduates carried out by the RGS shows: 41% went into management and administration; 26% further training, including PGCE and higher degrees; 11% financial sector; 11% retail; 10% other professional, including media.

HISTORY

EXAM BOARD

OCR https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE History (or English if student did not sit GCSE History) due to the demanding nature of the course.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Studying A Level History not only helps improve your knowledge of the past, but will help you understand the context of the world we live in as well as developing skills essential for progression into university or a career. As such, the course is designed to allow you to explore a variety of historical periods to deepen your understanding of the context of different parts of the world whilst developing independent learning, critical thinking and decision-making skills. The three taught units include England 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII (The Wars of the Roses), The Crusades and Crusader States 1095-1192, and Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964. The fourth element of this course is a non-examined assessment in the form of a topic-based essay, with which students will be mentored in a way that replicates the process university students complete a dissertation.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

History A Level is a two-year linear course with all assessment taking place in the second year. Each taught unit culminates in a written exam with a mixture of source and knowledge-based essay questions. The non-examined assessment is an independently researched essay of 3000-4000 words in length accounting for 20% of the final A Level grade.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

History may be taken with any other subject.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Possible university courses include Archaeology and Anthropology, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, History of Art, Classics, History and a combined History degree. A history-based degree is a gateway to a plethora of careers in fields including law, investment banking and consultancies, advertising, accounting, the Civil Service, publishing, journalism and the media, global charity work, museums and teaching.

LATIN

EXAM BOARD

OCR ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/latin-h043-h443-from-2016

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 in GCSE Latin is required but a Level 7 is recommended.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Latin language, reading widely from a range of authors and developing their vocabulary and understanding of the language. For the literature component, students will also study sections from the works of such authors as Cicero, Tacitus, Apuleius, Virgil and Ovid.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

The A Level course involves hard work but is correspondingly stimulating and rewarding. Latin, like all the Classical subjects, is the study of human beings – an instrument in trying to understand the nature of the human personality. At a time when all kinds of attempts are being made to educate people in the skills of problem solving, independent thought, aesthetics and other such elusive subjects, the classical subjects are a field of study that offers enlightenment in these very things. Possibly the most important product of any classical subject at A Level is skill in communication, both oral and written.

Four exam papers at the end of the course, one on Verse Literature, one on Prose Literature, and two language papers, testing unseen translation and comprehension.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Since Latin is seen by those who do it as a general training in language and linguistics, as well as an end in itself, it can be taken with any other combination of subjects.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

The Classical languages are recognised by the academic, professional and business worlds as holding a mark of distinction, and people with its training have proved their ability to solve problems, think precisely and communicate clearly. Classicists go into a wide range of careers such as law, marketing, journalism, medicine and publishing.

CLASSICAL GREEK

There may also be the opportunity to study Classical Greek for A Level. The course is the OCR version, and involves study of both language and literature. Contact Mrs Hearn for further details.

MANDARIN

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/chinese-2017.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 in Mandarin GCSE is required.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The Mandarin A Level course gives students the opportunity to not only study the Mandarin language in a much more sophisticated way but also to go into more depth on the topics we covered at GCSE such as family, education, work, environment and festivals. They will also learn about more complex issues such as the economic reforms of 1978 that fundamentally changed the global economy and China's world status, as well as immigration, traditional customs and the changing face of modern Chinese society.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Translation into English. The exam lasts 2 hours and counts for 40% of the qualification.
Paper 2 - Written Response to Works and translation into Mandarin. In this paper students must write 2 essays, one analysing literature and the other a film. The exam last 2 hours 40 minutes and counts for 30% of the qualification.
Paper 3 - Speaking. The assessment lasts between 21-23 minutes and counts for 30% of the qualification. Students will discuss one of the topics we have studied as well as to present and discuss an independent research project of their own.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Mandarin may be taken with any combination of A Level subjects.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Mandarin A Level is an impressive qualification that will help students to stand out when applying for university and in their later career. Dual honour degrees are increasingly common that pair Mandarin with Business, Economics, History, Development Studies, Law, Politics, International Relations, Art, Literature, as well as other Languages or Linguistics. Graduate destination include national and international governments, business and public sector, development organisations, media, think tanks, foreign affairs, international law and academia.

MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 7 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

This is a linear course which consists of the study of Pure Mathematics together with an Application. The Application is split exactly in half between Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics extends knowledge and skills from GCSE and also covers calculus, exponential functions and trigonometry. Mechanics is essentially about motion and the causes of motion. Newton's three famous laws are encountered as we apply mathematics to both static and dynamic situations, including tiles falling off roofs, collisions, towing caravans and see-saws. In Statistics 1, we consider ways in which mathematics deals with uncertainty. It covers probability ideas and the normal probability model for data, which is applied to a variety of 'real world' situations. We see mathematical ideas applied to topics such as opinion polling and quality control.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three papers, each 2 hrs.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Any subject but especially Sciences, Economics, Business, Psychology and DT.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics is a qualification highly regarded by university admissions and tutors and employers alike. Students may take degrees in Mathematics and related disciplines of course, but Mathematics is also an important requirement for all Engineering courses and for degrees in the Physical Sciences, as well as for many degrees in Economics and Finance. Increasingly, many degrees have a significant mathematical content and the study of Mathematics in the Sixth Form will be beneficial at this time or in later employment.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

L6 students study the whole A Level course, Pure and Applied Mathematics. In U6, students study two further pure modules and then two Option modules - Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Mathematics, although the precise modules can be tailored to suit the group.

This course builds on the skills from the A Level course and draws together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding. Problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling will be assessed in the context of the wider knowledge which students taking A Level Further Mathematics will have studied.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Four papers, each 1hr 30min.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Any subject but especially Sciences, Economics, Business, Psychology and DT.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics is a qualification highly regarded by university admissions and tutors and employers alike. Students may take degrees in Mathematics and related disciplines of course, but Mathematics is also an important requirement for all Engineering courses and for degrees in the Physical Sciences, as well as for many degrees in Economics and Finance. Increasingly, many degrees have a significant mathematical content and the study of Mathematics in the Sixth Form will be beneficial at this time or in later employment. Further Mathematics is useful for admission to the more selective universities, especially to study Mathematical Sciences and Engineering.

MUSIC

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Most A Level students will have passed GCSE Music with a 6 or above, but there are other possible approaches; you should discuss your case with the Director of Music. A Level also requires performing ability of around AB grade 7 by the U6, and Music Theory grade 5 is recommended. A Level music is good fun and very varied but you need to have an open mind and like classical music, as it features much more than in GCSE.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The course is split into three elements - Composing, Performing and Appraising. Preparation for the appraisal exam involves the study of twelve 'set works', categorised in six areas of study - 'Vocal Music', 'Instrumental Music', 'Music for Film', 'Popular Music & Jazz', 'Fusions', 'New Directions'. Students complete a portfolio of compositions, record a solo recital.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

2 Compositions (1 free, one technical composition to a brief) - coursework over 2 years, a recorded practical recital in the Spring of U6, a listening appraisal exam in the summer of U6.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Music is a very well-respected academic qualification and in no way means that you only want to become a professional musician. Music makes an excellent complement not only to Arts and Humanities, but also combines well with Sciences, Classical and Modern Languages. For music specialists it combines well with Music Technology (a completely separate A Level course). It allies well with Drama, although the extra-curricular demands of performing will be heavy.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Music A Level is an obvious asset for those wishing to work in any area of the gigantic industry of music, and leads on to a huge range of university and college courses in music, some of which include studies in performing. Many courses combine music with other disciplines such as Philosophy, Media and Marketing. Music graduates are well placed to pursue careers in law, media, publishing, teaching, management and many other fields.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-technology-2017.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The course is for musicians with a keen interest in music technology. GCSE 6 or significant experience in composing and performing. Physics/dual award 6 also desirable because of acoustics modules.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Emphasis on the practical and theory of music technology:

- Recording: production tools and techniques
- Technology-based composition
- Recording and production techniques
- Principles of sound and audio technology
- Development of recording and production technology

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two coursework tasks (40%)
- Recording project to a brief
- Composition using technology, also to a brief

Two written papers (60%):
Paper 1 listening and analysis of popular music styles and development of technology (audio extracts on CD).
Paper 2 producing and analysing (manipulating audiofiles and answering technology-based questions about them).

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Most subjects, in particular Music, DT and Drama.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Develops a broad range of skills, including project management, appraising and analysis, creativity and imagination. Students can progress to undergraduate courses in Music Technology, Sound Production, Sound Engineering and many other courses requiring a similar skill set.

PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD

OCR www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/as-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Ideally, students should have achieved a Level 6 in GCSE Art or another Art and Design discipline. Students without this should be able to demonstrate an interest in an area of Art and Design through some examples of work.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Photography at A Level is essentially art-making using lens-based media and students are encouraged to develop curiosity for the medium and its creative potential. At the beginning of the course, students are introduced to a variety of digital and darkroom processes. They also gain an understanding of the history of photography and its genres. Equally as important as the technical side of photography is the creative approach taken by students, the way they document their experimentation and how thoughtfully they analyse it. As the course progresses, students select an area of personal interest and work with independence to produce an extensive body of work.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

60% Personal Investigation (coursework project) undertaken over three terms. This includes an extensive portfolio of photoshoots, analysis and experimentation together with one or more resolved pieces and an essay of 3000 words.

40% Set Task. This is a response to a starting point set by the examination board. It includes preparatory work undertaken over one term and culminates in a final outcome produced in examination conditions over 15 hours, spread over three days.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English, History, Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Classics, Music, Maths, Geography, Business, Modern Languages and the Sciences. Either Art or Textile Design.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Career options followed by A Level Photography students include television and the film industry, journalism, graphic design, web design, gaming design, illustration, animation, theatre design/costume production, fashion, advertising and typography.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAM BOARD

AQA filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-7582-SP-2016.PDF

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 overall in GCSE PE and a Level 6 in the theoretical component of GCSE PE course. Level 6 in Science. Practical ability will also be taken into account. Students should be currently performing in one sporting activity regularly at school (or club), A or B team level, or higher on a performance pathway.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The A Level PE course will allow candidates to: focus on a single physical activity in its full version; experience and demonstrate practical abilities in the roles of a performer or coach; build on their previous experience to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of a variety of sporting matters. These include: the modern day sporting arena; evaluate and discuss current developments in sport such as the impact of new technology, sports analytics, ethics in sport, sports psychology, biomechanical movement sport and applied exercise and physiology.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Two 2 hour exams for the theoretical content (70%).

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) (30%).

- One activity can be chosen from the exam board list.
- 15% practical assessment as a performer or coach in the full version of the activity.
- Three areas of assessment: AA1 Attacking Skills/Event 1, AA2 Defending Skills/Event, AA3 Tactics and Strategies.
- 15% assessment of an analysis of performance in written, presentation or combination style. These must relate to AA2 Defending Skills/ Event or AA3 Tactics and Strategies.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Biology, Psychology, Sociology and History.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Higher education courses in Sports Science, Sports Studies, Physical Education and Teaching. Links with Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology and Exercise Physiology. Career opportunities in the Armed Forces, the leisure industry and teaching. Links to business management, medical fields, voluntary sector organisations and elite performance opportunities

PHYSICS

EXAM BOARD

OCR A ocr.org.uk/Images/171726-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-physics-a-h556.pdf

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 7 in GCSE Physics / Dual-award Science, Level 7 in GCSE Maths.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Physics
12 practical investigations looking at all aspects of experimental physics.

Module 2: Foundations of Physics
Physical quantities and vector quantities in two dimensions.

Module 3: Forces and motion
Velocity, acceleration, force, work, energy and power and we introduce materials physics and cover momentum.

Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons
Charge, energy and current, then move into the strange world of quantum physics.

Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
Newton's view of the universe; thermal physics, circular motion and oscillations. We also look at gravitational fields, astrophysics and cosmology.

Module 6: Particles and medical physics
Capacitors, electric fields and electromagnetism (including magnetics fields and induction), and nuclear physics and particle physics.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Modelling physics (37%) Modules 1,2,3 and 5.
Paper 2: Exploring physics (37%) Modules 1,2,4 and 6.
Paper 3: Unified physics (26%) All modules.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

We strongly recommend studying A Level Maths alongside Physics.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Physics is regarded as a rigorous A Level that demonstrates intellectual skill and a logical, disciplined mind. Many degrees require or think highly of Physics, such as Engineering, Physics, Medicine & Dentistry, Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Natural Sciences.

Careers can be had for Physics graduates in accountancy, medical-imaging, finance and wealth management, software development and coding, intelligence analysis, materials development. Physics graduates are routinely targeted by recruitment firms for large city banks.

PSYCHOLOGY

EXAM BOARD

AQA www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Level 6 or above in Maths, English and Science.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Fundamentally, Psychology is about people and what makes us who we are. It appeals to all interested in the question of what may lie behind our thoughts, feelings and behaviour. The course offers students the opportunity to consider the origins, nature and development of key psychological debates. Students will examine human behaviour and experience from a variety of perspectives while developing the essential skills of analysis, independent thinking and research. Lessons typically follow the seminar model. Students are encouraged to become involved in discussion and to undertake their own investigations as they learn to think like a psychologist.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Three, 2 hour exams taken at the end of the two year course. Particular topics are tested in particular papers, with the exception of research methods which is assessed in each paper as part of topic testing but is also tested as a topic in its own right in paper 2.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Psychology goes well with any subject which is undoubtedly part of its appeal, but Biology, English and Economics have proven to be particularly popular accompaniments in recent student cohorts.

Psychology compliments both science and humanities. It is a useful subject to study along with another subject specialism but it is extremely worthwhile as a standalone degree course as well.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

A diverse range of career options exist. Marketing, PR, education and clinical work in hospitals give a flavour of the huge variety of employment opportunities.

SOCIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Level 6 English Language & Literature and Level 6 of History or Geography.
WHAT DO WE STUDY?	Students will learn the fundamentals of Sociology including sociological theories; perspectives and the design of sociological research to obtain data while examining its strengths and limitations. They will explore core themes such as socialisation; culture and identity; social differentiation; norms and values; conflict and consensus in society and power. Compulsory units include Education and Society, Crime and Deviance as well as Sociological Theories and Methods. The optional units studied at Prior Park College are The Media and Culture & Identity.
ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE	Component 1: Socialisation and Culture Assessment: 40% of A Level Exam: 2 hr 30 min. Component 2: Research Methods Assessment: 20% of A Level Exam: 1 hr 45 min. Component 3: Power and stratification in society Assessment: 40% of A Level Exam: 2 hr 30 min.

SPANISH

EXAM BOARD	AQA www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Level 6 at GCSE in Spanish.
WHAT DO WE STUDY?	Spanish in the Sixth Form is a dynamic, varied and challenging subject which requires students to develop a broad range of transferable, highly marketable skills. The AQA specification is designed to be extremely accessible to young people living in a globalised society. The A Level course focuses on aspects of society in Spanish-speaking countries along with political, intellectual and artistic culture. For example students will look at immigration, at changing family structures, festivals and traditions, the right to vote and political commitment.
ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE	Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing The first paper requires the students to respond to texts and spoken passages. This counts for 50% percent of the A Level and lasts 2hr 30min. Paper 2: Writing The second paper sees students writing two essays on either two books or a book and a film. It lasts 2hrs. Paper 3: Speaking The speaking element of the examination comprises of a presentation followed by a discussion based upon its subject matter. Prior to the examination the student will complete a research project that will allow them to investigate a subject matter of their choice.
COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS	Spanish may be taken with any combination of subjects at A Level.
CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES	Language graduates traditionally have one of the highest employment rates of all subject areas. While many of our students go on to study pure language degrees, there is increasing demand for graduates of all disciplines to be proficient in languages. Not only this, but our students will be working in multinational companies, either in the UK or abroad. Hence most universities now offer a wide range of courses such as Engineering, Business, Politics, Law and Economics combined with Spanish and the opportunity of a work placement abroad.

LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN SPORT & EXERCISE SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science
This qualification is equivalent in size to two A Levels (up to 112 UCAS tariff points) and combines academic study with practical investigation. Students develop a detailed understanding of how the human body responds to exercise, training and performance, alongside the skills needed to investigate, analyse and improve sporting outcomes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A GCSE in Physical Education, Sport or a Science subject provides a useful foundation, but is not essential.

Students should have:
- An interest in sport, health, fitness and human performance.
- A willingness to engage with both theoretical and practical elements of the course.
- Good organisational skills and the ability to work independently.
- The motivation to meet coursework deadlines and complete investigative projects.

A Grade 4 or above in English and Science is a normal guideline.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Sport & Exercise Science combines scientific theory with practical application, allowing students to explore how the body works during exercise and how performance can be measured and improved. The exact units studied may vary depending on what is best for each year's cohort. Typically units include:

Mandatory units:
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Fitness Training & Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Sports Leadership
- Investigating Business in sport & the Active Leisure Industry
- Skill Acquisition

Selected units:
- Application of fitness testing
- Practical Sports Performance
- Rules, Regulations & Officiating

Throughout the course, students will develop analytical, evaluative and practical skills through laboratory-style investigations, fitness testing, performance analysis and independent research.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

The course is assessed through a combination of:

External Assessment

Some units are assessed through examinations or externally set tasks marked by Pearson. In these units, there are at least two opportunities to pass each exam as, if you do not pass in the Summer of L6, you can take the same unit again in U6.

Internal Assessment

A substantial proportion of the qualification is assessed through coursework. This includes:
- Research projects.
- Written assignments and reports.
- Presentations.
- Practical investigations.
- Performance analysis tasks.

Students receive clear assignment briefs and are expected to meet regular submission deadlines.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Sport & Exercise Science combines particularly well with:
- Biology
- Psychology
- Physical Education
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Business
- Applied Science

The qualification develops scientific, analytical and communication skills that support success across a wide range of sixth form subjects.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

This qualification is recognised by universities and employers and provides an excellent pathway into higher education and employment. The course is equivalent to two A-Levels (up to 112 UCAS tariff points).

Typical degree destinations include:
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Therapy
- Sports Rehabilitation
- Sports Psychology
- Strength and Conditioning
- Sports Coaching
- Physical Education
- Nutrition
- Health Sciences

Career pathways include:
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Therapist
- Sports Coach
- Strength and Conditioning Coach
- PE Teacher
- Performance Analyst
- Fitness Professional
- Exercise Specialist
- Sports Development Officer
- Health and Wellbeing Practitioner

For students with a passion for sport, science and human performance, Sport & Exercise Science provides an excellent foundation for future study and careers within the sport, fitness and health sectors.

TEXTILE DESIGN

EXAM BOARD

OCR www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/as-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Ideally, students should have achieved a Level 6 in GCSE Textiles or another Art and Design discipline. Students without this should be able to demonstrate an interest in an area of Art and Design through some examples of work.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

In the first year students experiment with a range of equipment and processes. They create a technical notebook as well as visual and tactile outcomes. Formal skills include drawing, printmaking, stitch, fabric manipulation and construction. Through primary and secondary research students are encouraged to develop a greater understanding of creative practice and the work of others. During the course we visit studios, galleries and trade shows such as New Designers and The Graduate Fashion Show in London. In the second year students go on to develop their own project which could be fashion based, product based or have a fine art approach.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

60% Personal Investigation (coursework project) undertaken over three terms. This includes an extensive portfolio of preparatory and experimental studies, one or more resolved pieces and an essay of 3000 words.

40% Set Task. This is a response to a starting point set by the examination board. It includes preparatory work undertaken over one term and culminates in a final piece produced in examination conditions over 15 hours, spread over three days.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

English, History, Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Classics, Music, Maths, Geography, Business, Modern Languages and the Sciences. Either Art or Photography.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Career options followed by A Level Textiles Design students include textiles design, fashion, fashion marketing and branding, theatre design/costume production, knitwear, contour and footwear design.

THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.html

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 6 at GCSE.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

Philosophy of Religion:
Questions about the existence of God: The Design, Cosmological and Ontological arguments. Religious experience.
The problem of evil and suffering. Religious language. Works of scholars including Copleston and Russell. Influences of developments in religious belief, e.g. Science and religion, life after death.

Religion and Ethics:
Environmental issues and equality. A study of three ethical theories: Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics and Natural Moral Law. Application of ethical theories to issues of importance: war and peace, sexual ethics. Ethical language: Meta-ethics; the relationship between religion and morality. Deontology, Virtue ethics and the works of scholars such as Kant and Aristotle. Medical ethics: the beginning and end of life issues: status of the embryo, sanctity of life, stem cells, IVF, abortion; assisted dying, euthanasia, palliative care. Personhood and religious and secular contributions to the debate on these issues.

New Testament:
The social, historical and religious context of the New Testament. Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus. St. John's prologue, titles of Jesus, miracles and signs. Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship of John's gospel.
Ways of interpreting scripture. Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There will be three two hour exams at the end of the two year course, one exam for each paper.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Whilst any subject combination is possible with Religious Studies, English, History, Classical Civilisation, Latin and Psychology are good complements.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Degrees in Theology, Philosophy, Religious Studies and related degrees, e.g. with English, Languages, Drama, Psychology, Sociology. Careers can be varied, including law, journalism, the charity sector, education, business, NGOs, international relations and politics.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS AT PRIOR PARK COLLEGE

LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

At Prior Park College we follow the Person BTEC National Level 3 Diploma pathway for business. The 2 year modular course carries the same number of UCAS points as two GCE A levels and is comprised of 8 units:

1. Exploring Business
2. Developing a Marketing Campaign
3. Personal and Business Finance
4. Managing an Event
5. International Business
6. Principles of Management
7. The Recruitment and Selection Process
8. Team Building in Business

There will be three two hour exams at the end of the two year course, one exam for each paper.

Whilst any subject combination is possible with Religious Studies, English, History, Classical Civilisation, Latin and Psychology are good complements.

Degrees in Theology, Philosophy, Religious Studies and related degrees, e.g. with English, Languages, Drama, Psychology, Sociology. Careers can be varied, including law, journalism, the charity sector, education, business, NGOs, international relations and politics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least Level 5 in Maths and English Language, with an interest in the commercial world, enterprise and team working in the business world. The course is assessed through internal assessment (65%) and external examinations (35%). The assessment can be in the form of written assignments, set tasks or practical tasks.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is assessed through internal assessment (65%) and external examinations (35%). The assessment can be in the form of written assignments, set tasks or practical assessment.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

An interesting and challenging learning experience which provides an alternative pathway to university or employment than the more traditional A level route. There is a wider range of more vocational modules than the A level syllabus, with more variety in the assessment methods used. The practical nature of the course allows students to engage in physical activities, manage and run events, and lead and work as members of a variety of teams. We make use of a wide range of industry visits as well as having a variety of guest speakers who visit the school. This should open up a range of possibilities for students in the world of work, enterprise, further and higher education – The revised 2016 BTEC structure has become a valuable and well respected entrance qualification for university.

WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE?

The school regularly enters a team in the national business competition 'BASE' run by Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). In 2016 we were highly commended in the national final placing us 3rd in a competition of 600 teams. We have a school league in the student investor challenge - a stock market 'trading' game and there is also a whole school Enterprise Challenge and Inspire Sixth Form Conference. We take trips regularly to see local and national businesses at work.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Most subjects but especially more creative subjects such as Design Technology, Physical education, Art and Photography as well as Computing, Geography, or Modern Languages.

CAREER & UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Business Studies, Management, Economics, Marketing and Finance. This BTEC also sits well with other subjects to form the basis of a joint degree, for example, French and Marketing, Geography and Business Studies. Plenty of university courses for business are sandwich courses, a 4 year course where the third year normally involves a 'year in industry'. These can be particularly CV enhancing and many students gain graduate placements with the firms where they work in their third year. Business graduates can gain access to a wide range of careers such as marketing, market research, accountancy and finance, banking and investments, town and county planning, hospitality, sport and leisure management, retail management, human resources and careers in IT, public relations and general management in many other different industries.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

EXAM BOARD

AQA www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/project-qualifications/EPQ-7993

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is expected that pupils of all abilities can succeed in attaining an EPQ but the demanding nature of the qualification means that applications are carefully scrutinised. In particular, students are expected to have good organisational skills, an ability to meet deadlines and should have good written English skills.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

The EPQ is a process driven qualification with approximately two-thirds of the marks awarded for planning, use of resources, time management and self-evaluation. Delivery of the EPQ will involve 30 hours of taught skills sessions, as well as supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by the student of approximately 90 hours.

The Extended Project Qualification offers opportunities for students to:

- Develop and extend from an area of personal interest or activity outside the main programme of study.
- Improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners.
- Apply decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There are three parts to the assessment of the EPQ:

- A project product. Generally a written report of 5000 words (or an artefact with accompanying report of at least 1000 words).
- A 15 minute presentation for a non-specialist audience with a further 10 minutes of live questions from the audience.
- A research diary with evidence of the development of the project.

Final submission of all assessment evidence will be in June of the L6 year.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

All subjects will benefit from the independent learning skills taught over the course of the EPQ but students who have to write extended essays as part of their A Level courses may find it particularly beneficial.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

The EPQ can be useful for all university courses. Many universities will discuss projects at interview and in some cases universities have offered students lower UCAS offers based on EPQ projects of A and A* standard. Strong skills in planning, time management, research and effective communication are highly regarded in most careers.

IELTS INTERNATIONAL SIXTH FORMERS

EXAM BOARD

British Council/IDP/Cambridge Assessment English www.ielts.org

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students should be at least at IELTS Level 5.5 or 6.0 before starting Sixth Form. This is equivalent to a mid-B2 on the CEFR scale. A pass in IGCSE English as a Second Language is acceptable (Level 4 or above). Students whose first language is not English will be asked to sit Prior Park's entrance examination, which includes a spoken interview as well as a test of grammar, reading and writing.

WHAT DO WE STUDY?

If English is not your first language and you wish to go to university in an English-speaking country, you need to demonstrate that your academic English skills are strong enough to cope with studying at higher education level. IELTS is normally the exam required by universities, although other exams are sometimes accepted. You will be tested in listening, reading, writing and speaking at the start of Sixth Form, and will have a personalised programme involving small group or 1:1 classes.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There is no pass or fail in IELTS. Results are reported as band scores on a scale from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest). You will receive a score for each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking), as well as an overall score.

You take the exam when you are ready. IELTS can be taken in many places around the world. Prior Park international students normally take the exam in Bristol. They offer the exam at least once a month, so it is usually possible to retake the exam if you don't get the grade you need first time.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Proficiency in English is necessary to achieve your academic potential in any subject you choose to study at Prior Park.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Universities vary in what they ask for, as the following examples show:
Cambridge University: Overall IELTS 7.5 with a minimum of 7.0 in all components.
University of Bath, Accounting & Finance: IELTS 7.0 overall with 7.0 in all components.
University of Bath, Pharmacology: IELTS 7.0 overall with 6.5 in all components.
University of Bath, Civil Engineering: IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 in all components.
Command of the English language is absolutely vital for university success, and is considered an essential tool for an international career.

WHEN CHOOSING YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS

We encourage students to think about the following points when choosing their A Level subjects:

- Do what you love
- Do what you are good at
- Do what you need to do for your future plans
- Do what you think you will find interesting and will keep you motivated for two years

If you need any further guidance, please talk to our dedicated Head of Sixth Form or Subject Heads.

Prior Park
College

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Information given in this document is believed to be correct at the time of printing (September 2026). This, however, does not form part of any agreement between the College and current or prospective parents. Those requiring information on specific matters should seek written confirmation from the College.