



IPSWICH
HIGH
SCHOOL

WOOLVERSTONE HALL
ESTD 1878

A Level Courses

IHS



Subjects

Biology	3
Business Studies	4
Chemistry	5
Classical Civilisation	6
Computer Science	7
Dance	8
Drama & Theatre	9
Economics	10
English	11
Fine Art	12
French	13
Geography	14
History	15
Latin	16
Mathematics	17
Further Mathematics	18
Music	19
Physical Education	20
Physics	21
Politics	22
Psychology	23
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	24
Spanish	25
Three Dimensional Design	26
EPQ	27



Book A Tour

We always recommend a tour with a member of our Senior Leadership Team. This allows us to get to know you and your future aspirations, and we can introduce you to the Head of Department for those subjects you are interested in studying.

For further information about the Sixth Form at Ipswich High School and to arrange your private tour, please contact our Registrar.

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Biology

Exam Board: Edexcel Specification A (Salters Nuffield) (9BN0)

Why choose this course?

Biology is a fascinating subject that covers a broad range of topics focused on the natural world and the living things within it. Through studying Biology you will gain an in depth knowledge of the biological world, and develop an understanding of scientific methods. You will also build up skills in research, problem-solving, observation, and analytical skills.

Gaining an A Level in Biology opens up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options.



The Course

The course is taught by two teachers, each teacher will cover different topics. Teaching will include practical work, group work, individual research and study, use of online interactive materials, presentations and modelling.

	Topics
Year 12	Topic One: Lifestyle, Health & Risk (The heart & cardiovascular disease) Topic Two: Genes & Health (cystic fibrosis, membranes, proteins & the lungs) Topic Three: Voice of the Genome (genetics, the cell cycle, stem cells & reproductive cells) Topic Four: Biodiversity & Natural Resources (adaptations, diversity & survival) <i>A one week residential field studies course.</i>
Year 13	Topic Five: On the Wild Side (Ecosystems and climate change & photosynthesis) Topic Six: Infection, Immunity & Forensics (immune system, forensics including DNA profiling, diseases such as AIDS & TB) Topic Seven: Run For Your Life (exercise, muscles & respiration) Topic Eight: Grey Matter (nerves, the brain, visual development, learning & memory) Revision

Exams and Assessment

The A Level examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13. There are three x 2 hour papers covering the specification including the application of knowledge including practical and numerical skills.

For the third paper, you will also be given some pre-release material based on current biological research on which you will answer questions.

There is also a practical assessment (CPAC) which is a pass/fail in addition to the A Level qualification. You will be assessed through 18 core practicals which will be completed throughout the course during normal lessons.

University Courses and Careers

Biology, Zoology, Pharmacology/Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Physiology, Marine Biology, Ecology, Sports Science, Plant Science/Botany, Genetics, Nursing, Midwifery, Psychology.

Business Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why choose this course?

Business is one of the most relevant subjects you will ever experience. Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be in an organisation surrounded by and/or working for a business of some sort. So why not get ahead of the game?

The breadth of the subject is vast and will introduce you to ideas from marketing, law, finance and accountancy, operations, economics, sociology, psychology, strategic and systems thinking, as well as moral philosophy.



The Course

The course analyses UK business operations, however the scope of learning is global. Learn through case studies, project work, research assignments, class discussion and group activities. Computers are used to aid business analysis and to enable you to experience business situations in a challenging and stimulating way. Each activity aims to develop a firm grasp of business principles by applying these to real-life case studies, where the emphasis is on decision-making and problem-solving. Independent learning is also an important feature of the course.

Ever thought about these? Can we identify the key characteristics of successful entrepreneurs? How do you motivate people in the workplace? Does paying them more really work? What is a balance sheet; an income statement; a cash flow forecast and a sales budget? What is limited liability?

Business Studies combines well with many subjects and allows you to keep your literacy, numeracy and IT skills sharp.

	Content
Topic 1	Marketing & People: meeting customer needs, the market, marketing mix and strategy, managing people, and entrepreneurs and leaders.
Topic 2	Managing Business Activity: raising finance, financial planning, managing finance, resource management and external influences.
Topic 3	Business Decisions & Strategy: business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques and influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness, managing change.
Topic 4	Global Business: globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing and global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

University Courses and Careers

The course develops some important skills such as the ability to think critically and is therefore highly regarded by employers and universities.

Many go on to study Business, Management, Marketing or Finance related degrees at university or Business apprenticeships.

Chemistry

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and underpins a wide range of science-based degree courses and careers.

This is a qualification which allows you to acquire not only high levels of numeracy and logic, but also analytical and practical skills which are highly attractive to a wide range of employers, not just within the scientific sector, but across all areas such as the Financial, Legal and Academic worlds.

Students who take Chemistry pursue a variety of courses besides the most typical Physical and Biological Sciences.



The Course

The course is divided into Physical, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. Lessons are held in the laboratories and involve the teaching of theory and fundamental chemical principles balanced with a high level of experimental work. Practical work allows you to become familiar with a wide range of techniques and apparatus and will prepare you for a practical degree course. Investigative work and research work form part of the endorsement together with a significant proportion of calculation work within the physical chemistry topics.

Physical Chemistry: covers areas including chemical calculations, thermodynamics, energetics, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, together with pH calculations of weak and strong acids.

Inorganic Chemistry: focuses on the chemistry of Group 2 and 7 together with an in-depth study of the transition metal group and the elements of Period 3.

Organic Chemistry: includes alkanes, alkenes and will move on to look at the reactions of alcohols, carbonyls, amines and further functional groups which require organic analysis. Also within the organic section, spectroscopic methods, as well as nuclear magnetic resonance, are studied. The new course now includes a section on Biochemistry, which covers amino acids, proteins and DNA.

Exams and Assessment

The final examinations will consist of three written papers all two hours in length.

Exams	Content
Paper 1	Examines the Physical and Inorganic Chemistry – 35% of the marks.
Paper 2	Examines Physical and Organic Chemistry – 35% of the marks.
Paper 3	Is synoptic but focused on the practical skills gained in the course - 30% of the marks.
Practical	The practical endorsement is a pass/fail qualification. Experiments covered in the lessons qualify you to develop the necessary skills in order to pass this. A good practical understanding is a vital part of the course and is examined extensively in the written papers.

University Courses and Careers

Chemistry is vital when applying for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy. Students combine Chemistry with a number of arts and humanities subjects and may continue after school to read Law, Philosophy, Geography or Environmental Sciences amongst many subjects.

Classical Civilisation

Exam Board: OCR

Why choose this course?

An engaging course designed to provide you with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature and culture of the classical world. No knowledge of Latin or Greek is necessary - everything is read in English - and it is open to all students.

This course places emphasis on enabling you to engage critically with a wealth of sources and ideas, equipping you with analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects and further study of the classical world.



The Course

Classical Civilisation comprises three distinct components, each with clear and well-defined content.

In Year 12, we start with 'The World of the Hero' topic and study Homer's *Odyssey* - the adventures of Odysseus as he returns home after the Trojan War. The second Year 12 topic is 'Greek Theatre' - a combination of Athenian tragedy, comedy and archaeological source material.

In Year 13 we will study Virgil's *Aeneid*, a Roman epic celebrating the rise to power of Julius Caesar's adoptive son Augustus. The final topic is 'Greek religion' and involves aspects of philosophy, religion, social history and archaeology.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
The World of the Hero This is a compulsory component comprising of an in-depth study of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Homer's <i>Odyssey</i>Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i>	The World of the Hero 100 Marks 2 hour 20 minutes paper	40% of total A Level
Culture and the Arts This topic involves the study of visual and material culture combined with the study of literature in translation. We offer The Greek Theatre.	Culture and the Arts 75 Marks 1 hour 45 minutes paper	30% of total A Level
Beliefs and Ideas This topic involves the study of an area of classical thought, in combination with either the study of literature in translation or visual/material culture. We offer 'The Politics of the Late Republic.'	Beliefs and Ideas 75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes paper	30% of total A Level

University Courses and Careers

Classical Civilisation combines well with English Literature, Drama, Religious Studies, History and Latin, or could provide a contrast with other subjects (e.g. Sciences) in order to broaden your education. It could lead on to a degree in Classical Studies, Ancient History, Archaeology, English or other humanities courses at university.

Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Why choose this course?

This qualification gives an insight into a range of computing systems, including an understanding of the principles of programming and problem solving. The course is not just about programming or learning to use tools; instead, the emphasis is on gaining an understanding of computing and computational thinking. It also provides excellent preparation for those looking to take Computing at degree level or employment where a good knowledge of computing would be beneficial.



The Course

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. Within the course we cover a range of topics, including the principles and understanding required for programming, the hardware and software which make up a computer system and the implications of computer use. It is very much a creative subject, combining invention and excitement, and the lessons will include a combination of practical and theoretical work alongside individual research, group work and problem solving.

Content Overview:

- Characteristics of processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Network communication between computer systems
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms
- Programming project – applying the principles of computational thinking

Exams and Assessment

Exams	Assessment Overview	
Computer Systems The internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.	140 Marks 2 hr 30 minutes	40% of total A Level
Algorithms and Programming Using computational thinking to solve problems.	140 Marks 2 hr 30 minutes	40% of total A Level
Non-Examined Assessment (the project) Analyse a problem of your choice, design a solution, develop and test that solution, and evaluate and document the completed program.	70 Marks	20% of total A Level

University Courses and Careers

Opportunities are available in a huge variety of industry sectors and organisations including Financial, IT, Management Consultancy, Software Houses, Communication Companies, Multinational Companies, Government Agencies, Education and Healthcare.

Dance

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

You will enjoy practical lessons developing your technique and choreography skills, as well as performance evenings and workshops from visiting performers. Work will be undertaken as a soloist and as part of a duo or trio group. Theory lessons consist of group tasks, research and presentations.

There are many degree courses available after A Level. Degrees and Masters are available in choreography, performance and dance movement therapy, plus combined honours degrees.



The Course

Each component will be studied in depth across each term as elements overlap or directly inform one another, so that theory is embedded into practical work and vice versa.

Year 12:

Component 1: Choreography and performance of a solo performance in a duet or trio.

Component 2: Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two areas of study: one compulsory (Rambert Dance Company) and one optional area of study (from a choice of four).

Year 13:

Component 1: Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study. Performance in a quartet and group choreography.

Component 2: Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works: one compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study and one optional set work within the corresponding area of study (from a choice of four).

Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Year 12	<p>Practical exam - 80 marks - 50% of AS Level</p> <p>Written exam: 2 hours - 80 marks - 50% of AS Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: short answer questions on own practice (15 marks).• Section B: short answer questions on the compulsory area of study (15 marks).• Section C: two essay questions on both areas of study – compulsory essay (25 marks) and an essay from a choice of four (25 marks).
Year 13	<p>Practical exam - 80 marks - 50% of AS Level</p> <p>Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 100 marks - 50% of A Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/area of study.• Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay).

University Courses and Careers

Future careers can include Teaching, Performer, Arts Administrator, Education Coordinator, Artist in Residence, Critic, Historian, Choreographer, Dance Movement Therapist, Instructor, Tour Manager and Dance Company Director.

Drama & Theatre

Exam Board: Pearson/Edexcel

Why choose this course?

A course that combines a balance of practical and theoretical elements. You will extend your ability to create, analyse and evaluate drama and theatre.

Focusing on key play texts and theatre practitioners, we will use practical exploration to develop a detailed understanding that will lead to assessment of performance, portfolio work and written examinations. Workshops and trips to live theatre performances form part of the course.



The Course

Practical sessions in the Theatre and Performing Arts Studio will be reflected on in written lessons and homework tasks to build a highly analytical approach. Throughout the course, our focus will be on the final assessment criteria:

- Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre-making process, making connections between dramatic theory and practice.
- Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre are developed and performed.
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and the work of others.

Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Devising (40 %)	Creating an original performance piece, through workshops and rehearsal, using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. Completing a portfolio of written evidence covering the areas of interpreting, creating, developing, analysing and evaluating the work (60 marks). Performance or design role within the performance (20 marks).
Text In Performance (20 %)	A group performance of one key extract from a performance text (36 marks), and a monologue or duologue performance from a different performance text (24 marks). Practical performance skills assessed by a visiting examiner.
Theatre Makers In Practice (40 %)	Section A: Live theatre evaluation – Analysing and evaluating a performance seen in light of a given statement (20 marks). Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text – Two extended responses based on realising an unseen extract of a text that has been studied practically in class (36 marks). Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text. One extended response on a re-imagined performance concept of the studied text, in response to a chosen practitioner, that will communicate ideas to a contemporary audience.

University Courses and Careers

Students may go on to the further study of Drama or Performing Arts at university. The Drama and Theatre A Level course complements a range of subjects and is useful in building transferable skills, including research, analysis, evaluation, presentation, communication and interpretation.

Economics

Exam Board: Cambridge International

Why choose this course?

There has never been a more exciting time to study economics. Many of the most important issues facing society and indeed the world have a very clear economic dimension. The course addresses the current economic issues: cost of living crisis, energy prices, productivity gap, Brexit and government borrowing/debt.

Whether you are concerned with global warming or global trade, whether you are looking at issues related to world financial markets you cannot get far without a knowledge of economics.

Economics is a qualification well respected by employers.



The Course

This course aims to give you an understanding of and stimulate your interest in how economies work – at personal, national and global levels. Economics is an analytical subject and combines well with all subjects. The nature of the concepts studied allows you to develop further important literacy, numeracy and IT skills within the context of issues of contemporary relevance and importance.

Theme 1: Basic economic ideas and resource allocation.

Theme 2: The price system and the micro-economy.

Theme 3: Government micro-economic intervention.

Theme 4: The macro economy.

Theme 5: Government macro intervention.

Exams and Assessment

Exams	Content
Paper 1 Multiple Choice 1 hour (20%)	30 multiple choice questions based on the AS Level syllabus content (30 marks).
Paper 2 Data Response and Essay 2 hours (30%)	Section A: one Data response question (20 marks). Section B: two structured essay from a choice of four (20 marks each). Based on the AS Level syllabus content (40 marks).
Paper 3 Multiple Choice 1 hour 15 minutes (15%)	30 multiple choice questions based on the A Level syllabus content (30 marks).
Paper 4 Data Response and Essays 2 hours (35%)	Section A: one data response question (20 marks). Section B: two essays from a choice of four (50 marks) based on the A Level syllabus content (70 marks).

University Courses and Careers

Most students excel in this subject, in 2022, 67% of students achieved A*/A.

Many students go on to study Economics or a closely related course at university. The subject opens up a range of potential careers including Professional Economist, Law, Banking, Finance and Accountancy, Marketing and Journalism.

English

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

Studying English Literature at A level builds upon core skills acquired at GCSE: close reading and language analysis; critical thinking; research and referencing; sustaining a complex argument and responding to counter-arguments; effective communication (including grammar and spelling); creativity and the ability to take a range of critical approaches to a variety of texts underpinned by a secure understanding of British social history.



The Course

In Year 12 you will study 'Love through the Ages' which takes a thematic approach to literature from Shakespeare to the modern day. This unit explores various aspects of love and texts studied will be wide ranging, encompassing drama, poetry and prose written at differing points in history.

'Texts Within a Shared Context' will cover texts post-1945 to the present day, again involving the study of drama, poetry and prose. You will explore contemporary literature's engagement with some of the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century.

	Content					
Year 12	Shakespeare: Othello Poetry: Pre-20th Century	Shakespeare: Othello Poetry: Post-20th Century	Novel: Jane Eyre Poetry: Post-20th Century	Novel: Jane Eyre Literary Movements	Text study and Non-Examined Assessment preparation Unseen Prose	Text study and Non-Examined Assessment preparation Drama: All My Sons
Year 13	NEA pit-stop Drama Study: All My Sons	Poetry: Skirrid Hill Revision of post-1900 poetry	The Handmaid's Tale NEA pit-stop	Unseen Prose Exam revision and practice	Exam revision and practice	

Exams and Assessment

Examinations are sat at the end of Year 13, however, there will be regular assessment of class work and homework in addition to a more formal assessment at the end of each half-term.

The non-examined assessment is worth 20% of the final A Level and involves an independent critical comparison of two texts. Students will be supported in their choice of texts and topic, and appropriate lesson time will be devoted to independent work.

University Courses and Careers

This course is widely regarded as an academic and challenging A Level, which shows universities and employers that you can engage meaningfully with complex ideas at a detailed level, communicate your thoughts and opinions in a logical and structured manner and that you have the ability to apply yourself in a range of contexts and working styles.

Fine Art

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

With the students' interests and strengths at the heart of the A Level course, the focus is on the individual artist's practice. Encouraged to explore a range of approaches and techniques, students are given the freedom to develop within a safe environment.

Working in the studio, they are given their own dedicated, personal space for the entire course. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively with their peers and group critiques are a valuable part of the course.



The Course

All students follow the Fine Art endorsement which allows for a broad range of approaches. This is an exciting and challenging course that promotes independent thinking. Experimentation is encouraged with students exploring through trial and error. Contextualising their practice, they develop their knowledge and understanding of Art history and the contemporary Art world. The department provides the opportunity to work in a wide variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, installation, mixed media, textiles, and collage.

	Content & Assessment
Unit One	Personal Investigation For this unit students are required to choose their own starting point for their investigation. The course is structured from the beginning with short briefs which allow students to explore their initial ideas as they plan their theme. With one-to-one tutorials students are guided and fully supported throughout the project. Students will be required to write a dissertation of approximately 3000 words, contextualising and recording their art practice. The coursework unit is 60% of their final grade.
Unit Two	Externally Set Exam Students are required to respond to a question paper released by the examination board in February of Year 13. They work through the project, with the same assessment objectives as for the personal investigation. The final outcome is realised in a 15 hour examination. The externally set task is 40% of their final grade.

University Courses and Careers

The Fine Art course is a well respected, valued and admissible A Level for all degree courses. Future degree courses for students studying Art A Level include: Architecture, Fine Art, History of Art, Product Design, and Fashion Communication. Career opportunities include Artist, Illustration, Design, Marketing, Set Design and all aspects of the creative arts.

French

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

French is a global language and is spoken in many countries. Studying French allows you to develop your language skills and offers the opportunity to explore the literary, historical and cultural traditions of France.

This is a qualification that allows you to develop your language skills and will provide you with opportunities to work abroad and is also a useful foundation for a variety of degrees. Students who study French have careers in a variety of roles including Civil Service, Business and Journalism.



The Course

French comprises three distinct components which look at French society.

In Year 12, we start with looking at aspects of French-speaking society and current trends including ways in which family structures are changing and how technology has become part of our lives. We then look at artistic culture and the importance of heritage, French cinema and contemporary French music.

In Year 13 we will study multi-culturalism, discrimination and the issues of crime and punishment in France. Politics within France will also be studied including strikes and immigration.

Students must also study one text and one film. Our chosen film is "Entre les murs" and our text is "No et moi".

	Content
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1: intensive grammar programme linked to thematic content.• Phase 2: development of all skills through theme-linked teaching and learning.• Phase 3a: the practice of exam-specific skills and assessment tasks in speaking, essay writing, listening, reading, summary writing and translation into and from target language.• Phase 3b: 'top up' teaching on film or book to meet A Level requirements.
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1: development of skills in the two theme areas of Year 13.• Phase 2: as for phase 1 with less time spent on the second work and more time spent on social issues.

Exams and Assessment

- Oral Exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) - 60 marks in total (30%)
- Grammar Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 160 marks in total (40%)
- Written Exam: 2 hours - 90 marks in total (30%)

University Courses and Careers

Modern languages can be studied at many universities in Great Britain e.g. Bath, Bristol, Exeter. Languages can be taken in conjunction with other subjects e.g. European Studies at Warwick or Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge. Previous students have gone on to work as an Interpreter at The Hague in Brussels; International Relations in China and International Banking and Diplomacy in the Foreign Office.

Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

A Level Geography is an exciting and unique subject, which combines the arts and the sciences. It complements a wide range of university courses and provides an excellent basis for developing valuable skills which are sought by employers. Geography is a diverse subject that helps learners develop a broad skill set.



The Course

Year One:

Autumn Term – Changing Places and Hazards.

Spring Term - Water and Carbon Cycle and Coastal Systems and Landscapes.

Summer Term - Coursework preparation.

Year Two:

Autumn Term – Coursework write up.

Spring Term- Global systems and Governance and Contemporary Urban Environments.

Students will experience a range of activities that are stimulating and engaging. These include an enquiry-based approach to learning, where the emphasis is on decision making and reasoning. This approach will help learners develop some of the key skills which are demanded at university and in the workplace. Students will refine their essay writing and improve their ability to extract and synthesize information, alongside conducting their own research.

Exams and Assessment

1 x Written Examination 2 hours 30 minutes on Human Geography

1 x Written Examination 2 hours 30 minutes on Physical Geography

1 x Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (3000 - 4000 words) based on data collected in the field

University Courses and Careers

University courses that students may go on to study include: Geography BA/BSc, Environmental Science BSc, Meteorology MSc, Atmospheric Science MSc, Urban Planning BA, and Development Studies BA amongst many others. Geography is regarded as half-art and half-science, it also complements students who wish to progress to fields such as Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture or Engineering.

Students may go on to career paths such as Climate Change Analyst, Climatologist, Meteorologist, Pollution Analyst, Surveyor or Town Planner to name but a few possibilities.

History

Exam Board: AQA (7042KS)

Why choose this course?

A Level History is an exciting course with a brand-new look. This is a course that will offer intrigue, controversy and relevance throughout the two-year syllabus. Students who love History and have a keen interest in the development of both Britain and the USA will find this course hugely enjoyable and stimulating.

History is a fascinating subject and will appeal to those who are interested in understanding their sense of place in the world and how our world today has been shaped by the events of the past. A Level History particularly complements the study of Politics, Geography and Economics. We hope to offer at least a trip to Parliament to meet our local MP and enjoy a tour of the Palace of Westminster, as well as possibly a trip to the USA.



The Course

The A Level course is taught by two teachers, with each teacher responsible for specific elements of the syllabus. In Unit 1 The Making of a Superpower, students explore the emergence of the USA from the shadow of the Civil War of the 1860s into the post-war Superpower of the latter 20th century. In Unit 2 The Making of Modern Britain, the focus is on the development and change to Britain as it steps out from the spectre of the Second World War into the second half of the twentieth century. Both units focus heavily on both the social and political changes that occur in Britain and the USA. Unit 3 is the coursework unit. Students will be supported in a personal investigation of an aspect of Tudor and Stuart England.

Exams and Assessment

A Level examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13. There are 2 x 2 hour 30 minutes papers, each worth 40% of the qualification and the submission of a piece of coursework at the end of Year 13.

Unit 1 The Making of a Superpower

2 Hour 30 minute exam worth 40% of the qualification. Questions are in essay form, including the analysis of source material.

Unit 2 The Making of Modern Britain

2 Hour 30 minute exam worth 40% of the qualification. Questions are in essay form, including the analysis of source material.

Unit 3 Coursework – Tudor and Stuart England

4,500 word individual study. 20% of the qualification.

University Courses and Careers

A Level History is a critical stepping-stone for those who wish to continue their passion for the subject at university. For others, History will aid the development of key skills that are hugely desirable at universities and in future careers, such as critical analysis and interpreting and evaluating information to make informed judgements. It is an academic subject with a strong reputation which will provide an excellent background and complement many university and career choices such as Journalism, Law, Economics, Business and Management.

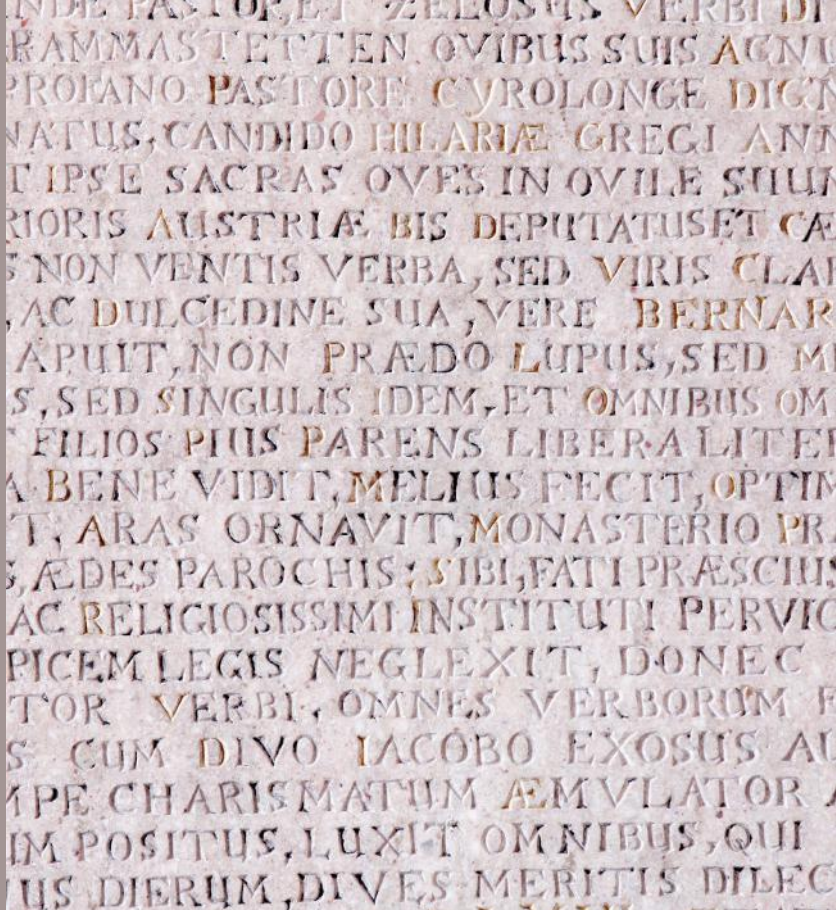
Latin

Exam Board: OCR

Why choose this course?

A Level Latin introduces students to a greater range of vocabulary and offers a more detailed study of prose and verse and a deeper understanding of the life and culture of the ancient world.

Latin is very highly respected by university admission teams and employers as you will have been trained to analyse texts with precision.



The Course

We will start by focusing on extending your knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures. Much of the grammar will have been taught at GCSE, but this is thoroughly revised and extended at A Level, with the aim of increasing reading fluency of Latin texts. You will regularly be given graded passages of Latin prose and verse for unseen translation in order to build up your translation skills.

As we progress, the range of Roman authors you read in the original Latin will broaden and in this way you will build confidence in your awareness and understanding of vocabulary, accidence and syntax and also gain a deeper insight into Roman culture. To this end, extended reading in English will be done alongside your studies of Latin texts. Studying set texts of Latin literature will be the focus at the later stages of the course. You will be reading authors such as Cicero, Tacitus, Catullus and Ovid. You will learn to evaluate and respond to these works of Latin literature, analysing the authors' use of language and thus extending the literary critical skills that you developed at GCSE.

Exams and Assessment

Unseen Translation (01): 100 marks - 1 hour 45 minute paper - Written paper - 33%

Prose Composition or Comprehension (02) - 50 marks - 1 hour 15 minute paper - Written paper - 17%

Prose Literature (03) - 75 marks - 2 hour paper - Written paper - 25%

Verse Literature (04) - 75 marks - 2 hour paper - Written paper - 25%

University Courses and Careers

Latin is a very highly regarded A Level. Latin combines well with English, History, Classical Civilisation, Modern Languages and, interestingly, Mathematics, Physics and Computing. At university Latin can be studied as Classics, often alongside Classical Greek, and can also be of great benefit to those taking degrees in English, History, Linguistics, Medieval and Modern Languages, Philosophy and Medicine. Latin is particularly valued by faculties of Law, as Latinists have been solidly trained to analyse texts with precision and to express thoughts and ideas clearly and coherently.

Employers have a high opinion of Classicists because they are hard-working, articulate, accurate and efficient, take new tasks in their stride and can master situations intelligently. Most Classics graduates go into careers such as Law, the Media, Accountancy, the Civil Service and Business. Classics graduates also include Bankers, Barristers, Solicitors, Actors, Musicians and Theatrical Artistic Directors.

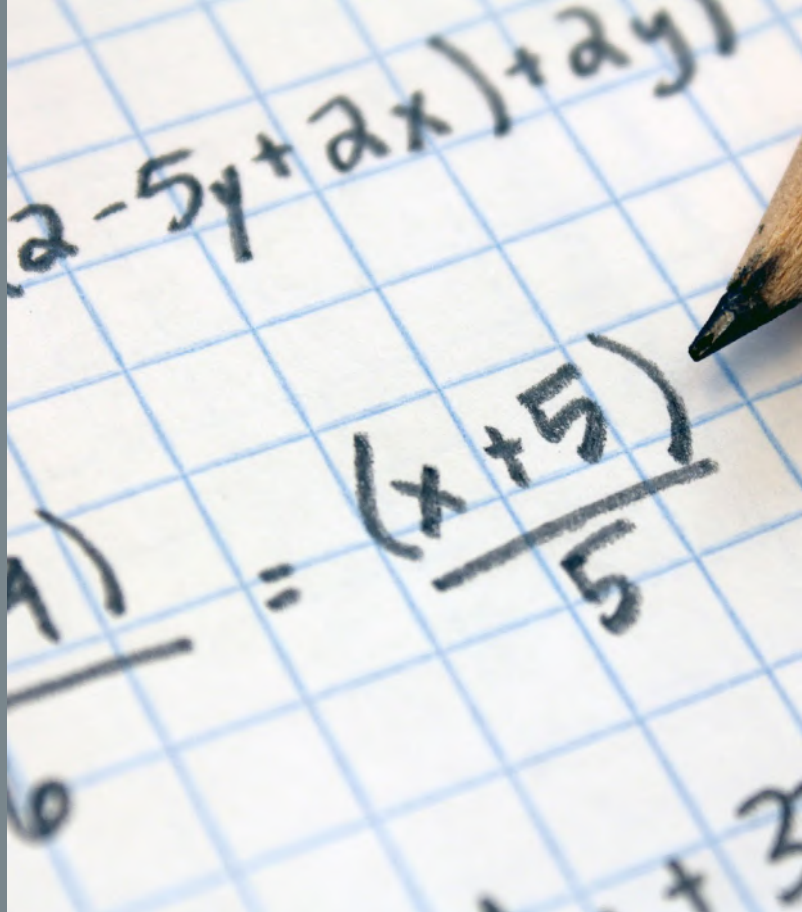
Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why choose this course?

Studying Mathematics at A Level gives you a great platform, even if you do not go on to pursue it at degree level. A Level Mathematics is vital for students interested in studying any of the sciences or engineering at university.

The study of Mathematics allows you to develop your ability to solve mathematical problems as well as abstract and scientific ones too. You will learn how to analyse patterns, structures and problems. These skills can then be applied to many different areas of your life.



The Course

This consists of Pure Maths, Statistics and Mechanics.

In Year 12 Pure Mathematics develops the mathematics studied at GCSE level and covers topics such as proof, exponentials and logarithms, algebraic methods, trigonometry, vectors and calculus. Statistics includes presentation and interpretation of data, statistical sampling, probability and hypothesis testing. In mechanics you will learn about kinematics, forces and Newton's laws.

In Year 13, the Mathematics course extends trigonometry and calculus further plus topics such as numerical methods and parametric equations. In statistics, we look at correlation and regression, the normal distribution and conditional probability. Mechanics involves looking further into kinematics, forces, friction and projectiles.

Exams and Assessment

You will take three 2 hour papers at the end of Year 13, two in Pure Mathematics and one in Statistics and Mechanics.

All papers are equally weighted and calculators are allowed in each.

University Courses and Careers

A Level Mathematics is vital for students interested in studying any of the sciences or engineering at university. It is also advantageous for students planning to study Accountancy, Business, Computing, Economics and Psychology.

Career progression includes Accountancy, Banking, Finance, Insurance and Actuarial Science, Statistician, Meteorology, Logistics, IT and Engineering.

Further Mathematics

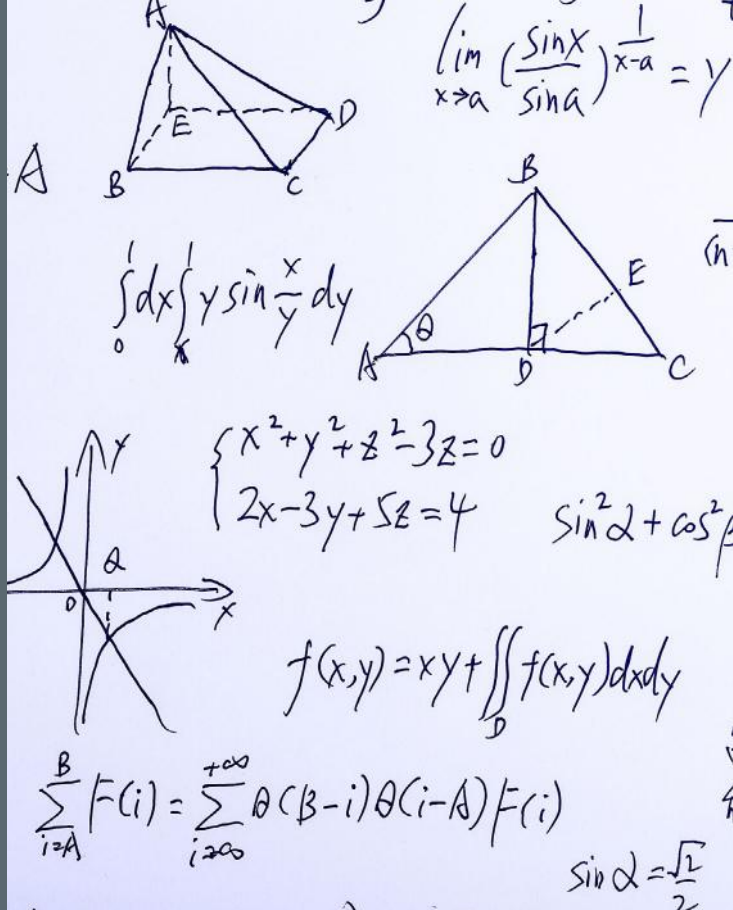
Exam Board: Edexcel

Why choose this course?

You can study A Level Further Mathematics alongside A Level Mathematics and a further two A Levels.

Further Maths gives you a broader knowledge of mathematical principles. Some universities require both qualifications from those applying to study maths at undergraduate level.

Further Mathematics is a highly regarded course for potential applicants to Oxford and Cambridge.



The Course

You must have opted for Mathematics, although you may be taught separately to the single maths group. You will study all of the A Level Mathematics content, plus Further Pure Maths as well as optional extra Statistics and Mechanics. Decision Maths options are also available.

Exams and Assessment

You will take 4 x 90 minute papers at the end of Year 13, two in Pure Maths and two optional papers in either Pure, Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Maths.

University Courses and Careers

A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Maths are advantageous for students interested in studying Maths, Engineering or Physics at university. It is also advantageous for students planning to study Accountancy, Business, Computing, Economics and Psychology. Further Maths is a highly regarded course for potential applicants to Oxford and Cambridge.

Career progression includes Accountancy, Banking, Finance, Insurance and Actuarial Science, Statistician, Meteorology, Logistics, IT and Engineering.

Music

Exam Board: Eduqas/WJEC

Why choose this course?

The course involves performing, composing, listening to and appraising music. You will improve your skills as a performer and composer studying both classical and popular styles of music.

Our exam board has been chosen as it offers a great deal of flexibility in terms of subject content and is the only board to offer a live recital option.



The Course

The three main sections of the course are Performance, Composition and Appraisal. Students may choose to specialise in performance or composition and choose from a list of topics for appraisal.

Performance: 35% or 25%. For this part of the course students prepare for a short recital with their instrumental or vocal teacher. The standard attained should be a minimum of ABRSM Grade VI and the recital may be on any instrument or voice. Repertoire is chosen from any of the Areas of Study, so can include Western Classical Music, Jazz, Musicals, Rock and Pop, 20th or 21st Century Music and one own-choice piece. If a student plays pieces which are a more difficult level than Grade VI their mark is scaled up.

Composition: 35% or 25%. Compositional techniques are taught as part of the course and composition is carried out in the lessons as coursework. One composition is a free choice while the second is written to one of a choice of briefs set by the exam board. The third composition (if Composition is the major option) should relate to one of the other Areas of Study.

Listening and Appraisal: 40%. This part of the course has one compulsory section and two sections which are chosen by the student or teacher. The compulsory element focuses on the development of the symphony from 1750 to 1900. The second topic can be selected from Jazz, Popular Music and Music Theatre. This part of the exam comprises listening tests where students answer questions on an unfamiliar piece and then compare two extracts of music. The final topic can be chosen from 20th or 21st Century Music.

Exams and Assessment

The student chooses the weighting for performance and composition according to their own strengths and interests. Compositions are written during lessons and are assessed externally. The recital is performed to a visiting examiner. There is one written examination for the listening and appraisal part of the course.

University Courses and Careers

An A Level in Music can lead to further study at universities or conservatoires. The top universities consider Music to be a very academic subject and employers value musicians as they have excellent interpersonal skills, as well as being organised and highly motivated from managing their time practising an instrument whilst carrying out other studies. Careers in Music include performing, composing, teaching, artist management, music editing for films, music therapy, concert hall management, army or navy musician, orchestra manager and many others.

Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into sports performance. This A Level provides a combination of physical performance and academic challenge, which is exciting to study.

To achieve high grades it is expected that pupils will be participating in regular practices and competitive sporting situations. Lessons consist of discussion work, individual research, presentations, the interpretation and analysis of information and practical tasks.



The Course

The A Level specification in Physical Education aims to equip students with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical education. This course aims to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.
- Understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance.
- Understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport.
- Understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport.
- Refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance.
- Understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness.
- Improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.

Exams and Assessment

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport. 2 hour written exam, 35% of A Level. Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology; Section B: Skill acquisition; Section C: Sport and society.

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport. 2 hour written exam, 35% of A Level.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Students assessed as a performer or a coach in the full-sided version of the one activity, plus verbal/written analysis of performance. Assessed internally and then externally moderated. 30% of A Level.

University Courses and Careers

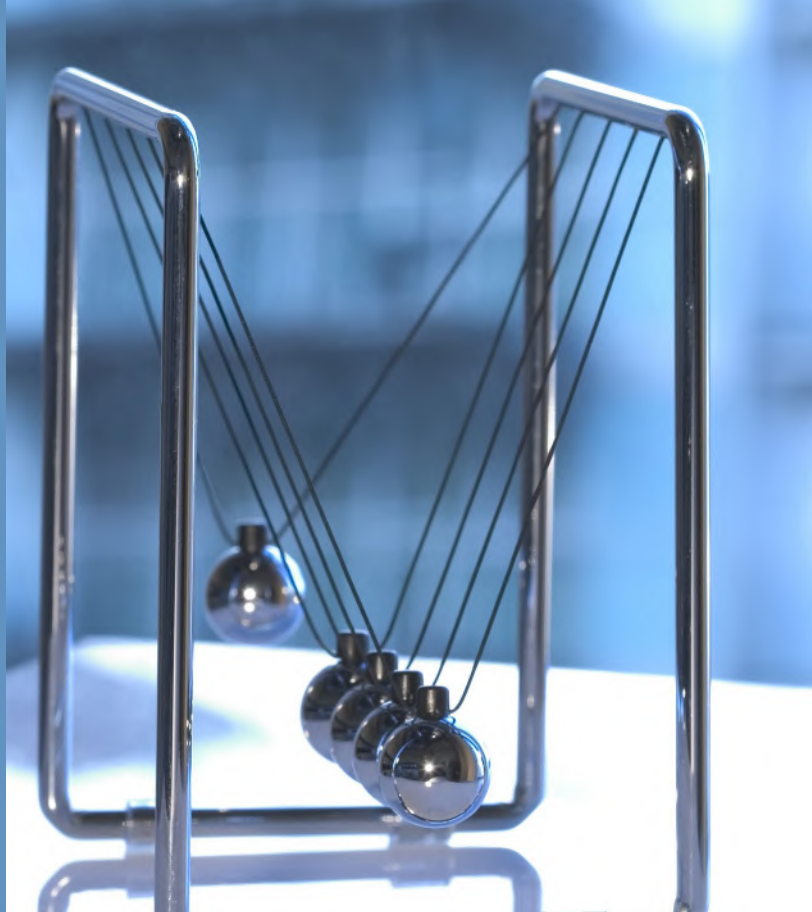
Physical Education has many transferable skills, which universities will be looking for in applicants. You can study a sport or leisure-related course at university such as Exercise Physiology, Sport Psychology, Physiotherapy, Personal Training, Sports Management and Coaching and Biomedical Sciences or other sports-related degrees. Career opportunities following an A Level in PE include Physiotherapist, Sports Journalist, Sports Photographer, Sports Analyst, Sports Lawyer, Sports Commentator, S&C Coach, Leisure and Operations Manager, Sports Researcher, PE Teacher, Sports Agent, Professional Sportsperson and Sports Scientist.

Physics

Exam Board: Edexcel Physics (9PH0)

Why choose this course?

Physics is a fascinating subject that uses theory and experiments to understand ourselves, the world and the universe. Through studying Physics you will gain an in-depth knowledge of mechanics, electric circuits, materials, waves, particles, nuclear radiation, thermodynamics and space through both practical and theoretical lessons. You will develop and apply your analytical and problem-solving skills to a range of theoretical and practical situations. Gaining an A Level in Physics opens up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options as it is a very desirable and well-regarded qualification.



The Course

The content is taught by two teachers concurrently and includes the following topics:

Year 12:

- Working as a physicist
- Mechanics
- Electric circuits
- Materials
- Waves and the particle nature of light

Year 13:

- Further mechanics and oscillations
- Thermodynamics
- Fields – gravitational, electric and magnetic
- Nuclear and particle physics
- Space

Exams and Assessment

Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of total mark (half the specification content will be tested using a variety of question styles including multiple choice, short open, calculations and extended writing)

Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of total mark (testing the second half of the specification content with the same variety of question formats)

Paper 3 – 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of total mark (a synoptic paper which may draw on any aspect of the specification, question formats as above but omitting multiple choice). Paper 3 includes extended assessment of practical skills.

There is also a practical endorsement which is internally assessed by teaching staff over the two year course. The course includes 16 required core practicals which enable students to meet the necessary criteria.

University Courses and Careers

A Level Physics is highly regarded for entry to any degree course, even if not specifically stipulated as a requirement, such as Law or Business.

University opportunities include, but not limited to: Physics, Engineering (e.g. Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Aeronautical, Automotive, Manufacturing), Architecture, Materials Science, Medicine, Astrophysics, Natural Sciences, Space Science, Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Science and Dentistry.

Career opportunities include, for example: Particle Physicist, Meteorologist, Patent Attorney, Spacecraft Engineer, Geophysicist, Medical Physicist, Surgeon, Structural Engineer, Architect, Visual Effects Artist, Computer Programmer, Theoretical Physicist, Banker, Sports Engineer, Journalist, Mechanical Engineer, Lawyer, Architect, Environmental Technical Advisor...the possibilities are endless.

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why choose this course?

A Level Politics is an exciting and brand-new course here at IHS. This is a course that will offer controversy, relevance, and stimulation on a daily basis! Students who take a keen interest in current affairs, here in Britain, the US and globally will find this course hugely enjoyable and stimulating. Politics is a fascinating subject and will appeal to those who are interested in the world of government, how governments work and the political ideas behind many of the decisions that affect us daily.

A Level Politics complements the study of History, Geography and Economics.



The Course

The A Level course is taught by two teachers, with each teacher responsible for specific elements of the syllabus.

In Unit 1 UK Politics, students explore aspects such as political parties and electoral systems. As part of this unit, we will also study the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism, and socialism.

In Unit 2 UK Government, the focus is on the British system of government such as the constitution, parliament and executive. As part of this unit, we will also study one non-core political idea, likely to be either feminism or nationalism.

In Unit 3 Comparative Politics and the USA, students study the US Political System, such as the constitution and the US Congress. We will also study comparative theories in which we make comparisons to the British system.

We hope to offer at least a trip to Parliament to meet our local MP and enjoy a tour of the Palace of Westminster as well as possibly a trip to the USA.

Exams and Assessment

A Level examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13. There are three x 2 hour papers, each worth 33.3% of the qualification.

Unit 1 UK Politics: 2 Hour exam worth 33.3% of the qualification. Questions are in essay form, including the analysis of source material.

Unit 2 UK Government: 2 hour exam worth 33.3% of the qualification. Questions are in essay form, including the analysis of source material.

Unit 3 Comparative Politics - the USA: 2 hour exam worth 33.3% of the qualification. Questions are in essay form.

University Courses and Careers

The study of Politics should aid the development of key skills that are hugely desirable at both university and in future careers, such as critical analysis and interpreting and evaluating information to make informed judgements. It is an academic subject with a strong reputation which will provide an excellent background and complement many university and career choices such as Journalism, Law, Economics, Business and Management.

Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

Psychology is centred around understanding why we behave as we do. It allows students to explore how both dispositional and environmental factors influence behaviour and how to apply this to wider society.

This Psychology curriculum is accessible to all students, regardless of starting points in terms of psychological knowledge. The intention is that students will develop confidence in a subject at A Level and thrive on their love of learning.



The Course

The intent of the curriculum is that students will develop an ability to understand, apply, analyse, evaluate, and discuss psychological terms, concepts, research studies and explanations/ approaches of human behaviour; students will apply knowledge and understanding of material covered to ever changing real-life behaviours and learn to critically analyse the credibility of theories and research studies examined.

The Psychology A Level provides opportunities for an enriched understanding and appreciation of the subject by starting to integrate key issues and debates surrounding human behaviour; this should lead to a respect for all through deeper compassion and empathy for the diverse behaviours displayed by others and the wealth of issues experienced.

Year 12:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Biopsychology Part 1
- Approaches to Psychology
- Research Methods

Year 13:

- Biopsychology Part 2
- Issues and Debates
- Approaches
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression or Forensics
- Relationships or Gender
- Research Methods

Exams and Assessment

Year 12:

- All units are assessed internally at the end of each unit.

Year 13:

- Three 2 hour exams: Paper One - Introductory topics in Psychology, Paper Two - Psychology in context, Paper Three - Issues and opinions.
- Final formal examination will take place in June.

University Courses and Careers

Career opportunities, amongst many, include Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Criminal Psychologist, Further Education Teacher, Health Psychologist, Occupational Psychologist, Environmental Psychologists, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, Therapist, HR, Marketing and Advertising.

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Exam Board: OCR

Why choose this course?

This A Level enables students to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.



The Course

This A Level course in Religious Studies will encourage students to develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world. Students will adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion whilst reflecting on and developing their own values, opinions and attitudes during their study.

There is an emphasis on enabling students to respond critically and engage with a wealth of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts, equipping them with analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects. The course involves a range of teaching types including teacher-led lectures, debate, research and student presentations.

A Level Religious Studies Year 1

The specification includes exciting content exploring a study of Christianity, ethical issues and debates and the study of philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief.

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Development in Christian Thought

A Level Religious Studies Year 2

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- Development in Christian Thought

Exams and Assessment

- **Philosophy of Religion** – 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33.3% of total A Level
- **Religion and Ethics** - 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33.3% of total A Level
- **Developments in Christian Theology** - 120 marks, 2 hour written paper, 33.3% of total A Level

University Courses and Careers

Religious Studies is recognised as useful for a wide range of courses and is useful for a wide range of future careers including Law, Education, Anthropology, Media, Social Work, Politics and journalism.

Spanish

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why choose this course?

Spanish is a global language and is spoken in many countries. Studying Spanish offers you the opportunity to study a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries.

This is a qualification that allows you to develop your language skills and will provide you with opportunities to work abroad and is also a useful foundation for a variety of degrees.



The Course

The course is divided into four themes which address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. Students must also study one text and one film. Our chosen film is 'El Laberinto del Fauno' and our text is 'Como agua para chocolate'.

Year 12

Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad española

Theme 1 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante

Theme 2 is set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music, festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Year 13

Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española

Theme 3 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia

Theme 4 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers political culture.

Exams and Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation - 2 hours – 40% of the qualification – 80 marks

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation - 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of the qualification - 120 marks

Paper 3: Speaking (internally conducted and externally assessed) - 21 to 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) - 30% of the qualification – 72 marks

University Courses and Careers

Modern languages can be studied at many universities in Great Britain e.g. Bath, Bristol, Exeter. Languages can be taken in conjunction with other subjects e.g. European Studies at Warwick, Spanish and Web Design Marketing at Manchester Met or Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge. Previous students have gone on to work as an Interpreter at The Hague in Brussels; International Relations in China and International Banking and Diplomacy in the Foreign Office.

Three Dimensional Design

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

This is an exciting and challenging course that develops your skills in research, idea development, 3D experimentation, creative making, visionary thinking and evaluation. The course involves project-based learning and self-directed briefs tailored to your own career choices with many previous students becoming designers or working in the creative industry.



The Course

The Three Dimensional Design A Level involves project-based learning, self-directed briefs, research lessons, idea generation and visionary thinking, experimentation, modelling, group work, practical skills and project management.

Year 1, Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio 60%

You are required to produce a portfolio of experimental design work which will include one full project that could potentially have a number of three dimensional outcomes. Emphasis for the first term is on developing new skills. Over the course of the year, you will learn how to be more inventive and start to develop your own approach to the design process. The starting point for the portfolio is usually a departmental visit to an interesting location or museum in order to take inspiration for your project.

Year 1, Unit 2: Controlled Test 40%

You are given a set of themes as a starting point by the exam board. Using one of these themes you will develop your ideas to create an idea for a building, product or piece of furniture. You will have a five hour practical exam to produce a scale model or final piece.

Year 2, Unit 1: Personal Investigation 60%

The A2 course recognises that you are now mature and independent designers. You are now required to write your own brief for a major project which will be tailored to your future career interests. At the end of the two years, you will exhibit all the design work you have produced across the two years.

Year 2, Unit 2: Controlled Assignment 40%.

In this unit, you will choose a starting point which is set by the examination board. You will plan and prepare an idea to produce in a final 15 hour practical exam. Alongside all practical work completed during the A Level course you are required to produce a research document or sketchbook for each project.

Exams and Assessment

Mock practical exam and final 15 hour exam over three days to build your final piece.

University Courses and Careers

Students can go on to study anything from Medicine to Law and to all areas of the creative industries. Career progression can include: Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design, Model Making, Animation, User Experience Design, User Interface Design, Games Design, Theatre Design and Sculpture.

EPQ

Exam Board: AQA

Why choose this course?

The Extended Project Qualification is delivered as part of the academic enrichment curriculum.

The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product. This will take place throughout Year 12 with presentations given in the autumn term of Year 13.



The Course

In the autumn term of Year 12, you will be taught the key skills essential for the successful management of your project. These key skills include project planning, time management tools, how to access, analyse and evaluate a range of primary and secondary data and the importance of accurate academic referencing.

In the second term you will be ready to complete a project proposal and to begin working on your own research. At this point, you are allocated a supervisor who has regular meetings with you to monitor your progress. Taught skills continue throughout the spring and summer terms as you develop and realise your project. Your finished product can be a research-based written report or an artefact which is supported by a written report.

In the autumn term of Year 13, you will arrange and deliver a presentation, complete your project product and undertake to reflect on the process. All stages of the process need to be evidenced in your logbook and marks are awarded holistically to reflect your ability to meet the assessment objectives.

Exams and Assessment

Your completed project product, along with your logbook, must show that you have met the following assessment objectives: Manage: 20%, Use Resources: 20%, Develop and Realise: 40%, Review: 20%. All work is moderated by AQA and you will be awarded a grade of A*- E. The UCAS tariff on these grades is equivalent to half an A Level.

University Courses and Careers

The EPQ is highly regarded by all universities. Some will give attractive alternative offers to EPQ students and all universities recognise the valuable skills which are developed through the project.

The University of Manchester states that 'The skills that students develop through the Extended Projects are directly relevant to and useful for university-level study. Students can refer to the Extended Project in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate some of the qualities that universities are looking for'.

Other leading universities echo these advantages of undertaking the EPQ. The University of Oxford, for example, states that 'qualifications such as the EPQ can be one way of demonstrating the academic abilities that will be required for the intense studying of an Oxford degree'.



IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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