



FINBOROUGH SCHOOL

The best preparation for life

SIXTH FORM

HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Finborough School offers a wide range of advanced level courses in the supportive atmosphere of a small sixth form with small class groups. The school welcomes boarders – full-time or weekly – and day pupils. There is an emphasis on individual attention based upon our excellent teacher – pupil ratio.

We like to treat our sixth formers as adults and the emphasis is on self-discipline and responsibility. All sixth formers are prefects and are encouraged to take on leadership roles in the school. Those with the most leadership potential are offered the opportunity to lead prefect teams, formally represent the school at various functions and to take an active part in the workings of the school council.

All sixth formers abide by a dress code based on smart office wear.

Sixth formers have a dedicated form tutor and receive careers advice and guidance on application to higher education. We have excellent ICT facilities and a well stocked research library. The progress of all sixth formers is regularly monitored.

We begin the school year with an induction programme designed to encourage team building among the sixth form and to develop a corporate spirit. We aim to provide an academically stimulating, friendly and supportive atmosphere.

At Finborough we also run a ground breaking Life Skills programme which is designed to prepare you for life after school. The aim is to build your confidence, self awareness and social skills to give you a competitive advantage in the outside world.

THE POST 16 QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The post 16 curriculum has been reviewed and updated and there have been a number of changes and additions to the 'A' level curriculum.

Most 'A' Levels are divided into four units or 'modules' (Science, Music, Health and Social Care, Leisure and Maths are exceptions to this). The first two modules of an 'A' Level can be assessed independently and add up to an Advanced Subsidiary ('AS') qualification. The remaining two modules of a full 'A' Level are called the 'A2' component. The 'AS' modules are intended to be easier than the 'A2' modules. The 'A' Levels allow for a very flexible approach to assessment. Modules may be examined twice a year in June and January and the following approaches are all possible:

- 'AS' modules all examined in the summer of the lower sixth. 'A2' modules all examined in the summer of the upper sixth.
- Modules examined soon after completion in the January and June of both lower and upper sixth thus spreading module assessment evenly across two years.
- All four modules (two 'AS' and two 'A2') all examined at the end of the upper sixth (Linear 'A' Level model).

Many students may wish to start in the lower sixth with four 'AS' and later narrow down to three 'A2'. As a general rule we recommend finishing with at least three 'A' Levels.

We offer a core course on Critical Thinking – offered as an 'AS' over two years– that is to be taken by all sixth formers. This course helps to develop the skills of critical analysis, evaluation and reasoning that are central to all advanced level courses.

We are also very excited about the newly available Extended Project – an opportunity for all students to pursue their own individual interests and obtain the equivalent of an additional 'AS' qualification.

We are currently investigating the addition of new 'A' level courses such as Psychology, Law and Economics.

SUMMARY OF COURSES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

'A' Levels

A minimum of 5 grade C passes or better at GCSE are required for 'A' level courses. Most 'A' Level subjects require a minimum grade B pass in GCSE subjects related or relevant to that 'A' Level. We would recommend students begin with 3 or 4 'A' Level subjects. In addition to their chosen subjects all sixth form students study a Critical Thinking course that will be assessed at 'AS' and have the opportunity to engage in an Extended Project of their choice that is credited as an additional 'AS' qualification.

Art and Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
English Literature
French
Geography
History
ICT
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Critical Thinking
Extended Project

EXTENDED PROJECT

One of the aims of the review of 14-19 education that took place in 2006/07 was to try to produce a post 16 award that would enable students to pursue virtually any interest or skill and gain AS level credit for their efforts.

The end result of this aspiration is the Extended Project or 'EP'.

The EP is not a course of study – there are no timetabled lessons and no fixed curriculum. The EP requires students to carry out research and development over an extended period – at least one year – and then to produce some kind of end product that can be assessed. The EP could be anything of interest to the individual student and is designed to encourage students to pursue interests and to make the most of whatever skills they may have.

The EP could be a band of musicians who develop an image, write music and lyrics, market themselves and promote a concert. The concert itself would be the end product of the EP.

The EP might be an art student who investigates and researches a particular style, works on sculptures, paintings or prints and has an exhibition as the end product.

The EP could be based upon the interest of a student in a particular personality – over a year or more the student researches the person and then presents an essay or a lecture as the end product.

The possibilities really are limitless. The only criteria that have to be met are:

- There must be an element of research and development
- There must be evidence – a portfolio or collection of evidence – detailing the research and development.
- There must be an end product - a piece of music, a concert, an essay, a lecture, a work of art, a play, a film – that can be assessed.

The only staff involvement is in approving the initial EP plan, advising students on how to proceed, assistance in collecting and recording evidence, assistance in providing facilities and resources and assessment of the final product (although this will also be externally assessed).

LIFE SKILLS

We have launched the ground breaking Life Skills programme for our senior school pupils at Finborough. When James and Louise Sinclair took over the school, they knew they wanted to develop our pupils so they were ahead of the game when it comes to life after Finborough. Our view is why wait until you leave school to understand yourself and others more? Why not prepare yourself for life in the real world whilst still at school?

The main programme is focussed around our Year 11 and sixth form pupils and runs for two years. During the first year the students cover a range of topics to help improve self awareness, which include:

Year 1

- Managing change and its effect on you
- First impressions and interview techniques
- Understanding your personality type through Myers Brigg
- Presentation skills
- Understanding Emotional Intelligence
- Personal planning – goal setting

Year 2

- Who am I?
- Learning and thinking styles
- Trip to the Police Head Quarters in Ipswich
- What makes an effective leader?
- What makes an effective follower?
- Coping under pressure

A number of sessions are run by external facilitators who have worked for blue chip companies and are experts in their field. We invite the trainers to stay for dinner which gives the students the opportunity to ask them more questions and find out more details about them and their career path. James and Louise lead the rest of the sessions and act as mentors for the programme. The feedback from the students has been so positive, they can already see the relevance of the topics and how they will help them prepare for life after Finborough.

ART & DESIGN FINE ART

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY: H161
FULL ADVANCED: H561

Exam Board OCR

UNIT	CONTENT	Type of assessment	MARKS
AS UNIT 1: F411 COURSEWORK PORTFOLIO	Students produce a portfolio of work from a starting point agreed between the teacher and the student.	Portfolio	60% of AS 30% full A level
AS UNIT 2: F421 CONTROLLED ASSIGNMENT	Students select one starting point from the examination paper. They have a preparation period from February to May, during which they plan and prepare for an art work produced within a five- hour examination in May.	5 hour examination	40% of AS 20% full A level
A2 UNIT 3: F431 PERSONAL INVESTIGATION	Candidates produce an illustrated essay linking their work to the work of an artist or artists. The investigation must contain between 1000 and 3000 words.	Coursework	30% of A2
A2 UNIT 4: F441 CONTROLLED ASSIGNMENT	Candidates select one starting point from the examination paper. They have a preparation period from February to May, during which they plan and prepare for an art work produced within a fifteen- hour examination in May.	15 hour examination	20% of A2

OVERVIEW:

This course offers students the opportunity to develop their abilities in a variety of practical disciplines. The small class sizes allow intensive teaching with the opportunity to improve skills dramatically. Students explore what interests them and express themselves through their artwork. The course also has an academic element and students will learn how to research and understand artwork in the context in which it was made. They must produce written work for an illustrated essay in A2.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A grade B in Art GCSE
Passion for the subject.
Willingness to work hard.
An ability to work independently.
Good time- management skills.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS:

Success in 'A' Level Art and Design develops practical art skills for those wishing to complete an Art Foundation and go on to study for an Art degree at university, which could be Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion, Web Design, Architecture, Arts Administration, Arts Journalism, Art History or Art Teaching. Art 'A' Level may be useful for students wishing to go into Hairdressing or Make-up as a career after 'A' Levels. Even if students do not wish to go on to have a career in Art they will have developed creative and imaginative thinking skills and broadened their education, instilling in them a life-long interest in the arts.

BIOLOGY

Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology (H021)
Advanced GCE in Biology (H421)

Examining Board: OCR

Units

Unit	Unit code	AS/A2	Content	Type of Assessment	% of total
Cells, Exchange and Transport	F211	AS	- Cells - Exchange and Transport	Written Exam – 1 hour	AS level – 30% A Level – 15%
Molecules, Biodiversity, Food And Health	F212	AS	- Biological Molecules - Enzymes - Biodiversity and Classification - Variation, Adaption and Evolution - Human Interactions	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	AS level – 50% A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Biology 1	F213	AS	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	AS level – 20% A Level – 10%
Communication, Homeostasis and Energy	F214	A	- Communications - Nerves and Hormones - Excretion - Photosynthesis and Respiration	Written Exam – 1 hour	A Level – 15%
Control, Genomes and Environment	F215	A	- Cellular Control - Biotechnology - Ecosystems and Sustainability - Responding to the Environment	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Biology 2	F216	A	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	A Level – 10%

Overview

This specification will provide pupils with a thorough grounding in key biology concepts, which will develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject. Specifically, pupils will study four topics (1 - Cells, Exchange and Transport; 2 - Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health; 3 - Communication, Homeostasis and Energy; 4 - Control, Genomes and Environment) each of which contains different concepts fundamental to the understanding how biological systems work. Once these concepts are understood, pupils will consider the application of these concepts in the modern world. Theoretical aspects of each concept will be investigated practically by pupils through a programme of experimental work. This AS/A GCE has been developed to build on the knowledge developed in the current GCSE Science/Biology specification.

Skills required

All pupils must have a keen interest in Biology and related environmental issues. They will need to be able to assimilate biological concepts and understand how this knowledge can be, and is used in practical applications. All pupils will need to read widely (both scientific texts and the popular press) and interpret the information available; they should be able to prepare notes of sufficient quality both within the class and independently of the teacher. Pupils will need to be well-organised and methodical; in their approach to work, be able to evaluate data logically and interpret them in an unbiased manner. They will need to be numerate and be able to apply basic mathematical skills in the analysis of data. Additionally, they will need to have good presentational and communication skills.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grades C or better. Grade B in Science/Biology is advantageous; a grade C will be an absolute minimum. Pupils should also have minimum of a grade C in English and Mathematics.

Progression and Careers

Successful 'A' level Biology candidates will have developed the basic knowledge and investigative skills to pursue a qualification in higher education in Biology and associated subjects, e.g., Environmental Science, Medicine. Biology is suited towards careers in genetic-based industries, medicine, veterinary science, environmental careers and teaching.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Advanced Subsidiary: 1131
Full Advanced: 2131

AQA

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS	Planning and financing a business	Written exam 1 hr 15min	40% of AS 20% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS	Managing Business	Written exam 1 hr 30min	60% of AS 30% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2	Strategies for success	Written exam 1 hour 45mins	25% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2	The business environment and managing change	Exam 1 hour 45mins	25% of full GCE

Overview

The course covers major areas of business such as the needs of a new business, marketing and finance and accounts, operations management, lean production, human resource management, organisational structure, economic factors and change. The course stresses the importance of planning, strategic thinking, decision-making and considered judgement within the business context.

Skills required

The course requires students to be able to communicate effectively in writing and comprehend information presented in case studies and data response questions. The need to assess information and form judgements based on the information provided means that the student needs to develop good critical analysis techniques including an ability to relate to figures. This means that a student needs good written English, good comprehension skills and the ability to assess and evaluate effectively. Whilst the mathematical element is only a small part of the course students should be comfortable with percentages, ratios and large numbers.

GCSE Subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE subjects at grade C or better is normally required. A grade B in English and C in Mathematics is helpful but not essential. Business Studies GCSE (although useful) is not a requirement, as the course starts from basics.

Progression and Careers

Successful completion of the course shows that the student has developed good critical analysis and communication skills. At higher education level Business courses come in a wide range of options combined with management, accountancy, leisure and tourism related etc. Most of the humanities would be available to a successful business studies student (depending on subjects taken in combination). Careers in teaching, Local Government, Civil Service, leisure and tourism, human resource management, financial services, accounts and bookkeeping are all possibilities.

CHEMISTRY

Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry (H034)
Advanced GCE in Chemistry (H434)

Examining Board: OCR

Units

Unit	Unit code	AS/A2	Content	Type of Assessment	% of total
Atoms, Bonds & Groups	F321	AS	- Atoms & Reactions - Electrons, Bonding & Structure - The Periodic Table	Written Exam – 1 hour	AS level – 30% A Level – 15%
Chains, Energy & Resources	F322	AS	- Basic Concepts & Hydrocarbons - Alcohols, Halogenoalkanes & Analysis - Energy - Resources	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	AS level – 50% A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Chemistry 1	F323	AS	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	AS level – 20% A Level – 10%
Rings, Polymers & Analysis	F324	A	- Rings, Acids & Amines - Polymers & Synthesis - Analysis	Written Exam – 1 hour	A Level – 15%
Equilibria, Energetics & Elements	F325	A	- Rates, Equilibrium and pH - Energy - Transition Elements	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Chemistry 2	F326	A	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	A Level – 10%

Overview

This OCR specification (available from September 2008) will provide pupils with a thorough grounding in the key concepts of Chemistry, which will develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject. Specifically, pupils will study four topics (1 - Atoms, Bonds & Groups; 2 - Chains, Energy & Resources; 3 - Rings, Polymers & Analysis; 4 - Equilibria, Energetics & Elements) each of which contains different concepts fundamental to the understanding of chemistry. Once these concepts are understood, pupils will consider the application of these concepts to the modern world. Theoretical aspects of each concept will be investigated practically by pupils through a programme of experimental work. This AS/A GCE has been developed to provide progression from the current GCSE Science/Chemistry specification.

Skills required

All pupils must have a keen interest in Chemistry. They will need to be able to assimilate key Chemistry concepts and understand how this knowledge can be, and is, used in practical applications. All pupils will need to read widely (both scientific texts and the popular press) and interpret the information available; they should be able to prepare notes of sufficient quality both within the class and independently of the teacher. Pupils will need to be well-organised and methodical; in their approach to work, be able to evaluate data logically and interpret them in an unbiased manner. They will need to be numerate and be able to apply basic mathematical skills in the analysis of data. Additionally, they will need to have good presentational and communication skills.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grades C or better. Grade B in Science/Chemistry is advantageous; a grade C will be an absolute minimum. Pupils should also have a minimum of a grade C in English and Mathematics.

Progression and Careers

Successful 'A' level Chemistry candidates will have developed the basic knowledge and investigative skills to pursue a qualification in higher education in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Medicine and Chemical Engineering. Chemistry is suited towards careers in the chemical industries, medicine, veterinary science, pharmaceutical and environmental careers and teaching.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Advanced Subsidiary: H071

OCR

Full Advanced: H471

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS F661	Poetry and prose 1800-1945 from Robert Frost to Edith Wharton	Written exam 2 hours	60% of AS 30% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS F662	Literature post 1900 modern texts through which critical concepts are explored.	Written exam 2 hours	40% of AS 20% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2 F663	Drama and poetry pre-1800 – texts ranging from the 14 th century to the nineteenth century	Written exam 2 hours	30% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2 F664	Texts in time – individual study of texts and genres across time	Internally assessed coursework	20% of full GCE

Overview

This course offers a good variety of work with poetry and prose extending from the modern day to the age of Shakespeare. It will expose the student to a wide variety of genres and broaden their experience of the best in English Literature.

Skills required

A keen interest in literature combined with good reading, writing and organisational skills. Students need to have good skills of critical analysis and thinking skills. Good general knowledge and a habit of wide reading of literature and the media are also advantageous.

GCSE subjects required

Those applying for AS or full 'A' level are expected to have attained at least grade B in English Literature and English Language at GCSE level.

Progression and Careers

English Literature can lead to a number of related higher education courses including English Literature, Journalism, Media Studies and a host of combined degree options. Skills of critical analysis are developed in the study of English Literature and this can lead to careers in the law, business, the arts and humanities.

FRENCH

Advanced Subsidiary: 9FRO1
Full Advanced: 9FRO2

Edexcel

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS	Spoken and expression and response in French – a unit which rewards the ability to speak French	Oral exam	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS	Understanding and written response in French - a test of reading comprehension and written skills.	Written exam 2 hours 30mins	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2	Understanding and spoken response in French –this unit tests language skills and the ability to interact with others in the target language.	assessment	25% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2	Research, understanding and written response in French – tests extended writing skills and the ability to translate from English to French.	Exam 2 hour 30mins	25% of full GCE

Overview

This course aims at developing fluent and confident French speakers, writers, readers and listeners. It is a demanding but enormously rewarding course that will expose students to contemporary French media, literature and culture.

Skills required

A keen interest in French and the culture of France.

A readiness to spend some time in a French speaking country – a really important way of developing fluency.

A curiosity to discover more about life in France.

Good communication, organisation and independent study skills

GCSE subjects required

Those applying for 'AS' or full 'A' level are expected to have attained at least grade B in French at GCSE level. However, the huge gap between GCSE and 'A' level makes a grade A at GCSE a 'normal' expectation.

Progression and Careers

French can lead to modern foreign language courses in higher education or to a vast number of combined degree courses that include a modern foreign language.

Modern linguists are able to pursue careers in business, the Civil Service, education, publishing, journalism, tourism and leisure.

GEOGRAPHY

Advanced Subsidiary: H083
Advanced GCE: H483

Exam Board OCR

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS (F761)	Managing Physical Environments: topics include River, Coastal and Cold environments	Written exam 1hr 30 min	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS (F762)	Managing Change in Human Environments: topics include Tourism, Urban and Rural environments	Written exam 1hr 30 min	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2 (F763)	Global Issues: topics include Ecosystems, Earth and Climatic Hazards. Economic Issues: topics include Globalisation, Development and Population pressure	Written exam 1hr 30 min	30% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2 (F764)	Geographical Skills	Written exam 1hr 30 min	20% of full GCE

Overview

The aim of the new GCE specification is to encourage candidates to develop an understanding of geographical concepts and processes that affect the changing world.

There is a balance between both Human and Physical topics at the local, national and pan-national scale. These topics are designed to encourage spatial awareness and a sense of space.

By the end of the course candidates are expected to be able to recognise the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, cultures and the physical environment.

Skills required

Geographical skills form an integral part of the syllabus and are assessed in both units. This will include the need for students to be able to describe and interpret features, trends and patterns from a wide variety of geographical sources including:

- OS Maps and thematic maps
- Data tables and various graphs types
- Diagrams (flow charts, spider diagrams, sketch diagrams and maps)
- The results of statistical analysis (Spearman's Ranks, Mann Whitney-U)

GCSE subject required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C or better with a Grade C in English. GCSE Geography at Grade B or above would be an advantage, but is not compulsory.

Geography by its very nature and its locational approach overlaps with many other 'A' Level subjects, but more specifically with: Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Science, Travel and Tourism.

Progression and Careers

The course will provide a suitable foundation for those wishing to study geography or other related courses in higher education (i.e. Earth Sciences, Transport Management, Estate Management, Travel and Tourism).

Equally the course will be useful for those candidates wanting to pursue a geography-based career in business (logistics), various social sciences (social work), or as part of a course of general education.

Note: Currently Geography is one of the most undersubscribed courses within Further Education.

Consequently places at the more prestigious Universities to study a Geography base degree are often more easily attainable.

HISTORY

Advanced Subsidiary: 8HI01
Full Advanced: 9HI01

Edexcel

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS	Historical themes in breadth Russia from autocracy to dictatorship 1881-1924 Stalin's Russia 1924-53	Written exam 1 hr 20min	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS	British History Depth Studies Britain 1830 – 1885 Representation and Reform	Written exam 1 hr 20min	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2	Depth Studies and historical controversies The United States 1820-1877 – A disunited nation?	Written exam 2 hours	30% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2	Historical Enquiry Depth Study over a 100 year period (coursework) Germany united and divided 1890-1991	Internally assessed coursework	20% of full GCE

Overview

This course offers a good variety of themes with a mix of British, European and non-European content. There is a broad theme in that the political and social development of both democratic and authoritarian regimes are examined and compared. The course will give a good overview of many of the key political, economic and social developments that have shaped the modern world.

Skills required

The course requires the ability to read widely, to comprehend a variety of opinions, to critically assess evidence and analyse interpretations. Ultimately students must be capable of forming and defending critical judgements of their own.

Candidates must have good standards of English, good reading and comprehension skills, good written communication skills and good individual study skills (working well and effectively independently). The course demands a lot of reading and the ability to make effective and concise notes. Essay writing and extended written responses place high demands on organisational and communication skills. The need to analyse evidence and critically assess interpretations require good critical faculties and investigative skills.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C or better with grade B in English. GCSE History (at grade B) is an advantage but not a compulsory requirement. Geography, English Literature, Psychology, Sociology, Politics, Business Studies and Media Studies are acceptable alternatives to GCSE History.

Progression and Careers

Success in 'A' Level History develops skills in critical analysis, judgment and efficient communication. It may qualify students to apply for higher education in History, Politics, Law, Business and many other humanities based subjects.

Careers in teaching, the law, Civil Service, Local Government, the armed forces, heritage and tourism and human resource management are all possibilities.

ICT

Advanced subsidiary: 1521
Full Advanced GCE: 2521

AQA

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
INFO1 (AS)	Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World	Written exam 1½ hours	50% of AS 25% of Advanced GCE
INFO2 (AS)	Living in the Digital World	Written exam 1½ hours	50% of AS 25% of Advanced GCE
INFO3 (A2)	The Use of ICT in the Digital World	Written exam 2 hours	30% of Advanced GCE
INFO4 (A2)	ICT Project	Practical coursework	20% of Advanced GCE

Overview

This course is designed for students who wish to go on to higher education or to the world of work where understanding how ICT can be used in society and organisations, and the implications of its use, will be an invaluable asset. The course brings the study of ICT up to date for the 21st century. It is endorsed by a range of higher education institutions, industries and the National Computing Centre.

Skills Required

This course requires an aptitude for the use of ICT and a desire to learn about how ICT is used in businesses and organisations. Students must have good comprehension skills to enable them to appreciate the many new concepts and perspectives covered in the course. They will need to be well motivated and capable of independent study. In the second year there is a substantial coursework project which demands good written English and organisational skills, as do the examination papers.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE subjects, including English, at grade C or better. GCSE ICT is not required, but is an advantage.

Progression and Career information

'A' level ICT can lead to a number of related higher education courses including ICT, Information Management, Programming, Systems Analyst and a host of degree courses. ICT develops skills of organisation, analysis, critical thinking, problem solving and communications, all of which are key for a wide variety of careers.

MATHEMATICS

Specification codes AS: 3890
A2: 7890

OCR

Units

Unit title	Unit code	AS or A2	Exam or assignment	Duration or word limit	% of total	Intended exam session
Core Mathematics 1 C1	4721	AS	Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	33.3% AS 16.7% A2	January
Core Mathematics 2 C2	4722	AS	Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	33.3% AS 16.7% A2	June
Decision Mathematics 1 D1	4736	AS	Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	33.3% AS 16.7% A2	June
Core Mathematics 3 C3	4723	A2	Exam	1 hours 30 minutes	16.7% A2	January
Core Mathematics 4 C4	4724	A2	Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	16.7% A2	June
Decision Mathematics D2	4737	A2	Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	16.7% A2	June

Overview

Candidates may study for an 'AS' (three units) over one or two years, or may study all six modules for a full 'A' level.

Skills Required

1. The ability to think logically.
2. The ability to maintain a mature and consistent attitude to study.
3. An understanding of relationship of number.
4. Clear presentation and communication skills.

GCSE Subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C passes. A GCSE grade B in Maths.

Uses and Appropriate Careers Development

Maths will help to keep the mind sharp and will better enable students to cope with the numeric components of any future course or career.

Many careers and higher education courses are suited to the advanced mathematician including Engineering, Science, Finance and Administration and any career requiring good problem solving skills.

MUSIC

Advanced Subsidiary: H142
Full Advanced: H542

OCR

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Performing Music G351 AS	Performing to a visiting examiner.	Coursework	40% of AS 20% of full GCE
Composing 1 G352 AS	Exercises and composition	Coursework	30% of AS 15% of full GCE
Historical study of music G353 AS	A study of the history and development of musical styles	Exam 1 hour 45mins	30% of AS 15% of full GCE
Performing music 2 G354 A2	Performing to a visiting examiner	Coursework	20% of full GCE
Composing 2 G355 A2	Exercises and composition	Coursework	15% of full GCE
Analytical Studies in Music G356 A2	A focus on the analysis of musical styles and traditions.	Exam 1 hour 45 mins	15% of full GCE

Overview

The course is a mix of practical and theory which enables the student to develop their own musical talents and interests and gain insight onto the vast variety of musical styles and how they developed.

Skills required

An interest and a 'feel' for music and an ability to play at least one musical instrument. Students need good communication skills and must be able to listen with care.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C or better with grade B in Music.

Progression and Careers

Success in 'A' Level music is the main pathway to degree level studies in music. Career opportunities for musicians include performing, teaching, management, recording, sound engineering and composition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Advanced Subsidiary: 8PE01
Full Advanced: 9PE01

Edexcel

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 AS	Participation in Sport and Recreation	Written exam 1hr 30 min	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 2 AS	The Critical Sports Performer	Internally assessed course work.	50% of AS 25% of full GCE
Unit 3 A2	Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance	Written exam 2 hr	50% of A2 25% of full GCE
Unit 4 A2	The Developing Sports Performer	Internally assessed course work	50% of A2 25% of full GCE

Overview

This course encourages students to become increasingly physically competent by developing the skills and techniques they require to perform effectively in physical activities. This course enables students to maintain and develop their involvement and effectiveness in physical activity. It will also enable students to be informed and discerning decision makers who understand how to be involved in physical activity.

Skills required

- Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of physical activity
- Students should demonstrate the ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding in physical activity
- Students should demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate critically physical activity
- This course requires students to work independently and have a good understanding of written communication skills and essay writing.
- Students will need to apply skills in physical activity, communicate ideas and information, plan, evaluate and review
- Students should have a high level of understanding and ability in at least 2 sports.

Knowledge and understanding

- Healthy and active lifestyles
- Opportunities and pathways within the sports industry and sport provision within the local and national arena
- Preparation and personal development required to achieve elite performance

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C or better with grade B in English and PE. It is a great advantage if students have a good sporting background and an interest in sport.

Careers

It may qualify students to apply for higher education in sports science, physiotherapy, sports psychology and teaching. Students could qualify for any related jobs in the sports industry like coaching, sports manager and personal training.

PHYSICS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physics (H158)
Advanced GCE in Physics (H558)

Examining Board: OCR

Unit	Unit code	AS/A2	Content	Type of Assessment	% of total
Mechanics	G481	AS	- Motion - Forces in action - Work and energy	Written Exam – 1 hour	AS level – 30% A Level – 15%
Electrons, waves and photons	G482	AS	- Electric current - Resistance - DC Circuit - Waves - Quantum physics	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	AS level – 50% A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Physics	G483	AS	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	AS level – 20% A Level – 10%
The Newtonian World	G484	A	- Newton's laws - Circular motion and oscillations - Thermal physics	Written Exam – 1 hour	A Level – 15%
Fields, particles and frontiers of physics	G485	A	- Electric and magnetic fields - Capacitors and exponential decay - Nuclear physics - Medical imaging - Modelling the Universe	Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes	A Level – 25%
Practical Skills in Physics 2	G486	A	- Internal Assessment of Practical skills	Internal assessment	A Level – 10%

Overview

This OCR specification will provide pupils with a thorough grounding in the key concepts of Physics, which will develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for the subject. There is a balance between theory and practical discovery through experimentation and observation.

Skills required

All pupils must have a keen interest in Physics. They will need to be able to assimilate key concepts in Physics and understand how this knowledge can be, and is, used in practical applications. All pupils will need to read widely (both scientific texts and the popular press) and interpret the information available; they should be able to prepare notes of sufficient quality both within the class and independently of the teacher. Pupils will need to be well-organised and methodical; in their approach to work, be able to evaluate data logically and interpret them in an unbiased manner. They will need to be numerate and be able to apply basic mathematical skills in the analysis of data. Additionally, they will need to have good presentational and communication skills.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grades C or better. Grade B in Science/Physics is advantageous; a grade C will be an absolute minimum. Pupils should also have a minimum of a grade C in English and Mathematics.

Progression and Careers

Successful 'A' level Physics candidates will have developed the basic knowledge and investigative skills to pursue a qualification in higher education in Physics or in a combined science degree. There are a host of careers open to physicists including electrical and mechanical engineering, energy, defence industries and teaching.

CRITICAL THINKING

Advanced Subsidiary: HO52

OCR

Unit	Content	Type of Assessment	% of Assessment
Unit 1 F501 AS	Introduction to Critical Thinking – the language of reasoning. Credibility of evidence.	Written exam 1 hr 30min	50% of AS
Unit 2 F502 AS	Assessing and developing argument	Written exam 1 hr 30min	50% of AS

Overview

This course is offered to all sixth form students and provides an opportunity to develop and refine the key skills of critical thinking. The skills of critical thinking are an important element in most other 'A' level courses and therefore this course will help students in their other 'A' level courses. The course is run as an AS qualification studied over the two years of the sixth form. One unit of the 'AS' will be taken at the end of the L6 year; the second unit will be taken at the end of the U6 year.

Skills required

It is helpful if candidates have good standards of English, good reading and comprehension skills and good written communication skills. Logical reasoning plays a significant part in the course. Much of the material used in the course is contemporary and therefore it helps if students are familiar with current affairs and read newspapers.

GCSE subjects required

A minimum of 5 GCSE grade C or better including English and Maths.

Progression and Careers

Critical Thinking is a qualification that is valued by many universities and colleges and therefore an 'AS' qualification in Critical Thinking can help secure places on degree and other higher education courses.