



THE APPLETON VI FORM COURSE GUIDE



Success Tomorrow. Starts Today.

CONTENTS

Biology	3
Business Studies	4
Chemistry	5
Computer Science	6
Criminology	7
Economics	8
English Language	9
English Literature	10
French	11
Further Mathematics	12
Geography	13
German	14
History	15
Law	16
Mathematics	17
Religious Studies	18
Physics	19
Politics	20
Psychology	21
Sociology	22
Core Mathematics	23
EPQ	24
BTEC Business	25
BTEC Performing Arts	26
BTEC Sport	27

BIOLOGY



WHAT IS BIOLOGY?

Biology engages and inspires students. The fundamentals of Biology help you to understand contemporary issues, such as genetic modification or climate change as well as understanding the mechanisms that underpin all living organisms. Biology can be studied with a wide range of other A-level courses, as a single science in your programme or combined with other sciences such as Chemistry and Physics.

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

In A-Level Biology you explore fundamentals such as cell structure, genetics, DNA and enzymes which help you to make sense of the big picture. You will also study human health and disease, an area where research is pushing back the boundaries of our knowledge almost daily. The course has a large practical component and so you will become expert in using microscopes and a range of laboratory techniques.

The four topics which make up the course are:

- 'Lifestyle, health and risk'
- 'Genes and health'
- 'Voice of the genome'
- 'Biodiversity and natural resources'

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

In A2 Biology you explore new themes, but many build on the principles learnt in Year 1 Biology.

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- The human body?
- Ways in which science works?
- The contribution of science to modern society?
- Interpreting data relating to disease risk factors?
- Understanding medical developments in the media?
- The impact humans have on the environment?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in Biology or Combined Science and a grade 6 in both Maths and English.

Assessment criteria:

- There is regular assessment throughout both years of the course and continuous practical assessment.
- There are 3 exams at the end of the 2 years. Each is 2 hours long and contains 100 marks.
- Paper 1 examines topics 1-6.
- Paper 2 topics 1-4, 7 and 8.
- Paper 3 general practiced skills and questions on a pre-released scientific article.
- Exam Board: Edexcel Advanced GCE 9BNO

Leading to a career in:

- A-level Biology prepares you for a wide range of degree courses leading to careers in medicine, veterinary and forensic science, science journalism, genetics, biomedical research, environmental science and many more.

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Bell
- Miss Clifforth

BUSINESS

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- The way businesses affect our lives?
- How the economy, politics, social trends and technology impact on business?
- Knowing how to assess the performance of a business?
- Setting up a business of your own or holding a managerial position?
- A career in the city?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grades 5 in both English and Maths.

Assessment criteria:

- There is regular assessment throughout both years of the course.
- The course is awarded based on 100% examination
- There are 3 exams at the end of the 2 years. Each is 2 hours long and contains 100 marks.

Leading to a career in:

- Management
- Accounting
- Sales
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Operations
- Financial services...
- ...in other words, a career in Business!

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Browne
- Miss Sweeney
- Mr Lawrence
- Mrs Manning
- Miss Colquhoun



WHAT IS BUSINESS?

Simon Cowell, Richard Branson and J K Rowling are all successful entrepreneurs. So what makes a successful business idea?

Everything in life involves Business. Think about the new top you bought last week and then think of what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it right now. The obvious ones are the shop and the manufacturing plant, but what about the cotton growers and the delivery company as well as the companies that manage the finances of all those businesses? Thinking about all those processes and people, allows you begin to understand about what Business Studies is all about.

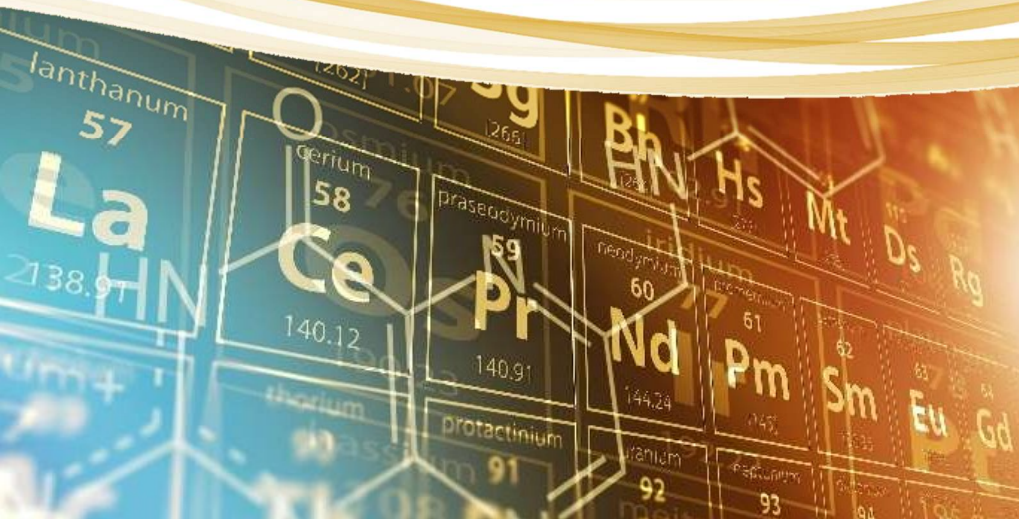
YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

Students learn how businesses identify opportunities and gain a competitive edge through customer interaction. They explore how marketing adapts to a dynamic environment and examine how businesses recruit, train, and motivate staff, along with the role of enterprising individuals and leaders. The course covers different types and sizes of organisations across various sectors and contexts—local, national, and global. Students also study how businesses raise and manage finance, measure performance, and respond to external influences such as economic and legal factors.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

Students move from understanding business functions to exploring strategy and decision-making. They analyse corporate objectives, performance, growth, and external influences, including how businesses manage risk and change. The course also examines global trade, competitive environments, and ethical considerations.

CHEMISTRY



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Practical Chemistry?
- Applications of Science?
- Problem solving?
- Scientific research?

Entry criteria:

GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry or
Combined Science and a grade 6
in both Maths and English.

Assessment criteria:

- A Level 100% examination
on 3 papers

Leading to a career in:

- Teaching
- Technical support
- Pharmacy
- Degree in Chemistry and related subjects
- Forensic Science
- Food Science/ Nutrition
- Microbiology
- Medicine/ Physiotherapy/ Radiography
- Chemistry/ Engineers
- Veterinary Science
- Biochemistry

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Wilson

WHAT IS CHEMISTRY?

Studying the principles of Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry and exploring these through experimental work, which will allow you to access Chemistry in the real world.

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

During the course students will look at the relationship between atomic structure, chemical reactivity and patterns in the Periodic Table. This leads on to an introduction to Organic Chemistry, where we look at alkane, alkenes and other families and their effect on the environment including pollution and global warming. Finally, we will study how certain groups in the periodic table react with different chemicals.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

The Year 2 course provides an opportunity for practical investigations to explore thermodynamics, equilibria and kinetics in more detail. Then explore transition metals, Organic Chemistry and their applications in industry and medicine. The course is presented clearly to ensure that the subject content is relevant to real world

COMPUTER SCIENCE

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Problem solving,
- Programming,
- Dealing with abstract concepts,
- Creative design,
- Making a real world impact

Entry criteria:

- Minimum GCSE grade 6 in Computing/Computer Science, grade 6 in GCSE Maths and English.

Assessment criteria:

- Unit 1 Computer Systems (examination paper) 40% of the total A Level
- Unit 2 Algorithms and Programming (examination paper) 40% of the total A Level
- Unit 3 Programming Project course work - 20% of the total A Level. The project you develop is your own choice and you pick a suitable implementation language and environment.

Leading to a career in:

- Banking
- Medicine
- Education
- Business
- Music
- Multimedia
- Sports
- Construction
- Engineering
- And many more.

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Gillooly



WHAT IS COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer science encompasses the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society. It's an intensively creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1: Computer Systems

Students gain an understanding of how computer systems operate, covering topics such as encryption, networking, database design, web technologies, and programming basics. The unit also explores computer law, including data protection and cybersecurity.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Programming

This unit develops computational thinking and problem-solving skills. Students learn about abstraction, algorithm design, and computational methods, applying creative and logical approaches to programming challenges.

Unit 3: Programming Project

Students complete an independent project where they analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate, and document a software solution to a real-world problem, using a suitable programming language. This encourages practical application and project management skills.

CRIMINOLOGY



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Debating and asking questions?
- Solving problems?
- How society functions?
- Why people act in the way they do?
- Linking theory to real world issues?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in English

Assessment criteria:

- The course is comprised of four units, each worth 25% of the overall grade.
- Two units will be examined; one in Year 12 and one in Year 13.
- Each exam will be 90 minutes long.
- Two units will be assessed by an extended assignment (controlled assessment).

Leading to a career in:

- Criminal justice
- Police Force and Local Government
- Social work
- Law and Politics
- Prison service
- Victim support
- Medical and Health care

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Aucklah

WHAT IS CRIMINOLOGY?

Criminology is the study of crime. It examines who commits crimes, why they commit them, their impact, and how to prevent them. It draws on concepts from psychology, psychiatry, law, sociology and social anthropology.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

Covers different types of crime, such as hate crime, domestic abuse, and cybercrime. Explores why some crimes go unreported and the consequences for victims, offenders, and society. Examines how media shapes public perception of crime, methods of collecting crime data, and campaigns to raise awareness or change laws.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

Looks at how criminal behaviour and deviance are defined and socially constructed. Includes biological, individual, and sociological theories of criminality, and how social change and campaigns can influence lawmaking.

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

Follows the criminal investigation process, from investigative techniques and evidence handling to trial procedures.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

Covers law-making, the structure of the criminal justice system, forms and aims of punishment, and the roles and effectiveness of agencies involved in social control.

ECONOMICS

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- What lies behind the success of Ebay?
- What's happening in the housing market?
- How has streaming changed the economics of the music industry?
- Poverty and inequality?
- Why some countries have become richer under globalisation and others much poorer?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grades 5 in English and a grade 6 in Maths.

Assessment criteria:

- There is regular assessment throughout the course.
- The course is awarded based on 100% examination
- There are 3 exams at the end of the 2 years.

Leading to a career in:

- You can use Economics within most job areas as it is recognised as a very valuable A level and degree. It is useful for many professions including: accountancy, teaching, journalism, the civil service and the police force.

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Baker
- Mrs Manning

WHAT IS ECONOMICS?

Economics is all about the key issues facing us today i.e. poverty, unemployment and inflation. It is essentially about the choices people make - as consumers, workers, producers and government, and the result of these choices.

Studying Economics will allow students to:

- develop an understanding of real life economic concepts and theories
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it
- develop a critical approach to various economic theories

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

Students learn how businesses identify opportunities and build a competitive edge through customer interaction. They explore how marketing adapts to changing conditions and how businesses recruit, train, and motivate staff, as well as the role of enterprising individuals and leaders. The course examines different types and sizes of organisations across sectors and in local, national, and global contexts. Students also study how businesses manage finance, measure performance, and respond to external economic and legal influences.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

This course develops both Micro and Macro Economics elements from year 1:

At the **micro** level these include:

- Poverty
- Inequality
- The labour market

At the **macro** level these include:

- Looking at the financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy (how governments raise and spend increase output in the economy)
- The international economy



ENGLISH LANGUAGE



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Reading a variety of texts?
- Interpreting examples of real life language?
- Gathering your own data to use for analysis?
- Undertaking private, independent study as well as performing in class sessions

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

Assessment criteria:

- You will be assessed both through coursework and examinations. In examinations you will be presented with unseen transcripts and short extracts and asked to write analytical essays in response to these.
- You will also be asked for original pieces of writing regarding language issues. You must apply your knowledge of linguistic theories and concepts in your answers.

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Advertising
- Law
- Teaching

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Levey
- Mrs Beard

WHAT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Are you curious about how language works and why people speak the way they do? This course explores real-life language use, teaches methods for analysing language, and helps you develop both creative and analytical communication skills.

COURSE CONTENT

You will explore how language features in written and spoken texts convey meaning. Through analysing a range of transcripts, you'll develop close reading, analytical skills, and apply language theories to unseen texts. Topics include language and gender, power, and how speakers express attitudes.

Exploring Language

This unit involves analysing real-life transcripts from various contexts and examining topical language issues. You'll also create original writing for a real-world purpose based on a language topic.

Dimensions of Linguistic Variation

You will study how children acquire language, how English has evolved, and how it is used in today's media.

Independent Language Research

For your coursework, you'll investigate a language topic of personal interest, collect and analyse your own data, and present your findings in an academic poster.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Reading widely?
- Exploring and sharing ideas?
- Developing your analytical skills and essay writing?
- Discussing and debating literary texts?

Entry criteria:

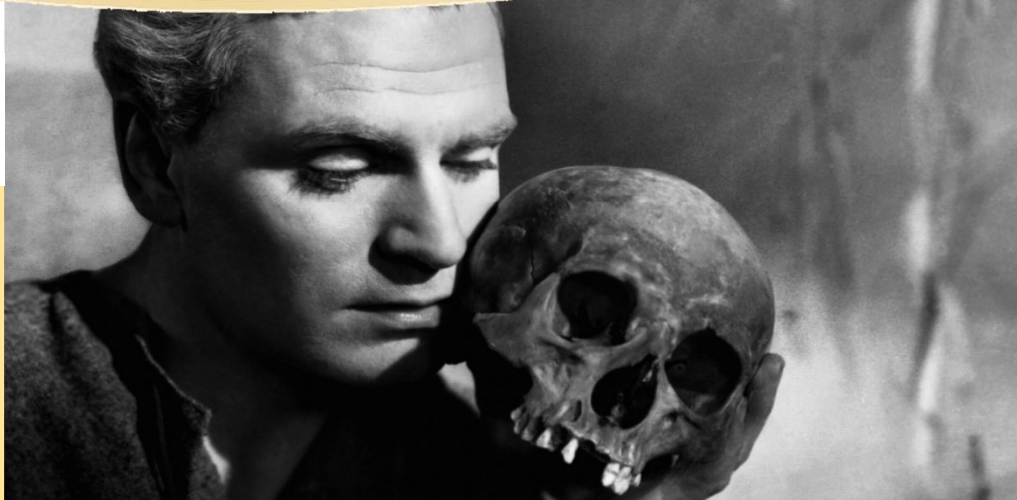
- GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Advertising
- Legal Professions

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Archer
- Mrs Beard



WHAT IS ENGLISH LITERATURE?

The OCR English Literature course at The Appleton School is academically challenging and highly rewarding. English Literature is recognised as one of the most reputable and rigorous academic disciplines, and is an essential pre-requisite for certain subjects at top universities. You will study a range of texts across prose, poetry, and drama, from 1600 to the present day. This course encourages you to read not just to learn, but to explore human thoughts, feelings, ideas, and behaviours through the imaginations of novelists, poets, and playwrights.

A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

You will study a Shakespeare play, a Georgian play and pre-1900 poetry. You will also have the opportunity to undertake a critical study in a genre such as gothic, dystopian or American literature. You will also be given the opportunity to write two pieces of coursework on three post-1900 texts of your choice. This course will facilitate knowledge and understanding of:

- The ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
- The ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- The ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
- The significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

FRENCH



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Understanding how language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?
- Communicating with others?
- Obtaining an impressive qualification for University entrance?
- Impressing employers?
- Increasing your salary potential?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in French.

Assessment criteria:

- Paper 1 is the listening, reading, and translation exam, covering vocabulary and structures from all four themes (40% of A level).
- Paper 2 involves translation from English to French and two essays on different literary texts or films (30% of A level).
- Paper 3 is a 21–23 minute speaking exam. It includes a discussion on a theme based on a stimulus and a presentation with discussion on the student's independent research (30% of A level).

Leading to a career in:

- Business with international links
- Employment which requires communication,
- research and analytical skills
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Interpreting and translating
- Law

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Gnahore

WHAT IS FRENCH?

The course develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as your general knowledge of the country. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics and studying a French film and a literary text.

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

The course covers key aspects of French society, including changes in family structure and attitudes toward marriage and partnerships, the education system and student life, and the world of work—focusing on workplace culture, the right to strike, and gender equality. It also explores political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries, examining trends in music and its influence on popular culture, the role of media including freedom of expression and the impact of digital and print media on society and politics, as well as the significance of festivals, celebrations, customs, and traditions.

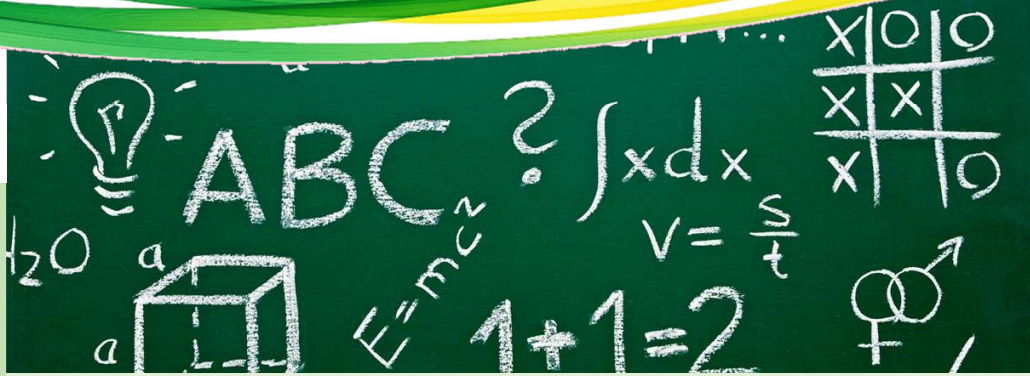
YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

Integration and the French Multicultural Society: Covers the origins of immigration, changes in political strategies, and the benefits and challenges of integration and multiculturalism. Also examines the rise of the far right, focusing on the National Front's objectives, leadership, growth, and public response.

The Occupation and the Resistance: Explores life under the Vichy regime and the German occupation, along with the role of the French Resistance and key figures like Jean Moulin and Charles de Gaulle.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

KEY INFORMATION



Are you interested in:

- Progressing towards a career with a universal language?
- Discovering how to model real life situations with mathematics?
- How important decisions are made using Statistics?
- Mathematics for Mathematics sake?
- Mathematics and the Economy?
- Mathematics and Architecture?
- Mathematics and Engineering?
- Mathematics Teaching?
- Algorithms and Computer programming?

WHAT IS FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Further Mathematics extends the knowledge and understanding gained in A-Level Mathematics, as well as exploring new topics. It is advantageous to students who are considering studying Mathematics, Physics or Engineering at university, as there are benefits to studying the Mathematics they will need at this stage.

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 7 in Maths.

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Civil Service
- Management
- Economics
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Teaching
- Consultancy

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Lewis
- Mr Harmsworth

COURSE CONTENT

The full A-Level consists of 4 full modules (Core Pure 1 & 2, Further Statistics 1 and Further Mechanics 1). The Pure modules look at complex numbers, matrices, vectors and proof. The Statistics module looks at probability distributions and Chi-squared testing. The mechanics module explores collisions, momentum and work, energy power. The Pure modules build on the AS work with additional work in Polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations. The Statistics module contains the topics plus Hypothesis testing, Central limit theorem and probability generating functions. The Mechanics module continues the work on collisions with the addition of elastics springs and strings.

GEOGRAPHY



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- The world around you?
- The challenges facing the environment?
- Understanding other cultures?
- The pressures and opportunities of world cities?
- Fieldwork and active research?
- A bridge between the arts and sciences?

Entry criteria:

- Geography GCSE grade 5 in Geography or grade 5 in English and Maths if Geography has not been studied at GCSE.

Assessment criteria:

- A2: 80% examination; 20% Geographical investigation.

Leading to a career in:

- Conservation
- Travel and tourism
- Local government and planning
- Resource management
- Meteorology and climatology including climate change
- Teaching

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Rush
- Miss Jones
- Dr Hunt

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is the study of the world around us and man's impact on it. It considers the physical and human influences that shape and style our world including climate change, immigration, extreme climates, earthquakes, globalisation and the regeneration of cities.

COURSE CONTENT

Physical Geography

- Water and Carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and processes
- Hazards

Human Geography

- Global systems and governance
- Changing places
- Population and the Environment

Geographical Skills

- A Geographical investigation based on fieldwork.
- Local fieldwork in both human and Physical geography settings

GERMAN

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Understanding how language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?
- Communicating with others?
- Obtaining an impressive qualification for University entrance?
- Impressing employers?
- Increasing your salary potential?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in German.

Assessment criteria:

- Paper 1 is the listening, reading and translation examination. This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes. (40% of A level)
- Paper 2 is a written response to works and translation. Students are assessed on an English to German translation, and 2 extended essays on 2 separate literary texts or films (30% of A level)
- Paper 3 is the speaking exam (21-23 minutes). Task one is a discussion on one theme from the specification based on a stimulus. Task two is a presentation and discussion on independent research carried out by the student. (30% of A level)

Leading to a career in:

- Business with international links
- Employment which requires communication,
- research and analytical skills
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Interpreting and translating
- Law

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Geisser-Holmes



WHAT IS GERMAN?

The course develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as your general knowledge of the country. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics and studying a German film and a literary text.

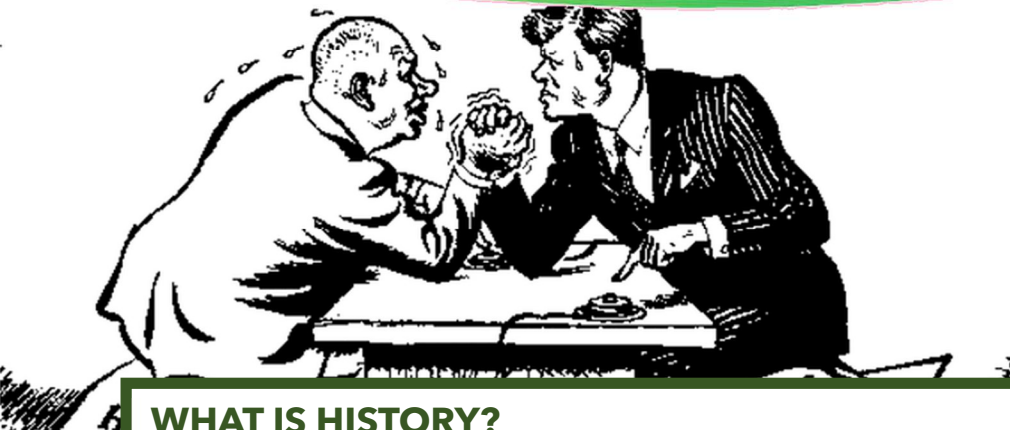
YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

The course covers changes in German society, including environmental awareness, recycling, renewable energy, and sustainable living. It explores the education system, student life, repeating a year, and vocational training. The world of work is also examined, focusing on workplace culture, the German workforce, and key industries. Political and artistic culture in German-speaking countries is studied through changes and trends in music and its influence on popular culture. The role of media—including TV, digital, print, and online platforms—and its impact on society and politics is considered, along with festivals, celebrations, customs, and traditions.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

The course explores integration and multiculturalism in Germany, focusing on foreign workers, immigrants, asylum seekers, and the benefits and challenges of social integration. It examines the economic and social effects of immigration, including workplace competition, access to housing and jobs, and rising extremism. The German reunification is also covered, looking at East German society before reunification—its communism, relations with the West, and daily life—and the period after reunification, including the fall of communism, migration from East to West, and the impact on Germany's economy and society.

HISTORY



KEY INFORMATION

WHAT IS HISTORY?

This course helps students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals, and the nature of change over time. It deepens their knowledge of the past through political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. Studying British, European, and international topics equips students with the skills needed to succeed as A-level historians. They will develop a strong understanding of events that shaped the modern world, along with transferable skills in source analysis and essay writing.

The course enables students to study:

- Significant events, individuals, and issues
- A range of historical perspectives
- The diversity of society
- The history of multiple countries or states
- A period of time

COURSE CONTENT

The origins and development of the Cold War from the atomic bomb to the Cuban Missile Crisis and then further developments towards the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

The growth of the British Empire from the mid-1800s to the outbreak of the First World War and then the disintegration and ultimate collapse of the Empire up to the 1970s.

Coursework will be on the causes of the Tudor Rebellions from 1485-1587.

Are you interested in:

- Thinking?
- Analysing information?
- Discussion and Debate?
- Research?
- Independent reading/learning?
- Working in collaboration?
- Evaluating evidence?
- Coming to clear conclusions?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in History or grade 5 in English when History has not been studied at GCSE.

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Education
- Media
- Public Sector
- Business
- Journalism change

Teacher Contacts:

- Ms Cox
- Miss Vale
- Mr Dobinson

LAW

KEY INFORMATION



Are you interested in:

- Who makes the law and how it is interpreted?
- Studying cases about murder, manslaughter, fraud or theft?
- Evaluating defendants' criminal liability?
- Merits and faults with the current law?
- Visits to court and talks with legal professionals?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in English.

Leading to a career in:

- The legal profession
- Law Enforcement
- Government politics
- Banking and finance
- Trading standards

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Cutler

WHAT IS LAW?

A-level Law develops knowledge and understanding of the English legal system. Studying Law at A-level enables students to enhance their analytical and critical thinking skills. It also develops problem-solving abilities through applying legal rules and understanding legal methods and reasoning.

COURSE CONTENT

- The Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Law Making
- Law of Tort
- The Nature of Law
- Human Rights Law

MATHEMATICS



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Progressing towards a career with a universal language?
- Discovering how to model real life situations with mathematics?
- How important decisions are made using Statistics?
- Mathematics for Mathematics sake?
- Mathematics and the Economy?
- Mathematics and Architecture?
- Mathematics and Engineering?
- Mathematics Teaching?
- Algorithms and Computer programming?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in Maths

Assessment criteria:

- Pure 1: 2 hr
- Pure 2: 2 hr
- Applied: 2 hr

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Civil Service
- Management
- Economics
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Teaching
- Consultancy
- Computing
- Banking

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Lewis

WHAT IS MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is the abstract study of topics like quantity, structure, space, and change. Studying Mathematics enhances problem-solving, communication, reasoning, and making connections. Much of the course is algebra-based, and working confidently with equations and graphs is essential. To achieve higher grades, you must be willing to commit significant time and effort.

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

The course is broadly divided into Pure and Applied maths. In Pure maths, you will explore quadratics, graphs, polynomials, trigonometry, vectors, and calculus. Applied maths is split into Statistics and Mechanics. Statistics focuses on comparing and presenting data, with probability playing a role. Mechanics covers the maths behind movement.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

This includes all content from the AS course but extends it further. Calculus and trigonometry are developed more deeply, along with exponentials and logarithms. The statistics section advances from Year 12, exploring additional probability distributions and their applications. Mechanics covers forces related to movement and moments.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Debating and asking questions?
- Understanding yourself and the world around you?
- Understanding the concept of God in more detail from atheist – theist perspectives?
- Deciding what is right and wrong?
- Linking theory to real world dilemmas and problems?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in Religious Education or GCSE grade 5 in English.

Assessment criteria:

Three examinations, 3 hours each:

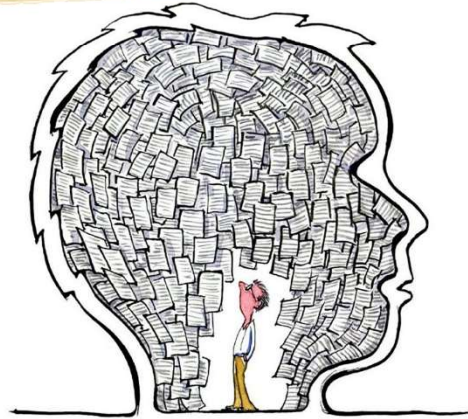
- Philosophy of religion and Ethics
- Study of religion and dialogues

Leading to a career in:

- Business and Finance
- Police Force and Local Government
- Education
- Law and Politics
- Medical and Health care

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Aucklah



WHAT IS RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Philosophy is an enquiry or study into the fundamental principles (big questions.) Ethics are systems of principles affecting how people make decisions and lead their lives. Studying this course leads to an A Level in Religious Studies.

A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

Students study three units:

1. Philosophy of Religion

- Existence of God
- Problem of Evil
- Religious Experience
- Religious language
- Critiques of religious beliefs
- Life after death
- Religion and science

2. Religion and Ethics

- Ethical theories
- Environmental issues
- Equality
- War and peace
- Sexual ethics
- Ethical language
- Religion and morality
- Medical Ethics

3. Islam

- Six beliefs
- Life and work of the Prophet Muhammad
- Qur'an
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- Ummah
- Developments of Sunni and Shi'a Islam
- Spread of Islam
- Sufism
- Islam and science
- Challenges of secularisation
- Gender and Islam

PHYSICS



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Asking the fundamental questions?
- Intellectual challenge?
- Experimental work?
- Problem solving?
- Improving your ICT skills?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 6 in Physics or grade 6 in Additional Science and a grade 6 in both Maths and English.

Assessment criteria:

- Three written papers each of two hours including long and
- short answer questions, multiple choice and practical skills

Leading to a career in:

- Physics
- Medicine
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Computing

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Hill
- Mr Hannan
- Mr Bovolenta

WHAT IS PHYSICS?

Physics is a curiosity-driven science that asks fundamental questions about what we find in the universe, and seeks to answer these questions by observing and experimenting. This experimenting has led to huge technological advances that continue to radically change our lives - mobile phones, 3D medical scanning, the internet...

YEAR 1 COURSE CONTENT

Particle physics (what is in a atom) quantum phenomena, electricity, mechanics, properties of solids and properties of waves.

YEAR 2 COURSE CONTENT

Nuclear physics, thermal physics and further mechanics fields and an option from: Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points in physics, Electronics.

POLITICS

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Who governs the country
- Why people vote the way they do
- How party leaders are selected
- The role of the media in politics
- Strengths and weaknesses of different electoral systems
- The role of the EU

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Assessment criteria:

- Paper 1 - UK politics - 33% - 2 hour exam
- Paper 2 - Comparative politics - USA - 33% - 2 hour exam
- Paper 3 - Political ideologies - 33% - 2 hour exam

Leading to a career in:

- Politics
- Law
- Local Government
- Civil Service
- Media
- Education
- Journalism

Teacher Contacts:

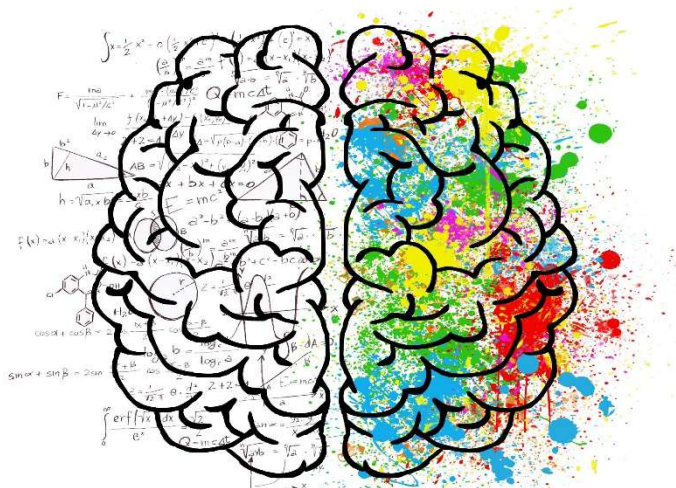
- Mr Dobinson
- Miss Vale



WHAT IS POLITICS?

What happens in Westminster affects us all, and this course lets you study the theories behind its actions. A-Level Government and Politics helps students develop critical thinking and improve their ability to interpret, evaluate, and comment on politics. In Year 12, students focus on people, politics, participation, and governing modern Britain. Year 13 covers global politics and governance issues worldwide. This course suits students who have studied Economics, History, Sociology, or English, and those interested in higher-level Government and Politics or History.

PSYCHOLOGY



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Consciousness, thought processes and how the mind works?
- The relationship between mind and body?
- What makes us unique?
- Biological and psychological causes and treatments for mental disorders and therapies?
- The extent to which study of the human beings can be scientific?
- The effects of nature? (genetics and evolution) and nurture (the environment, learning, and the media) on behaviour?
- The impact of Psychological research on real life?
- How to conduct scientific research?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grades 5 in English, Maths and Science

Assessment criteria:

- A Level 100% examination on 3 papers

Leading to a career in:

- Personnel or Social Work
- Counselling, Health or Medicine
- Teaching or Child Care
- Forensic Psychology or Police
- Sport Psychology
- Media

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Sangha

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour and gives you the opportunity to investigate the intricate workings of both. You will have direct experience of what psychologists do when investigating human behaviour by participating in experimental work and research.

COURSE CONTENT

Topics covered:

Social Psychology:

Obedience, Conformity, Minority Influence, Relationships

Cognitive Psychology:

Models of Memory, Forgetting, Eyewitness Testimony

Developmental Psychology:

Theories of Attachment, Animal Studies of Attachment, Influence of Attachment on Later Development

Clinical Psychology:

Phobias, Depression, OCD, Schizophrenia

Biopsychology:

Stress, Nervous System, The Brain

SOCIOLOGY

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Lively debate?
- Asking questions?
- Discussing current social issues?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in English.

Assessment criteria:

- A Level 100% examination across 3 2-hour papers

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Social Work
- Teaching
- Health Professions
- Law
- Urban and Rural Planning

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Aucklah

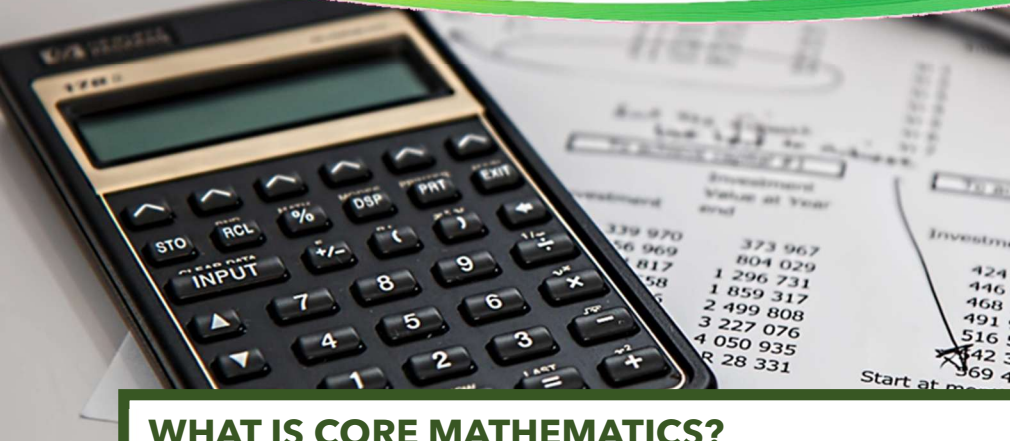


WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology studies how society is organised and how we experience life. It seeks to understand how social institutions like family and education operate, how they relate, and whose interests they serve. Sociology describes and explains patterns of inequality, power, and conflict present in most societies.

Learning sociology involves exploring how societies are constructed and where our beliefs and routines come from. It examines how identities form and how social class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and age affect life opportunities. Sociology develops a critical understanding of the assumptions shaping how we view ourselves and others. It can also contribute to social change by highlighting issues such as unemployment, poverty, and crime. Studying sociology provides essential tools to better understand and improve the world we live in.

CORE MATHEMATICS



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- Real world Mathematics – how mathematics can be used in day-to-day applications and jobs.

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in Maths Higher paper.

Assessment criteria:

- The course is assessed in two exam papers. Both are normally sat during May of Year 12. Each paper will count for 50% of the course.
- Both papers allow a calculator and some formulae are given.

Leading to a career in:

- Finance / Financial Modelling
- Insurance
- Banking
- Mortgage Broker
- Statistical Analysis
- Actuary
- Linear Programming
- Inland Revenue and Tax

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Emmins

WHAT IS CORE MATHEMATICS?

Core Maths is a 1 Year Course in Year 12 which is equivalent to an AS-Level. This course is designed to support the mathematics needed in various other courses which students might be studying at A-Level.

Examples include Biology, Chemistry, Business, Geography and Psychology. This is an additional qualification which can be studied alongside 3 other A Levels, including A-Level Maths.

COURSE CONTENT

Compulsory Content

- Analysis of data
- Maths for personal finance
- Estimation
- Critical analysis of given data and models

Students will then study 3 further units from either Route A or Route B. (This choice often partly depends on which other A-Levels students are studying in Year 12).

Route A

- The Normal Distribution
- Statistical Probabilities and Estimation
- Correlation and Regression

Route B

- Critical Path and Risk Analysis
- Probability and Expectation
- Cost Benefit Analysis

EPO

KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

Choosing your own subject; one that you can research and analyse and present your own findings on.

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 and above in English.

Assessment criteria:

This qualification is approximately equivalent to an AS-Level. It has no exam and is 100% coursework based.

Links to other courses:

The EPQ can enhance any other qualifications studied and commonly studied topics are:

- Medicine and Veterinary medicine
- Law
- Advertising/ marketing
- Economics and business
- Psychology
- Art and design
- Humanities – Geography, History and RS
- Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Government and politics
- English Literature and Language – journalism and creative writing
- Performing Arts
- Sport and physiotherapy

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Vale
- Mrs Jenkins



WHAT IS THE EPQ?

The EPQ is an additional qualification which students can study on top of their chosen subjects. It is a subject that revolves around independent work and requires a student to complete around 90 hours of self-study to complete a project. The project title is student drive, whereby the student selects their topic of choice, as long as it does not overlap with the specifications of any of their current subjects.

COURSE CONTENT

Compulsory Content

- A formal Production Log (diary to be completed which tracks the development of the project from start to finish)
- An independent project, meeting AO criteria
- A presentation to staff and peers to present their project

Students can choose from 2 formats to make their project

Route A

The creation of an artefact – a physical object or planning of and running an event with a 1,000 word report.

Route B

Writing an extended essay of about 5,000 words

BTEC BUSINESS



KEY INFORMATION

Are you interested in:

- How businesses influence our daily lives
- The impact of economic conditions, politics, social trends, and technology on businesses
- Understanding how to evaluate a business's performance
- Starting your own business or taking on a managerial role
- Pursuing a career in the corporate or financial sector
- Let me know if you'd like the tone to be more formal, conversational, or tailored for a specific audience.

Entry criteria:

GCSE grade 4 in English and in Maths.

Assessment criteria:

Certificate: 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external:

- Mandatory content (83%)
- External assessment (58%)

Diploma: 13 units of which 7 are mandatory and 4 are externally assessed.

- Mandatory content (66%)
- External assessment (42%).

Leading to a career in:

The qualification is recognised by higher education institutions as fully meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses in a variety of areas in the business sector, as single or joint programmes at degree, foundation degree or HND level. When studied with other qualifications in the study programme, learners can progress to higher education on combined courses.

Teacher Contacts:

- Miss Brown
- Mrs Baker

WHAT IS BTEC BUSINESS?

BTEC Business can be studied as an 'Extended Certificate' (single option) or 'Diploma' (triple option)

BTEC National qualifications offer specialist, work-related learning in various vocational sectors. They equip learners with the knowledge, understanding, and skills needed for employment or university.

The Diploma forms the core of a 16-19 study programme for those seeking in-depth business sector study. It can be combined with other BTEC Nationals or A Levels to support progression to higher education in business-related fields. Additional qualifications allow learners to either broaden their programme with a contrasting subject or deepen it with a complementary one.

COURSE CONTENT

The qualification gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector that will prepare them for further study or training. This includes the opportunity for learners to choose two units from a selection of options to supplement the mandatory units which reflect the key topics in business:

- Marketing
- Business environments
- International business
- Management
- Finance.

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS

KEY INFORMATION

Entry criteria:

Grade 6 in a Performing Arts subject or a Merit in BTEC Performing Arts plus an audition; or a reference relating to experience in Performing Arts outside the school will be required. GCSE grade 4 in English and Maths.

Assessment criteria:

Year 12

Students complete the Extended Certificate, equivalent to 1 A Level.

Mandatory units

Investigating Practitioners' Work – Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners, developing critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how themes are communicated. External exam: 3 hours, 60 marks.

Developing Skills for Live Performance – Learners explore technical performance skills, focusing on developing techniques in at least two performance styles.

Year 13

Students extend their qualification to complete the Foundation Diploma, worth 1.5 A Levels.

Group Performance Workshop – Learners develop creative, physical, and vocal skills, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. Final performance in front of an audience, 18 marks.

Variety Performance – Students research the history of variety performances and develop knowledge to create their own version of a 'BGT'-inspired act. Any performance discipline may be chosen.

Teacher Contacts:

- Mrs Edwards-Ricketts



WHAT IS PERFORMING ARTS?

The Performing Arts are art forms in which artists use their body or voice to convey artistic expression and include dance, music, opera, theatre, magic, spoken word, circus arts, recitation and musical theatre.

COURSE CONTENT

BTEC Performing Arts will provide you with a broad foundation in all aspects of performance. You will participate in a variety of practical workshops, focusing on Acting, Singing and Dancing. You will develop key physical and performance skills in a range of disciplines, whilst analysing and exploring a variety of Musical Theatre works and practitioners. You will have the opportunity to participate in a range of workshop and performances, both in class and within Performing Arts extracurricular. You will work on building confidence to perform to a range of audiences, within different projects.

BTEC SPORT



KEY INFORMATION

WHAT IS BTEC SPORT?

BTEC Sport can be studied as an 'Extended Certificate' (single option) or 'Diploma' (triple option)

EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

This is intended as an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size of one A Level. It is a two-year, fulltime course of 4 units, in which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external; Mandatory content (83%), External assessment (67%).

Learners will cover the following units:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry. Covers law-making, the structure of the criminal justice system, forms and aims of punishment, and the roles and effectiveness of agencies involved in social control.

DIPLOMA

This is intended as an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to three A Levels. It is a two-year, fulltime course that meets entry requirements on its own right for learners who want to progress into higher education courses in sport before entering employment.

- It is equivalent to the size of three A Levels.
- 14 units of which 10 are mandatory and 4 are externally assessed
- External assessment (4 exams worth 42% of the overall marks) Follows the criminal investigation process, from investigative techniques and evidence handling to trial procedures.

Are you interested in:

- How the body works?
- Improving fitness?
- Developing as a coach?

Entry criteria:

- GCSE grade 5 in PE or Merit Level 2 BTEC Sport
- and a grade 5 in English and grade 4 in Maths.

Assessment criteria:

Depending on which qualification you take, you will be studying a selection of the following units:

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Fitness Training and programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
3. Professional Development in the Sports Industry
4. Sports Leadership
5. Practical Sports Performance
6. Coaching for Performance
7. Research Methods
8. Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity
9. Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry
10. Skill Acquisition

The optional units include:

- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Organisation
- Rules and Regulations and Officiating Sport
- Technical

Leading to a career in:

- Sports coaching
- Fitness training
- Sports development law
- Apprenticeship
- American College Scholarships.

Teacher Contacts:

- Mr Rowe