



SHIRLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM



Welcome to Shirley High School Sixth Form



At Shirley High School we believe that through hard work and opportunity all students have the capability to fulfil their potential and become successful global citizens. Shirley High School has been under new leadership since September 2019 and since that time we have made significant improvements and investments in our students, staff and school. We are delighted that all our hard work has seen a significant improvement in results across the school. We are extremely proud of our results and delighted that so many Sixth Form students went on to University, apprenticeships and employment. This year we are committed to

achieving further success and believe that this will be achieved through open and transparent communication with our families and the local community.

It is an exciting time to be joining Shirley High School Sixth Form. We are determined to enhance the life experience of all our students and ensure that they receive the best education possible. Throughout their time at Shirley High School we will do all we can to support our students to achieve and gain full control over what they do next with their lives. It is important that we have your support in ensuring that your child attends all the additional opportunities we provide and encourage them to work hard and read around their subjects at home.

This is an exciting time in our proud history as we continue to redesign the physical and cultural aspects of our school. You would have seen, first-hand, the changes that have and are being made across our school, from innovative and diverse curriculum design to a brand new, state-of-the-art gym and performing arts and science facilities. We are delighted to be an independent, stand-alone academy with the flexibility to meet the changing needs of our students.

Please take the time to go through this booklet and as always, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

I want to close by saying that everyone at Shirley High School is committed to the young people of our community. We believe that an excellent education, a thirst for knowledge, respect and high aspirations can and will enable our students to succeed in whatever they decide to do, and we urge your child to fully embrace and recognise the power of learning and self-discovery.

Mr T Myton, Principal

On behalf of the Sixth Form Tutors, the Sixth Form 'Top 6' and all our students, we would like to welcome you to Shirley High School Sixth Form. It is our aim to ensure you are fully prepared for after 14 years of compulsory education, whether that be studying at university, completing an apprenticeship or entering the world of work. That is why we have created a culture where all our students are scholarly and professional in everything that they do. We feel that these two words embody everything that we expect of our students in the sixth form. This approach has led to fantastic outcomes: last year, we had students leave us to attend universities of Cambridge, Bristol and King's College amongst others and 1 in 5 grades was A*, A or equivalent.



We are proud of the range of subjects we have to offer students to prepare them for the next stage of their life. This booklet aims to give you an overview of each of your choices. Please also take the time to read why we believe we offer a unique experience at Shirley: our wide-ranging enrichment programme, small class sizes and strong pastoral care all contribute to an environment which means we pose the question to you:

Why go anywhere else?

Mr M Cotton, Assistant Principal

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Sixth Form Option Blocks 2024-2026*

A LEVEL COURSES		
BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C
Art (5 in Art and Design related subject)	Business (5 GCSEs; 5 in English AND Maths) Should not be chosen if selecting BTEC Enterprise	English Literature (5 in English Lit AND English Lang)
History (Hist grade 6; Eng Lang grade 5)	Psychology (5 in English AND Maths AND a Science)	Chemistry (6 in Combined / Separate Science inc. Chemistry; 6 in Maths)
Further Maths (8 in Maths; 5 in English Language)	Biology (6 in Combined / Separate Science inc. Biology; 6 in Maths)	Government and Politics (5 in English Language)
		Physical Education (5 in GCSE PE OR M2 in CamNAT)
BTEC COURSES		
BTEC: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (5 GCSEs; grade 4 and above in English and Maths)	BTEC: Travel & Tourism (5 GCSEs grade 4 and above)	BTEC: Music Performance (5 GCSEs grade 4 and above incl. grade 4 in Music or musical instrument)
BTEC: Dance (5 GCSEs grade 4 and above incl. grade 4 in Dance or creative subject)		

* Blocks and subject offer are subject to change depending on student interest.

A LEVEL COURSES

BLOCK D	BLOCK E	BLOCK F
Photography (6 in Photography OR a related subject)	Drama (5 in English Language OR Literature)	English Resit
Sociology (5 in Eng Lang)	Media Studies (5 in Media OR 5 in English; 4 in Maths)	Maths Resit
Maths (7 in Maths; 4 in English Language)	Geography (5 GCSEs; 5 in Geography AND 5 in English)	
Psychology (5 in English AND Maths AND a Science)	French (6 in French)	

BTEC COURSES

BTEC: Health and Social Care (5 GCSEs grade 4 and above)		

Scholarly and Professional: Why go anywhere else?

We understand that there are many Sixth Forms from which your son or daughter can choose. Here at Shirley High School, however, we believe we can offer a unique experience, offering opportunities that are unmatched by other institutions.

Here is a list of what we can offer, unrivalled by others:

Small class sizes

Unlike many other Sixth Forms, our class sizes range from 5-15 students meaning many more opportunities for personalised support from teachers.

University-style working environment

We have 3 large study spaces modelled on university-style learning. Students can use these during their non-contact periods to get used to independent study in an academic environment to help prepare them perfectly for study at university.

Scholarship Programme

Offered to all students who average a Grade 7 at GCSE, the programme provides students with both academic and social benefits to best equip them for further study. This includes purchasing of all textbooks, free access to tutoring and money off driving lessons.

Wide-ranging, weekly enrichment programme

Our Enrichment programme is built to ensure students are prepared for whatever they wish to do in the next stage of their journey. Students can choose from a wide variety of opportunities including: Volunteering in Primary schools; Cooking, Mental Health Accreditations; Using our Gym and sporting facilities; writing their own music and many more!

Oxbridge & Medicine Pathway

We offer a pathway to help prepare students for each step of the incredibly competitive application process. This pathway has been designed by Mr Cotton (Pembroke College, Cambridge) and Mr Inett (Keble College, Oxford) to ensure students are building the knowledge and skills necessary from the start of their sixth form journey. We had our first student attending the University of Cambridge last year and 10% of our current Year 13s have applied to Oxbridge.

Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 in Art and Design related subject.

Course Description

In this course option, students will explore a variety of disciplines within art, craft and design, including; drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, illustration and graphics.

With the skills learnt students will be expected to produce two personal projects which include opportunities to generate and develop ideas; research primary and contextual sources; record practical and written observations; experiment with media and processes and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Method of Assessment

Work is internally assessed throughout the course and externally moderated by the Edexcel moderator at the Final Exhibition. In Year 13 students will follow a similar working pattern as in Year 12 but in greater depth illustrating progression.

Year 12

- Component 1 Portfolio of work = 60%

Year 13

- Component 1 Personal Investigation and extended essay of 2500 words of continuous prose = 60%
- Component 2 Externally Set Assignment 40%

Written and verbal feedback is given throughout the course. There is an internal assessment during the Autumn Term.

Skills Required

A strong interest in the visual world, drawing, painting, sculpture. A willingness to research and develop ideas through observational drawing and analysing the work of artists and designers. The ability to work to deadlines and a high level of motivation. All applicants will need to present a portfolio of work for viewing at the interview.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or Degrees and qualifications in the following:

Fine Artist, Illustrator, Graphic designer, Photographer, Interior designer, Architect, Curator Art therapist, Animator, Product designer, Fashion designer.

Contact Name: Mr M Bush

Biology A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

6 in Maths and 6 in Combined/Separate Science incl. Biology

Course Description

A Level Biology is a stepping stone to future study. We have chosen a course that allows students to develop the skills that they will need in future studies. The course allows us to support and inspire our students to nurture a passion for Biology and lay the groundwork for further study in courses like biological sciences, medicine and other science related courses. AQA Biology A Level gives students the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around us. Being such a broad topic, it aims to encourage students to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Method of Assessment

The A Level specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all exams in May/June in a single year. All assessments must be taken in the same series.

A range of question types will be used, including those that require extended responses. Extended response questions will allow students to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured. Extended responses may be in written English, extended calculations, or a combination of both, as appropriate to the question.

Skills Required

Questions on the specifications will be set which require students to demonstrate:

- their knowledge and understanding of the content developed in one section or topic, including the associated mathematical and practical skills or
- the ability to apply mathematical and practical skills to areas of content they are not normally developed in or
- the ability to draw together different areas of knowledge and understanding within one answer.

The ability to improve one's own learning and performance, problem solving and the ability to work with others.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A good grade in A Level Biology is a requirement for medically related degree courses at university such as medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. A Level Biology also provides a useful background to a wide variety of higher education courses such as: Radiography, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Chiropody, Psychology, Forensic Science, Archeology, Marine Biology, Sports Studies, and Accountancy.

Contact Name: Mrs R Dean

Business A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs grade 5 or above, incl. English and Maths.

Course Description

STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE EITHER A Level BUSINESS OR BTEC ENTERPRISE.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. Students are introduced to Business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding – with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information – are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions. The focus of the course is to assist you in developing an enthusiasm for Business. This is achieved as you gain a holistic understanding of business and enterprise. The course investigates the different types of businesses, their ability to meet the needs and wants of society, identifying creative solutions to the issues they face in addition to the responsibilities they hold.

Course Content

The Course is assessed through a combination of coursework and examinations. The content covered includes:

Theme 1 – Marketing and People: Meeting customer needs; The market; Marketing Mix and Strategy; Managing People; Entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2 – Managing Business Activities: Raising finance; Financial planning; Managing finance; Resource management; External influences

Theme 3 – Business Decisions and Strategy: Business objectives and strategy; Business growth; Decision making techniques; Influences on business decisions; Assessing competitiveness; Managing change

Theme 4 – Global Business: Globalisation; Global markets and expansion; Global marketing; Global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

Skills Required

You do not need to have studied GCSE Business although it does not give you a head start. It is more important that students have a genuine interest in how businesses work and the role they play in today's society, which is increasingly important. As the course is assessed extensively through analysis & evaluation, it is imperative that students possess excellent English skills & have a GCSE grade to reflect this. Maths skills are equally important due to the nature of forecasting and financial data which must be calculated using a variety of ratios and equations.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Business A Level provides an excellent foundation for any Business related degree which can also be combined with another subject. The course also provides a platform for actual business job positions and apprenticeships, just some of which include; Accountant, Advertising Account Executive, Banker: Investment/Commercial, Banking Manager, Buyer (Industrial or Retail), Company Secretary, Stockbroker, Distribution/ Logistics Manager, Human Resources Manager, Recruitment Consultant, Management Consultant.

Contact Name: Mrs S J Routledge-Brown

Chemistry A Level

OCR

Entry Requirements

6 in Maths and 6 in Combined/Separate Science incl. Chemistry

Course Description

A flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and, for A Level only, the Practical Endorsement.

OCR's A Level 'Chemistry A' specification aims to encourage learners to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works').

Method of Assessment

Assessment is through three exam papers 1, 2, 3. Content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis.

Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

Skills Required

Learners are expected to understand the variety of sources of data available for critical analysis to provide evidence and the uncertainty involved in its measurement. They should also be able to link that evidence to contexts influenced by culture, politics and ethics. Understanding how science works requires an understanding of how scientific evidence can influence ideas and decisions for individuals and society, which is linked to the necessary skills of communication for audience and for purpose with appropriate scientific terminology.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The A Level Chemistry course will prepare learners for progression to undergraduate courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, one of the other sciences or related subjects. For learners wishing to follow an apprenticeship route or those seeking direct entry into chemical science careers, this A Level provides a strong background and progression pathway.

Contact Name: Mr D McCarthy

Dance BTEC

Pearson

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in Dance or creative subject.

Course Description

Pearson BTEC Dance qualifications offer candidates the opportunity to learn about the industry, developing their understanding and practical dance skills, and applying the skills and knowledge in a vocational dance setting. Students will study a range of dance styles, including contemporary, jazz, physical theatre and street dance and will be given opportunities to take part in a variety of youth dance platforms and other College and external productions. As a way of familiarising students with the professional dance world, each year talented choreography students are invited to attend an inspiring mix of productions linked to their Dance syllabus.

Method of Assessment

During the course students will complete 5 units of work covering Choreography, Jazz and Contemporary Dance. Students will be assessed on solo and group performances via our annual dance shows and studio performance events. They will also deliver presentations based on the working conditions of professional dancers, and produce written reports that outline the development of different dance styles. Students will also explore choreographers past and present, in preparation for the external choreographic exam which is taken at the end of the second year.

Skills Required

Students do not have to have studied GCSE Dance in order to study the BTEC; however, candidates must have experience of performing Dance.

Students need to be mobile, confident, coordinated and open to feedback. Musicality and the ability to collaborate are desirable traits for this qualification.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

BTEC Dance opens up paths into a number of careers including Dance performance, Dance movement therapy, Dance journalism, Community Dance teaching, Choreography and Dance fitness instruction. There are also pathways into a number of administrative jobs through this course such as Dance critique and Dance/Arts administration.

Contact Name: Ms C Fairweather

Drama and Theatre A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 in English Language/Literature.

Course Description

The course aims to develop students' skills in a range of practical drama elements such as performer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, costume designer, puppet designer and director. Students are offered a wide range of plays to study practically and theoretically, and are given the opportunity to write about live productions. Students will pursue their own areas of interest for research into an influential director, designer, Theatre Company or other practitioner. They will gain experience of working as a team to create original drama as well as interpret text into performance. Students will gain knowledge of a range of plays and study many different styles of theatre. They will gain an excellent knowledge of theatre history, terminology and practices and will be expected to visit live theatre on a regular basis.

Method of Assessment

Students will complete the full A Level over two years.

Component 1: Devising: 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview

- Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre).

Component 2: Performance from Text (*Component code: 1DR0/02) 20% of A Level – 48 marks Content overview

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.
- Centre choice of performance text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper code: 1DR0/3A or 3B) Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Choice of 12 performance texts.
- Live theatre evaluation.

Skills Required

Students do not have to have studied GCSE Drama in order to study it for A Level. A passion for Theatre and its production is sufficient.

As a student, we would look for the following characteristics: cooperation; leadership; communication; problem solving; confidence; creativity; time management; and adaptability.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The study of Drama could lead to careers inside the theatre including: acting, script writing, production and directing.

Outside of the theatre it could lead to law, psychology or therapy to name a few examples.

Contact Name: Mrs S Brown / Ms A Shiamtanis

English Literature A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

5 in English Literature and Language.

Course Description

This course provides a variety of opportunities to explore a wide range of texts, and offers many different insights into the world of literature. Students will develop a high level of knowledge of a range of literary forms and be able to express an educated personal response with confidence and a degree of flair. Much of the course involves discussion, and students are expected to have read the text being studied prior to their lessons. Students must develop a critical and evaluative manner of writing and be able to explore a topic in a mature way and, crucially, in depth in order to be successful. There are also opportunities to attend theatre trips and conferences. The course is stimulating, demanding and highly rewarding.

Method of Assessment

This course is assessed by both examinations (80%) and a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA – 20%)

Paper 1: Love through the Ages.

Open book for prose only. 3 hours = 40%

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts (1945 – Present).

Open book. 2 ½ hours = 40%

Non Exam Assessment (NEA): one extended essay.

2500 words and a bibliography.

Skills Required

Students embarking on studies of literature will need a passion for reading, an inquiring and analytical mind, and the ability to work independently.

Students will also need to express their ideas clearly and with depth and detail, both orally and in writing.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

English Literature at A Level is a traditional foundation for many university courses. As success at university depends on the ability to analyse and argue a critical viewpoint convincingly, whilst supporting ideas with textual evidence, English Literature is also a good foundation for Arts and Humanities degrees or careers, as well as Law. It is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers including: teaching, journalism, media, broadcasting, publishing, the Arts, PR, politics, writing, etc.

Contact Names: Miss N M Mallie

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship BTEC Extended Certificate

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs, grade 4, incl.4 in English and Maths.

Course Description

STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE EITHER A Level BUSINESS OR BTEC ENTERPRISE.

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship alongside other fields of study with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. It aims to provide a strong study programme in the business sector, offering depth and breadth of knowledge, as a main study programme.

Method of Assessment

Assignments – Set and marked internally (I)

Written exam – Set and marked by Pearson (E)

Total number of Units 4 – (3 mandatory units and 1 optional units)

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- Unit 1: Enterprise and entrepreneurs
- Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign (E)
- Unit 3: Personal and business finance (E)

The two option units available enable students to decide which one complements their study programme best. Students can use these to support choices in progression to courses in HE. The option units cover content areas such as:

- Unit 7: Social enterprise (I)
- Unit 8: Enterprises and intrapreneurship in practice (I).

Skills Required

Students do not need to have studied Business for GCSE to access this course.

As a minimum, a successful student will have:

- The ability to undertake extensive independent research is essential;
- Good IT and communication skills.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications, is designed primarily to support progression to employment, after further study at university. However, it can also support students progressing to employment directly, or via an apprenticeship. Studying a combination of vocational courses will build employability skills. It will give successful students transferable knowledge, understanding and skills that will be an advantage when applying for a range of industry linked training programmes, or apprenticeships, in the enterprise sector, or other sectors of their choice, with the potential to use their combined learning to be self-employed.

Contact Name: Mrs S J Routledge-Brown

French A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 French at GCSE.

Course Description

This course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE with a particular focus on language, culture and society. Students will develop valuable skills including communication, critical thinking and creativity across a variety of themes relating to the society and culture of countries where French is spoken. This will be done by using authentic spoken and written sources in French to see how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing: Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends and artistic culture in the French-speaking world:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing: Written exam based on the French film 'La Haine' and the novel 'Kiffe Kiffe Demain'

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking:

- Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A Level.

Content Covered and Skills Required

Students study the following 12 topics:

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary music from French speaking countries
- Cinema
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration.

Students who desire to take this course must demonstrate excellent communication skills, a passion for languages and a strong commitment to work independently.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

With our world becoming ever more global by the day, the ability to speak another language can open up many doors in your career and academic life. An A Level in French offers opportunities to pursue careers in teaching and tutoring, translating and interpreting, marketing and sales, publishing, hospitality, travel and tourism, and embassies and diplomatic services.

Contact name: Mrs S Thomas

Geography A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs incl. Grade 5 in Geography and English.

Course Description

Geography at A Level explores the key principles, concepts and processes that explain geographical phenomena and landscapes. It maintains the balance between physical and human geography while ensuring relevance to the modern world. It provides an excellent foundation for those learners wishing to go on to study geography at degree level. Topics are explored in depth using individual research and investigation techniques. The topics taught have relevance to the modern world and our day to day lives.

Method of Assessment

The Physical and Human elements are each assessed by written exams, both are:

- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks
- 40% of A Level

Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose

Geography fieldwork investigation: Students complete an individual investigation of 3,000 – 4,000 words 60 marks. This is 20% of the A Level and is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Content Covered and Skills Required

Over the course of the A Level we cover a selection from:

Physical Geography

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Hot desert systems and landscapes
3. Coastal systems and landscapes
4. Glacial systems and landscapes
5. Hazards
6. Ecosystems under stress

Human Geography

7. Global systems and global governance
8. Changing places
9. Contemporary urban environments
10. Population and the environment
11. Resource security

Geography fieldwork investigation & Geographical skills.

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Geography A Level provides a great basis for future studies, providing a good foundation for a variety of Arts and Science degrees. Career paths include: Environmental management, foreign or travel correspondent / journalism, petrochemical industry, energy industry, Antarctic survey research, cartography and mapping, GIS base careers, law, education, urban planning, quantity surveying.

“Without Geography you are nowhere.” Michael Palin

Contact Name: Ms G Chenery

Government and Politics A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

5 in English Language.

Course Description

Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A Level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It's a comparative study where UK and US current political stages are being analysed and compared. It also helps grow your confidence. It's ideal if you're considering studying international law, politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including law, politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1 Government and Politics of the UK.

Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A Level

Paper 2 Government and Politics of the USA and comparative Politics.

Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A Level

Paper 3 Political ideas.

Written exam: 2 hours, 77 marks, 33⅓ % of A Level

All papers contain a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Content Covered and Skills Required

UK Politics and UK Government: You will study and discuss such questions as 'What was Brexit all about and why it happened?', 'What powers does the Prime Minister have?', 'Why was the result of the 2017 General Election such a surprise?', and 'Is Britain truly democratic nowadays?'

US Politics: Find out the answers to questions like 'How did Donald Trump and Joe Biden fight to become elected President?', 'Why it so easy to have a gun in the USA?', and 'Why is race such a big issue in America?' You will also have the opportunity to compare and contrast US and UK politics.

Political Ideas: You will examine some of the great ideas that have shaped our world for good or ill, including Liberalism, Socialism, and Conservatism; and at the work and influence of key political thinkers such as Karl Marx, Mary Wollstonecraft and Edmund Burke.

An interest in current affairs is perhaps the most important requirement as it is very beneficial to be able to bring at least some existing knowledge of political events and personalities to your studies. Some knowledge of history can also be helpful as so much of contemporary politics is informed by past events and decisions. Generally, no specific GCSEs are required but you will need a good level of English in order to deal with the essay writing demands of the course.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Politics is a well-regarded 'middle-weight' A Level on a par with Psychology, Sociology and Law, and will help to provide you with many of the skills required for university study. Often politics students enjoy the subject so much that they continue their studies at undergraduate level or in related subjects such as Law or International Relations. Some Politics students do in fact go on to work in the political sphere, while other popular career options include law institutions and journalism or even some international career courses.

Many students who study A Level Politics progress to a university degree, and there are many degree courses that A Level Politics can suit: Law, Anthropology, Economics, English, History, International Relations, Journalism,, Politics, Philosophy Sociology etc.

Contact Name: Mr A Kasprzak

Health & Social Care

BTEC Extended Certificate

Pearson/Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above.

Course Description

Learners will study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life events like marriage or parenthood. Learners will analyse this impact from a positive and negative viewpoint, demonstrating developing their compassion and empathy for others. Learners will understand how people adapt to these changes and the local and national health and social care support that is available to them. Learners will also research health and social care services in their local community. They will look at how people access the local health and social care services provided and the support that is given in the local community. Overall, learners will be given the opportunity to self-reflect about choices they make and how they affect others.

Method of Assessment

BTEC courses are all delivered in units. You will study four units, two of which are externally set and examined.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development is an external exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 90 marks.

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care is also an external exam, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 80 marks.

Unit 5: Meeting individual care needs, are internally set and assessed using a variety of written assignments, presentations and practical tasks.

Unit 12: Supporting individuals with additional needs are internally set and assessed using a variety of written assignments, presentations and practical tasks.

Skills Required

Cognitive and problem-solving skills: using critical thinking, approaching non-routine problems, applying expert and creative solutions, using systems and technology.

Interpersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation. Intrapersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This qualification will enable learners to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the health and social care sector. For example, it could be taken alongside:

- A Levels in Biology and Psychology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing
- A Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education
- BTEC National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Social Work
- BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport, which could lead to a Foundation Degree in Sports Studies and Development.

Contact Name: Miss S Frimpong

History A Level

Pearson/Edexcel

Entry Requirements

History grade 6 and English Language grade 5.

Course Description

You will study British and European History in the late Middle Ages and the late 20th Century linked to the overarching theme of revolution. You will explore significant historical events and change occurring due to popular ideas and the actions of key political leaders. You will explore how Britain became a diverse and modern kingdom from the English Civil War through to the Glorious Revolution. You will examine the controversy over the interpretation of the Glorious Revolution. You will compare this to the 1917 Russian Revolution and the transformation of the nation via the use of contemporary evidence. In Year 13 you will analyse the key turning points and significance of change from 19th to the late 20th century and use your accumulation of skills to embark on a final independent enquiry on the Tudor period.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1 – Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.

Sections A and B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth.

Section C comprises one compulsory question that assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.

Paper 2 – Written examination, lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Section A comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, based on two sources. It assesses source analysis and evaluation skills. Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth.

Paper 3 – Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes. Section A comprises one compulsory question for the option studied, assessing source analysis and evaluation skills (AO2). Section B comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in depth. Section C comprises a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth.

Coursework 4000 word extended essay in two parts which will assess the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations.

Content Covered and Skills Required

Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe beyond a 200-year period will include the following:

Unit 1: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

Unit 2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Unit 3: Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004

Unit 4: The Tudor State (1485–1603) Coursework

Good essay writing skills and the ability to analyse and evaluate different source material. You should enjoy independent research as the course requires extensive reading and writing.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

'A' Level History is a highly regarded qualification for any university course. You can progress to an Honours degree in history or related subjects such as politics or economics. A Historian's skills are also highly valued in a variety of careers including law, journalism, teaching, business and the public sector.

Contact Name: Mrs D Attenborough

Mathematics A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

7 in Maths, 4 in English Language.

Course Description

The Mathematics course offered at Shirley High School is designed to support students who are following a wide variety of educational and career paths. The major part of the course is the study of pure mathematics, though students will also explore applied fields of mathematics such as statistics and mechanics.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1

33% of A Level

Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2

33% of A Level

Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100

Note: Any pure content can be assessed on either paper

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

33% of A Level

Duration: 2 hours Marks: 100

Section A: Statistics (50 marks)

Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)

Skills Required

Students will need to have a strong Mathematical and problem solving acumen. They will need patience and precision in their approach to solve complex problems which require multi-step processes.

They require the courage to be challenged, work hard independently and collaboratively inside and outside of lessons. They should take ownership of their learning.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Students will study topics in the fields of statistics and mechanics in their first year, which is ideal for anyone who is considering further study in the physical or engineering based sciences. In the second year students will continue to study statistics and mechanics in more depth. This will support those pupils who have an interest in pursuing careers in science, medicine, economics, finance or the social sciences.

Contact Name: Mr B Kiabi

Further Mathematics A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

8 in Maths, 5 in English Language.

Course Description

THIS COURSE WILL ONLY TAKE PLACE IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST.

The Further Mathematics course is designed to stretch the most able students in the field of Mathematics. The major part of the course is the study of pure mathematics, though students will also explore fields of mathematics such as statistics, mechanics or decision mathematics.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1

25% of A Level

Duration: 1.5 hours Marks: 75

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2

25% of A Level

Duration: 1.5 hours Marks: 75

Note: Any pure content can be assessed on either paper

Paper 3: Option Paper 2

25% of A Level

Duration: 1.5 hours Marks: 75

Paper 4: Option Paper 2

25% of A Level

Duration: 1.5 hours Marks: 75

Skills Required

Students will need to have exceptional Mathematical and problem solving acumen. They will need patience and precision in their approach to solve complex problems which require multi-step processes.

They require the courage to be challenged, work extremely hard independently and collaboratively inside and outside of lessons. They should take full ownership of their learning.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Students who study Further Mathematics at A Level increase their chances of successfully applying to Russell Group universities.

This course will support those pupils who have an interest in pursuing careers in science, medicine, economics and finance .

Contact Name: Mr B Kiabi

Media A Level

OCR

Entry Requirements

5 in Media or English and 4 in Maths.

Course Description

The course offers a theoretical, practical and ideological approach to media studies in a contemporary media landscape. Candidates undertake textual analysis in media texts, explore media industries, media representations, media audiences and make reference to the evolution of digital 'new' media technologies. Learners are required to respond to a brief and produce three media productions: audio-visual, print and online.

Method of Assessment

Media Messages – 2 hour written paper 35%

Learners will explore how and why newspapers and their online counterparts are evolving as media products. Learners will also explore media language and representation through media products selected by the exam board.

Evolving Media – 2 hour written paper 35%

Learners will explore, analyse and discuss media industries and audiences. Learners will also engage in one in-depth study of television as an evolving, global media form.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 30%

Learners will create a cross-media product in response to an OCR set brief.

Skills Required

A critical interest in media industries, digital technologies and the representation of people, places and events are imperative. Candidates should also be prepared to experiment with a variety of technical and creative processes and demonstrate commitment through research and practical work outside of lessons.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A Level Media Studies is an excellent foundation for media, film, communications, journalism, sociological and anthropological degree courses at university.

Contact Name: Mrs N Clarkson

Music Performance BTEC

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

4 in Music or a grade 4 Musical instrument.

Course Description

The aim of this course is for students to gain knowledge and understanding of music, from the perspective of a performer as well as other professions working in the industry. This is a two year course and is equivalent to one A Level. Students will enjoy state of the art facilities and specialist staff with experience in the Music Industry.

Method of Assessment

Students will perform work using assignment tasks set by the exam board and will be assessed by class tutors and external examiners. They will be researching projects and preparing presentations. They will keep a rehearsal log and notes from each class. Students will be graded a pass, merit or distinction for each module.

Skills Required

All students will study five core units:

- Ensemble Music Performance (Externally assessed)
- Composing Music
- Solo performance
- Music Performance session style
- Professional practice in the music Industry (Externally assessed)

As well as individual instrumental and/or singing skills, students require strong group skills and will need enthusiasm, persistence and creativity. Good organisational skills are also needed if students are to be successful. Students should have an interest and experience in music.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

This diploma can lead to further study at university. It offers a good grounding in preparation for a career in the music industry. Career opportunities include:

- Composer for TV, Radio, Film & multimedia
- Studio recording artist
- Live artist
- Session Musician/singer

Contact Name: Mr S Sahl-Taylor

Photography A Level

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

6 in Photography or an arts related subject.

Course Description

In this course option, students will learn about; camera settings, creative techniques, composition, lighting, dark room photography and editing. With the skills learnt students will be expected to produce two personal projects which include; opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

Method of Assessment

Work is internally assessed throughout the course and externally moderated by the Edexcel moderator at the Final Exhibition. In Year 13 students will follow a similar working pattern as in Year 12 but in greater depth illustrating progression.

Year 12

Component 1 Portfolio of work = 60%.

Year 13

Component 1 Personal Investigation and extended essay of 2500 words of continuous prose = 60%.

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment 40%.

Written and verbal feedback is given throughout the course. There is an internal assessment during the Autumn Term.

Skills Required

A strong interest in the visual world and photography. A willingness to research and develop ideas through researching and analysing the work of photographers.

The ability to work to deadlines and a high level of motivation. All applicants will need to present a portfolio of work for viewing at the interview.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or Degrees and qualifications in the following; Graphic designer, Photographer, Interior designer, Animator, Product designer, Fashion photographer, Film, Editor, Web design.

Contact Name: Mr M Bush

Physical Education A Level

OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE PE or M2 in CAM NAT.

Course Description

A Level in Physical Education develops knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to physical education. Students gain understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, and demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach.

Method of Assessment

Physiological factors affecting performance – Written paper, 2 hours worth 30% of grade.

Psychological factors affecting performance – Written paper, 1 hour worth 20% of grade.

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport – Written paper, 1 hour worth 20% of grade.

Practical performances – Assessed in performing or coaching one sport 15% of total A Level.

Skills Required

Students should have a real interest in sport and also in science relating to sport. Students should be willing to explore new theories and form their own ideas and opinions from these. Ideally when studying this course, students should be looking at a pathway into a Sport or a related degree at University. Students must have a sport that they compete in outside of school or be committed to becoming a qualified coach.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

With further training or study, students can go into careers in Sports Centres, Sports Clubs, Leisure Centres, Outdoor Activities Centres and University Courses.

Contact Name: Mr D Noirette

Physics A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

6 in Maths and a Combined/Separate Science incl. Physics.

Course Description

The AQA Physics specification has been designed to engage and inspire students who enjoy Physics and who may not be studying A Level Mathematics. Classical Physics concepts, as well as modern Nuclear and Particle Physics and an Optional unit are studied. The course is very well supported by the AQA online platform, KERBOODLE. The text books are available digitally as well as many resources to support the understanding of more challenging concepts and revision.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1 covering sections 1 – 5 and 6.1. Written exam: 2 hours. 85 marks 60 marks short and long answer questions, 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 2 covering sections 6.2, 7 and 8 assumed knowledge from sections 1-6.1. Written exam: 2 hours. 85 marks 60 marks short and long answer questions, 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3 Two sections. Section A compulsory covering practical skills and data analysis. Section B The optional unit chosen. Written exam: 2 hours. 80 marks 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic.

Skills Required

Topics Studied

- 1 Measurements and their errors
- 2 Particles and radiation
- 3 Waves
- 4 Mechanics and materials
- 5 Electricity
- 6 Further mechanics and Thermal Physics
- 7 Fields and their consequences
- 8 Nuclear physics and 1 optional topic of Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning points in Physics, Electronics

In addition, students will complete 12 Core assessed practical tasks covering the agreed competencies. The practical tasks form part of the practical competency assessment and are examined in all 3 A Level papers.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Physics A Level is regarded as a “facilitating subject” by the Russell Group of universities, which means it can be useful for getting onto a wide range of university courses.

Physics is one part of the STEM subjects which include Maths, Chemistry and Biology – that you usually need to pick at least two from at A Level to do a range of science degrees, including Medicine and Engineering. Physics is especially highly recommended for the physical sciences, which involves the study of non-living objects.

Physics A Level is usually required for degree courses in: Engineering (general, aeronautical, civil, electrical, mechanical, sometimes chemical) and Physics. It is often recommended or useful for: Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Radiography and other practice-based medicine courses, Architecture, Computer Science, Geography, Earth and Environmental sciences, Maths, Materials Science, Pharmacy, Sports Science, Surveying, Psychology and Teaching. You may need a Physics GCSE or A Level for some advanced, higher and degree apprenticeships in Engineering or for a Technician position.

Contact Name: Mr S Jegede

Psychology A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

5 in English, Maths and a Science.

Course Description

Psychology is an increasingly popular subject, which provides a link between the social and natural sciences by studying aspects of the human mind and behaviour. In the first year of A Level, the course provides a broad-based introduction to many of the fascinating topics in Psychology. In the second year, the A Level course extends on previous topics and new areas are also explored in depth for those wishing to further develop their interest and enjoyment in this exciting area of study.

Method of Assessment

Three written examinations of 2 hours duration (Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3 will all be taken in June at the end of the two year course). Each exam accounts for 33.3% of the A Level grade. Each section is worth 24 marks (other than research methods which is worth 48 marks). Each paper is worth 96 marks overall, with a combined total of 288 marks.

Paper 1: Social influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology

Paper 2: Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods

Paper 3: Issues and debates in Psychology; Cognition & Development; Schizophrenia; Aggression.

Skills Required

A good standard of written English, suitable discussion skills, and an ability to critically analyse and deal with research information logically is essential. This specification places emphasis on scientific concepts and skills and requires competence in areas of mathematics including arithmetic and numerical computation and data handling; therefore students must have suitable grades in these subjects.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

Psychology involves the systematic study of the mind and behaviour. It develops logical thought and analysis of abstract concepts. Psychology Advanced level is acceptable for a wide range of science, social science, and humanities courses in further and higher education. Specialisation in psychology could lead to careers in clinical or educational psychology, counselling, occupational or forensic psychology, also marketing or business.

Contact Name: Miss C Powell

Sociology A Level

AQA

Entry Requirements

5 in English Language.

Course Description

Sociology is the study of human social structures, relationships and institutions. Unifying the study of these diverse subjects is sociology's purpose: understanding how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures. This course gives students the opportunity to examine human social behaviour and the changing patterns within the UK and globally. It explores the key issues in our communities such as educational inequalities, crime and representation and the patterns in society such as social class, gender and ethnicity. It also gives students a brief overview of the scientific study of society, which is the essence of sociology. It informs students of the various research methods used to study society as well as the theoretical debates on the nature of modern life. Finally, it gives students the opportunity to critically question and form their own judgements and offer solutions.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – 2 hour examination, comprising a mix of short answer and extended writing /essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.

Paper 2: Research Methods and Topics including the Family and the Sociology of the media – 2 hour examination, comprises a mix of short answer and extended writing / essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – 2 hour examination, comprises a mix of short answer and extended writing /essay responses which test knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.

Content Covered and Skills Required

A Level Sociology Unit studied are as follows:

- Education with Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
- Families and Households
- The Media
- A good standard of written English
- An enquiring and critical mind
- The ability to communicate ideas and work cooperatively
- The desire to research independently

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

A Level Sociology provides a solid foundation for progression into higher education. Sociology can open the doors for careers in many areas including social work, local government, market research, public relations and media. It provides you with a range of skills that employers look for, including communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and analytical skills. You learn to appreciate the complexity and diversity of social situations and develop a cross-cultural understanding of the world. Studying sociology is beneficial both for the individual and for society because you learn how to think critically about social issues and problems that confront our society.

Contact Name: Mr A Kasprzak

Travel and Tourism

BTEC Extended Certificate

Edexcel

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs grade 4 and above.

Course Description

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism is designed for post-16 learners with an interest in travel and tourism who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as another BTEC National or A Level. This qualification gives a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors. This is a two-year course for students who have the enthusiasm to work with people from all walks of life and possibly get the chance to travel as part of your job. Whether you would like to go straight to work within the industry or progress to higher education, this course can prepare you for both. Students cover a learner-centred approach to the unit based course which focuses on holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

Method of Assessment

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism – Written examination set and marked externally by the exam board. 1.5 hours. Out of 75 marks.

Unit 2: Global Destinations – A task set and marked externally by the exam board and completed under supervised conditions. Learners are given information two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research. The supervised assessment period is undertaken in a single session of three hours. 60 marks.

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in travel and tourism – completion of 2 internally assessed assignments considering how to increase tourist numbers and new competitive products.

Unit 9: Visitor Attractions – Completion of 3 internally assessed assignments required, considering the appeal, development and funding of attractions, both built and natural.

Skills Required

Today's BTEC Nationals are demanding, as you would expect of the most respected applied learning qualification in the UK. You will have to choose and complete a range of units, be organised, take some assessments that we will set and mark and keep a portfolio of your assignments. But you can feel proud to achieve a BTEC because, whatever your plans in life – whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an Apprenticeship, or set up your own business – your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

Educational Opportunities and Career Paths

The course prepares you to either work within the industry or progress to higher education. You will receive support from the sixth form to apply to university if this is your next step.

The world of work is wide in this field and this course gives you a grounding to enter jobs such as: Air cabin crew, Holiday representative, Hotel manager, Tour manager, Tourism officer, Tourist information centre manager, Travel agency manager etc.

Contact Name: Ms G Chenery

Compassionate

Respectful

Creative

Relentless

Aspirational

Resilient



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