

Art and Design

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics covered	Assessment
1	AS	A Portfolio of work covering different aspects of Art and Design A major project of your choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
2	AS	Thematic projects set by Exam Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
3	A2	A personal study on a theme of your choice, including a written element	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
4	A2	Thematic projects set by Exam Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces

What does the course involve?

- Making works of Art based on exciting subjects of your choice
- Studies of brilliant and inspiring works of Art
- Using a range of different art materials
- Creating a number of beautiful finished works of art

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- A keen interest in Art. Grade C GCSE in Art.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects

Higher Education and employment opportunities include: fashion, media, journalism, graphics, advertising, teaching, sports, everywhere you see Artwork on a day to day basis!

Biology

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Topic
BIOL 1	Biology & Disease
BIOL 2	The Variety of Living Organisms
BIOL 3X	Investigative Skills & Practical Skills
BIOL 4	Populations & Environment
BIOL 5	Control in Cells and in Organisms
Or BIOL 6X	Investigative Skills & Practical Skills

What does the course involve?

- It builds on the concepts and skills developed at GCSE, and presents Biology as exciting, relevant and challenging.
- It presents the essential principles in interesting and stimulating contexts.
- It emphasises the way in which scientists work and the contribution of Biology to modern society.
- It is assessed in a way that stretches and challenges students' capabilities, including centre-marked practical exams.
- It is delivered as theoretical lectures, student practical sessions, practical demonstrations, internet research, student presentations, field trips and visits, revision sessions, end of topic tests and exams.
- It requires significant independent background study.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Curiosity, accuracy, enthusiasm, organisation and determination.
- A desire for sharing an interest of Biology with like-minded staff and fellow students.
- Doing the subject because you want to, not because you have to!

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

Biology is recommended for all careers in Nursing and Medicine, the Environment, Biotechnology, Physical Education and may be useful for less obvious careers such as Education, Law and the Armed Forces and so on.

Most careers benefit from having Biology AS or A level, mainly due to the rigours and disciplines gained from studying a science subject.

Please feel free to come and discuss your FE, HE and career plans and requirements with the Biology staff.

Chemistry

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Topic
CHEM 1	Foundation Chemistry
CHEM 2	Chemistry in Action
CHEM 3X	Investigative Skills and Practical Skills
CHEM 4	Kinetics, Equilibria & Organic Chemistry
CHEM 5	Energetics, Redox & Inorganic Chemistry
Or CHEM 6X	Investigative Skills & Practical Skills

What does the course involve?

Through a combination of theoretical and practical work you will learn:

- to develop an understanding of Chemistry theory and the skills needed to apply subject knowledge to new situations.
- to use theories and models to explain observations.
- to develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.
- to appreciate the contributions of Chemistry to society and the responsible use of scientific knowledge and evidence.
- how to bring together knowledge of ways in which different areas of Chemistry relate to each other and to wider issues in society.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

You will need

- The ability to solve problems individually or as part of a group.
- An enthusiasm for practical and theoretical application of Chemistry and related subjects.
- The ability to meet deadlines and to discuss and share new ideas
- To develop skills in working safely in a laboratory environment.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

Advanced level Chemistry:

- Provides you with the necessary background and qualifications to progress to higher education degrees in pure and applied Chemistry and other science degrees including Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Forensic Science and Chemistry related courses.
- Allows you to progress to degrees in Medical Sciences and Medicine related courses.
- Enables you to progress to other non-science related courses.

English Language & Literature Combined

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1	AS	ELLA1 Integrated Analysis and Text Production	Written Exam (1hour 30 minutes)
2	AS	ELLA2 Analysing Speech and Its Representation	Written Exam (1hour 30 minutes)
3	A2	ELLA3 Comparative Analysis and Text Adaptation	Written Exam (2 hours 30 minutes)
4	A2	ELLA4 Comparative Analysis through Independent Study	Coursework

What does the course involve?

The course aims to develop students' understanding of English Language and Literature as a combined discipline, drawing on the students experiences at GCSE as well as offering a meaningful foundation for the study of English beyond GCE level.

- The specification aims to give students opportunities to play to their strengths and deepen their enjoyment by offering a great deal of choice within its parameters.
- The study of speech at both AS and Advanced Level.
- Language production and re-casting.
- Unseen analysis.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An enjoyment of reading, analysing and comparing texts from different genres and different periods of time.
- You will need good practical writing and analytical skills, and be able to pursue your own independent investigative work.
- You will need a strong interest in language, its origins and the impact of language on people and society.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- An excellent foundation for study at university.
- English graduates enjoy high employability in a range of careers e.g. Journalism and Law because of the excellent communication skills which are developed through the study of combined English Language and Literature.

French

Advanced Level

French is still the most common language for pupils to learn at any level. In 2010, more than 160,000 pupils entered at GCSE level and almost 14,333 at A Level. French is also one of the most popular languages for carrying on to degree level.

Course Structure

French is split up into AS and A2, consisting of examinations on Knowledge of Society and Literature as well as speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. There are 2 units at AS and 2 units at A2 both consisting of a written and an oral paper.

What does the course involve?

- Developing understanding of spoken and written French.
- Developing critical insights into the society, culture and way of life of the country whose language is being studied.
- Translating from and into the target language.
- Conversing orally and in essay writing
- Attending language days at local universities as well as theatre or film trips.
- A visit to the country whose language you are studying, hopefully on an exchange or work-experience basis.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in exploring a wide variety of topics by listening to and reading a variety of source material drawn from TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and other sources.
- An ability to express your views as well as defending your opinions both orally & in writing.
- An ability to use the Internet, e-mail, CD-ROM, radio and TV broadcasts to explore the topics.
- At least a grade B at GCSE.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

Any University will look favourably on a candidate with language ability. Doing a language keeps your options open. If you speak another language the options for semesters or years abroad increase dramatically. French speakers can choose from around 40 countries worldwide. You could do your year out in France, Switzerland, Canada and Africa.

You can take a full language degree for careers that involve languages: translating, interpreting, teaching, import/export, bilingual help-desks. Combined degrees with language and virtually any other subject, e.g. Accountancy, Law, Business Studies, ICT. The study of a Language gives valuable transferable skills, desirable in an increasingly global job market.

Geography

Advanced Level

Course Structure

What does the course involve?

Unit 1 – Flooding/Rivers, Cold Environments, Population Change and Energy Issues (Exam)

Unit 2 – Geographical Skills (Exam)

Unit 3 - Contemporary Issues – Climate, Tectonics (Plates, volcanoes and earthquakes) (Exam)

Unit 4 – Pre-release issue, on a topical point in Geography for example Cyclones and their effects (Exam)

A field trip(s) will be undertaken to a local area.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- A lively interest in your own surroundings!
- Whatever your interest, Geography is a far-reaching discipline and will have something to offer
- GCSE in Maths and English
- You will also need to be able to ask questions and, at times, work independently on research topics.
- It is not essential that you have studied Geography at GCSE level, although it is an advantage.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Geography has always been regarded as a strong academic A-Level and as such is universally accepted at universities for a variety of courses.
- Apart from being used as a general further education stepping stone there are many subject-associated courses e.g. Town Planning, Environmental Management, Cartography, Social Studies, Hydrology, Demographic Studies, also the Armed Services.

History

Advanced Level

A lively and enquiring mind is essential for success in Advanced Level History. The course will involve two examinations for the AS course and one examination and an independent study for A2 level. Topics will include Civil Rights in the USA including the views of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, American conflicts in Asia and the role of Ghandi in India. Other studies may include prohibition, organised crime, the Ku Klux Klan, the Wall Street Crash in the USA and the Golden Age of Spain. History is fascinating in its own right and the course will allow you to learn about some of the greatest personalities and most significant events of the recent past. It is also invaluable in understanding the present and learning from past mistakes. History is an analytical subject and you will enjoy asking questions, developing your arguments, reaching your own judgements and thinking independently.

What does the course involve?

- Active approaches to the subject will be used including discussions, debates, group work, ICT and Media resources will help you to compare History with the world today
- Advance Level History will equip you with the analytical and communication skills that will help you at University and beyond

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- You do not need any particular GCSEs to study History although a Grade C in English is required
- It is more important that you have an interest in learning more about the world in which you live
- You will also need an inquisitive mind, strong opinions and an ability to contribute to discussions
- Above all, an interest in people and the world today are the important qualifications needed

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- History is highly valued by both employers and Universities. It is more than just a qualification as it will broaden your mind as well as deliver the ICT and Literacy skills vital for success in the future.
- History offers a direct vocational path into careers such as Law, Management, Media, Public Relations, Journalism and Business

ICT

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
Unit 1 – Compulsory Unit	3	Digital Business Communication	Coursework
Unit 2 – Compulsory Unit	3	Collaborative Working	Coursework
Unit 3 – Compulsory Unit	3	Problem Solving	Coursework
Unit 4 – Compulsory Unit	3	Creating a digital showcase	Coursework
Students will also then complete two more optional units which are also assessed by coursework			

What does the course involve?

The course involves looking at different ways organisations communicate and use Information Communication Technology (ICT). Students will create a well-designed spread-sheet to carry out complex analysis of numeric data and also plan, design and create an interactive multimedia product which will be of a professional standard.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- At least Grade C in English and Maths
- This course has been developed to recognise students' skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT functions, environment and operations. It will develop students' ability to work autonomously and effectively in an ICT context.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects

- These new broad-based awards provide a more significant vocational element than previous qualifications
- They use work related contexts, innovative teaching and assessment records
- This qualification is designed to provide a progression route to higher education and further training for employment

Law

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1	AS	Law Making and the Legal System	Written Paper 1 hour 30 mins
2	AS	The concept of Liability	Written Paper 1 hour 30 mins
3	A2	Criminal Law (Offences against the Person) or Contract Law	Written Paper 1 hour 30 mins
4	A2	Criminal Law (Offences against Property) or Tort AND Concepts of Law	Written Paper 1 hour 30 mins

What does the course involve?

- Law is a rewarding and stimulating subject and the course provides an excellent introduction to the study of Law.
- A variety of learning materials are used including text books, e-law sites, journals, newspapers and A-Level Law Review.
- The course covers a wide range of legal topics and issues including crime, the courts and sentencing and asks such questions as, what is the difference between a solicitor and barrister, where do judges come from and what is Justice?
- There will be organised visits to the local magistrate's courts and crown court.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Law is an ideal subject for someone with a logical mind, who likes research and attention to detail.
- To achieve success in this subject, a student must have a genuine interest in how day-to-day living is influenced by the law.
- No prior knowledge of Law is necessary but students should demonstrate good communication skills.
- The specification provides an appropriate foundation for further study of Law or related subjects in higher education and various vocational courses.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Over a third of A-Level student's progress to take a Law degree at University.
- A few students go straight into employment in the legal sector, in the Police or in a solicitors firm.

Mathematics

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
C1	AS	Pure Mathematics: Advanced algebra, graphs and calculus	Written Exam
C2	AS	Pure Mathematics: Algebra, Trigonometry, Further calculus	Written exam
	AS	Statistics 1: Applied element	Written exam
C3	A2	Pure Mathematics: Further Calculus and Algebra, Trigonometry.	Written exam
C4	A2	Pure Mathematics: Complex Calculus and Vectors	Written exam
	A2	Mechanics 1: Applied element	Written exam

What does the course involve?

- The course is 67% Pure and 33% Applied Mathematics. Pure Mathematics teaches how to use a series of basic mathematical techniques that are used in many areas of higher education such as Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Business studies and many of the Social Sciences.
- The skills gained are transferable to many areas. Mechanics and Statistics involve 'applying' the skills learnt in Pure Mathematics to real problems and modelling real situations to investigate their behaviour. In particular mechanics models simple cases of *motion* and *statics* such as how a ladder leaning against a wall might be prevented from slipping.
- The course involves regular homework, considerable hard work and the intellectual satisfaction of solving problems.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- You will need a high level of Mathematical ability as evidenced by your GCSE Mathematics result. You need to be able to handle GCSE algebra confidently and be able to work independently. A minimum of Grade B is required at GCSE>

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

As mentioned above, A Level Mathematics is not just for prospective university mathematicians. Many higher education courses contain material that is treated mathematically and even if A Level Mathematics is not an absolute requirement, it can be a considerable advantage. It is a highly regarded A Level which has been taken by students going on to Law and to Medicine. For those intending to do Physics, Engineering or Mathematics it is usually necessary. Students gaining degrees in Mathematics are highly employable in many fields after University.

Media Studies

Advanced Level

Course Structure

The Media Studies A-Level programme is a two year course that explores a range of texts from within the media industry. The first year of the course studies representations and responses within established media products, teaching students how to skilfully analyse a range of texts and explain how the construction of texts is as equally important as the content that they promote. Also, within the first year of the course students will produce one tri-part piece of coursework that will demonstrate their analytical understanding from the media production process through to publication.

In Year two of the course, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of media texts focusing on a selection of media texts, how they are constructed, and how different audiences respond to the same media representations. This element of the course will explore a range of theories that are believed to underpin the attitudes and philosophy of media as an industry.

What does the course involve?

- The course will consist of two pieces of coursework and two 2 ½ hour exams over two years.
- You will learn to analyse a variation of media texts and understand how they are specifically constructed to appeal to their audience.
- You will learn by completing a series of directed projects and assignments, informed from a range of Media industries.
- You will also be given practical video and animation projects and you will develop the skills you need to start a career or study at a higher level.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- You need an enthusiasm for Film and Media, good essay writing skills and a willingness to learn new skills. Students should also have a keen interest and aptitude in using ICT.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- This 2 year A Level course is highly valued by employers and higher education providers.
- You could go onto study a variety of Media courses at degree level such as Broadcast Journalism, Multi-Media Production, Television/Film/Media Production, Animation, Public Relations or Advertising.
- You could progress directly into entry level careers in the media industry.
- You will also be well equipped to pursue a career in Film, Television, Journalism or Advertising.

Photography

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics covered	Assessment
1	AS	A Portfolio of work covering different aspects of photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
2	AS	Thematic projects set by Exam Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
3	A2	A personal study on a theme of your choice, including a written element	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces
4	A2	Thematic projects set by Exam Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas and observations• Critical studies• Development• Final pieces

What does the course involve?

- Learning to use a DSLR camera
- Taking lots of photographs of exciting subjects of your choice
- Studying fantastic photographs by famous photographers
- Learning how to make your photos even better using Adobe Photoshop
- Printing and presenting your best photographs

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- A keen interest in Art and photography. No specific qualification is required for entry to the course, but full attendance and a commitment to hard work are essential.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

Higher Education and employment opportunities include: fashion, media, journalism, graphics, advertising, teaching, sports, everywhere you see photographs on a day to day basis!

Physics

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title
1	AS	Particles; Electromagnetic Radiation Quantum Phenomena; Electricity
2	AS	Mechanics, Materials and Waves
3	AS	Centre Assessed Unit (PSA+ ISA)
4	A2	Fields and Further Mechanics
5	A2	Nuclear Instability and Option.
6	A2	Centre Assessed Unit (PSA+ ISA)

What does the course involve?

- You will learn about the four fundamental forces of nature: gravity, electromagnetism, strong and weak nuclear forces.
- Your studies will concentrate on the concepts behind these forces and how matter interacts with each of them, from basic “pushes and pulls” to how exotic subatomic particles interact.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Hopefully you will have developed a general interest in Physics during your Core and Additional Science or Physics GCSE course.
- You will need to have gained C in GCSE Physics and one other Science or CC in Core & Additional Science. A-C in GCSE Mathematics will also be required. AS Physics is not suitable for OCR National students.
- If you have good analytical skills and can use basic Mathematics you should be well equipped to tackle Physics.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Physics is a requirement for many University courses including Engineering, Maths and Computer Science.
- It is also a very useful starting point for careers in Medicine, Medical Physics, Radiology, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Psychology

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1 PSYA1	AS	Cognitive Psychology, Development Psychology and Research Methods – Examined in January in short/structured/essay questions	Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes
2 PSYA2	AS	Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences – Examined in June in short/structured/essay questions	Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes
3 PSYA3	A2	Topics in Psychology - focus on Biological Rhythms and Sleep, Relationships and Aggression. This will be examined in January in essay style questions	Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes
4 PSYA4	A2	Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods – focusing on Schizophrenia, Addictive Behaviours and Scientific Methods which will be examined in June	Exam – 2 hours

How is the course assessed and what does it involve?

- The course is split into 4 units over 2 academic years.
- At AS Level you will study PSYA1 and PSYA2, and will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas in Psychology such as Memory, Attachment, Social Influence, Abnormality, Stress and Research Methods.
- You will be assessed via 2 examinations. PSYA1 in January and PSYA2 in June.
- At A2 level you will focus on a range of topics which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches. You will study Biological Rhythms and Sleep, Aggression and Relationships. Assessment for PSYA3 is via examination in January.
- You will also study PSYA4, where you will focus on Schizophrenia, Addictive Behaviours and Scientific methods. Assessment for this will be via examination in June.
- Please note: *This course is only assessed via examination*

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to at least Grade C in GCSE Maths, English and Science.
- In addition, you should be interested in investigating human behaviour.

Possibilities for further study/employment Prospects:

- An Honours Degree in Psychology or areas in social science
- Further specialist degrees e.g. Masters Degree in Educational Psychology.
- Careers include: Teaching, Social work, Health service, Business Management, Human Resources, Educational Psychology, Forensic and Criminological Psychology and many more opportunities for Psychology graduates.

Religious Studies

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1	AS	Philosophy of Religion Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion: Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion: Traditional arguments for the existence of God: Challenges to religious belief.	Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes
2	AS	Religious Ethics Ethical theories Applied ethics topics	Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes
3	A2	Philosophy of Religion Religious language: Experience and religion: Nature of God: Life and death: Miracle.	Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes
4	A2	Religious Ethics Meta-ethics: Free will and determinism: Conscience: Virtue ethics: Applied ethics topics.	Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes

What does the course involve?

- Study of philosophy and ethics
- Considering a variety of responses to ethical issues
- Developing an understanding of moral, ethical and cultural issues

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in the study of philosophy and ethics.
- To be critical and enquiring when discussing religious topics.
- GCSE Religious Studies is not essential, but ability to study and research is.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Accepted at all Universities as an academic 'A' level. Especially for Law, Medicine, Theology and Humanities

Sociology

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1	AS	Culture and Identity, Families and Households, Wealth, Poverty and Welfare	Written Paper 1 hour
2	AS	Education with Research Methods, Health with Research Methods	Written Paper 2 hours
3	A2	Beliefs in Society, Global Development, Mass Media, Power and Politics	Written Paper 1 hour 30 mins
4	A2	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods, Stratification and Differentiation with Theory and Methods	Written Paper 2 hours

What does the course involve?

- Sociology studies society, how it is changing and how people try to improve it.
- Sociology looks at how our social characteristics affect our chances and experiences in life.
- We will study gender, ethnicity and social class and ask why different kinds of people are less likely to have good health, achieve good qualifications, have social status and be more likely to commit a crime, be poor and die at an early age.
- The course concentrates on families and households, education, the mass media and the study of crime.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Students who are inquisitive will enjoy the individual research about the world around us.
- Sociology will suit students who enjoy being challenged by new ideas and who like discussion work.
- You will need to be able to work on your own and use your initiative to research new ideas.
- An interest in current affairs will help you in this interesting and stimulating subject.
- In this subject you are challenged to understand how society works. In offering such a challenge, Sociology will help you develop and critical awareness of how the world really operates and why

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Career opportunities include Police Officers, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Education Welfare Officers and academics. Sociology is also invaluable for caring professions and personnel.
- You can progress onto a higher education/degree course covering many subjects.

Spanish

Advanced Level

Spanish is fast becoming one of the most spoken languages in the world. Spanish is the only language which has had year on year increases in numbers of students in the last 10 years. In 2006, more than 58,000 pupils entered at GCSE level and almost 7,334 at A Level. Spanish has recently become one of the most popular languages for carrying on to degree level; in 2008 there were 10,255 students studying Spanish in any combination (i.e. by itself, with another language or as part of another course)

What does the course involve?

- Developing understanding of spoken and written Spanish
- Developing critical insights into the society, culture and way of life of the country whose language is being studied.
- Translating from and into the target language.
- Conversing orally and in essay writing
- Attending language days at local universities as well as theatre or film trips.
- A visit to the country whose language you are studying, hopefully on an exchange or work-experience basis.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in exploring a wide variety of topics by listening to and reading a variety of source material drawn from TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and other sources.
- An ability to express your views as well as defending your opinions both orally & in writing.
- An ability to use the Internet, e-mail, CD-ROM, radio and TV broadcasts to explore the topics.
- At least a grade B at GCSE.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

Any University will look favourably on a candidate with language ability. Doing a language keeps your options open. If you speak another language the options for semesters or years abroad increase dramatically. Spanish speakers can choose from more than 20 countries worldwide. You could do your year out in Spain, Central and South America, some Caribbean countries, parts of Africa and the Far East.

You could choose a full language degree for careers that involve languages: translating, interpreting, teaching, import/export, bilingual help-desks. You could opt for a combined degree with language and virtually any other subject, e.g. Accountancy, Law, Business Studies, ICT. The study of a Language gives valuable transferable skills, desirable in an increasingly global job market.

Speaking another language is always useful when on holiday but it is certainly a huge bonus for finding a job. On average a bilingual language graduate earns £4000 more than one who only speaks one language.

Drama & Theatre Studies

Advanced Level

Course Structure

Unit	Level	Topics Covered/Unit Title	Assessment
1	AS	Section A Live Theatre Production Seen Section B Prescribed Play	1 hour 30mins written examination
2	AS	Presentation of an extract from a play	Performance Preparatory and development work Supporting notes
3	A2	Prescribed Plays (two from a prescribed list)	2 hour written exam
4	A2	Presentation of devised dram	Performance Preparatory and development work Supporting notes

What does the course involve?

- Although the majority of study will be through practical work, there will be some academic essay writing and research.
- Students will take part in workshops, theatre trips and performance work.
- Extra curricular activities will also be offered in order to broaden experience.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- GCSE Drama (grades A – C) is desirable but not essential.
- An interest in performance work and the ability to work effectively in a group.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Degrees in Theatre Studies, Acting, Expressive Arts, Creative Arts and Media Courses which require good communication skills.
- Employment, which requires good communication interpersonal skills and an ability to work with other people.

Business Studies

B-Tec Level 2 – Diploma in Business

This is a Level 2 qualification and is equivalent to 4 GCSE's (A*-C), to achieve this you must obtain 60 credits. There is the possibility to only study for a B-Tec Level 2 Extended Certificate, which is equivalent to 2 GCSE's (A*-C), to achieve this you must obtain 30 credits.

Exemplar Course Structure

Unit	Credits	Assessment	Topic
1	5	Portfolio	Business Purposes
2	5	Portfolio	Business Organisations
3	5	Portfolio	Financial Forecasting for Business
4	5	Portfolio	People in Organisations
8	5	Portfolio	Business Communication Through Documentation
10	5	Portfolio	Personal Selling in Business
11	10	Portfolio	Customer Relations in Business
13	5	Portfolio	Consumer Rights
14	5	Portfolio	Business Ethics
16	10	Portfolio	Business Enterprise

What does the course involve?

- A one-year programme with a mix of units covering subjects across the key functions of business including human resources, marketing and finance. Most units consist of an in-depth investigation based around a specific business organisation or several business organisations as a comparative study. Evidence is presented through portfolio work in a variety of stimulating ways such as promotional materials, presentations and role plays. From September 2012 there will be an appropriate external assessment in at least one of the units. Details not yet available.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in business, enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- A good range of ICT skills would be beneficial.
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- B-TEC National (Level 3) in Business.
- B-TEC National (Level 3) other subjects.
- AS/A2 Business Studies.
- Employment in a wide variety of business organisations at a junior level.
- Future prospects in business ownership.

Public Services

B-Tec Level 2

This programme of study is made up of Core and Mandatory units which include; Public Service Skills, Employment in the Uniformed/Non-uniformed Public Services, Career Planning and Improving Health and Fitness. There are also an additional 13 unit titles to choose from dependent upon which certification is taken.

This is a Level 2 qualification and is equivalent to 4 GCSE's (A*-C), to achieve this you must obtain 60 credit. There is the possibility to only study for a B-Tec Level 2 Extended Certificate, which is equivalent to 2 GCSE's (A*-C), to achieve this you must obtain 30 credits or Diploma only which is equivalent to 1 GCSE (A*-C)

Learning will be assessed by written assignments and practical assignments. There are no external examinations.

What does the course involve?

- This qualification provides an introduction to public service fitness and information on how to improve lifestyle with a view to joining the services or improving general wellbeing.
- Students will gain an introduction to public services and public service skills, learn about a range of public services and what it means to be a member of a team, be introduced to useful life skills that the public services expect to teach and gain an understanding of the fitness and lifestyle required for a career in public services.
- Students who successfully complete this course will gain a good grounding for entry into the army, navy, air force, police, fire or ambulance services.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- Learners will participate in practical activities to learn how to improve their fitness levels required for entry into these services.
- Learning will be facilitated by a range of external visits, case studies, guest speakers, simulation and role play.
- Students will be expected to be organised, motivated and be capable of working independently to meet pre-determined deadlines throughout the duration of the course.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Directly into chosen Public Services (assuming eligibility criteria, e.g. age).
- This course provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector such as Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Public Services.

Applied Science

B-Tec – Level 3 Diploma (2 option choices)

Course Structure

In the first year the following units will be covered:

Unit	Topic	Credits
1*	Fundamentals of Science	10
2*	Working in the Science Industry	10
4*	Scientific practical Techniques	10
11	Physiology of Human Body Systems	10
13	Biochemistry and Biomedical Techniques	10
15	Microbiological Techniques	10

In the second year the following units will be covered:

Unit	Topic	Credits
3*	Scientific Investigations	10
5*	Perceptions of Science	10
6*	Using Mathematical Tools in Science	5
8*	Using Statistics in Science	5
	Plus 3 Optional Units	30

* These units are mandatory

What does the course involve?

- The one year programme will cover units 1, 2, 4, 11, 12 and 15, and is the equivalent of an A2 level.
- The two year programme will cover units 3, 5, 6, 8 and 3 optional units, and is the equivalent of two A2 levels.
- This is a practical, work related course delivering the skills and knowledge to enable candidates to perform a specialist scientific role in industry, commerce and science related employment.
- It is an assignment based course covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics with emphasis on the work of scientists and technicians.
- The course involves completion of coursework assignments and projects, based on realistic, work-based situations and activities.

What Skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs (C or above) including English and a double award (CC) or above in science.
- Alternatively, OCR National Certificate or BTEC first diploma in Science at Merit Grade.

Further study/employment prospects

- Provides the opportunity for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.
- The course can lead you to enter laboratory- based employment, or to study for Higher Level qualifications in Applied Sciences

Music Technology

B-Tec Level 3

This is a Level 3 qualification and is broadly equivalent to 1 GCE-A-Level, to achieve this you must obtain 60 credits. There are three options in the specification – Production, DJ Technology and Events Support. The B-Tec Level 3 Diploma in Music Technology is 100% assignment based there are no examinations to be sat. Each unit within the qualification has specified assessment and grading criteria which are to be used for grading purposes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at pass, merit or distinction.

Examples of units from the three sections

Unit	Credits	Assessment	Topic
Mandatory in each option	10	Portfolio	Technical management or Music Production Techniques or DJ Performance Techniques
2	10	Portfolio	Audio Engineering Principles
8	10	Portfolio	Concert Production and Staging
17	10	Portfolio	Marketing and Promotion in the Music Industry
26	10	Portfolio	Music Technology in Performance
29	10	Portfolio	Live Sound Techniques
38	10	Portfolio	The Music Freelance World
39	10	Portfolio	The Sound and Music Industry
40	10	Portfolio	Working and Developing as a Musical Ensemble

What does the course involve?

- A two year programme with a mix of two mandatory units and four optional units encompassing all areas of Music Technology and the industry.
- You will study the practical elements and techniques used in a variety of circumstances together with a wide selection of equipment.
- Evidence will be presented through portfolio work

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in music and music technology.
- An awareness of the range of music technology
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects

- The qualification provides opportunities to progress to higher education, degree and professional development programmes
- Employment opportunities in the media, recording studios, television and radio and professional events to name but a few.

Health & Social Care

B-TEC – Level 3 Diploma

Course Structure

In the first year the following units will be covered:

Unit	Topic	Credits
1*	Developing effective Communication in Health and Social Care	10
2*	Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care	10
3*	Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care	10
4*	Development through the Life Stages	10
5*	Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care	10
7*	Sociological Perspectives for Health and Social Care	5
8*	Psychological Perspectives for Health and Social Care	5

In the second year the following units will be covered:

Unit	Topic	Credits
20	Promoting Health Education	10
21	Nutrition for Health and Social Care	10
34	Human Inheritance for Health and Social Care	10
6 [^]	Personal and Professional development in Health and Social Care	20
23	Complimentary Therapies	10

* these units are mandatory ^requires 100-hours work experience in a health and social care setting.

What does the course involve?

- the one year programme will cover units 1-5, 7 and 8 and is the equivalent of an A2 level.
- The two year programme will cover units 20,21,34, 6 and 23, and is the equivalent of two A2 levels.
- Evidence is presented through portfolio work in a variety of stimulating ways such as presentations, role plays and promotional material.

What Skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in working in the Health and Social Care sector.
- 5 A* - C grades in GCSE's or equivalent.
- A good range of ICT skills would be beneficial.
- Basic literacy skills
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Further study/employment prospects

- Provides the opportunity for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.
- Prepares learners for employment in the health and Social Care sectors or for higher education

Business Studies

B-Tec Level 3 Diploma in Business

This is a Level 3 qualification and is equivalent to two A-Level's, to achieve this you must obtain 120 credits over 2 years. There is the possibility to only study for a B-Tec Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma, which is equivalent to one A-Level to achieve this you must obtain 60 credits.

Exemplar Course Structure Year 1

Unit	Credits	Assessment	Topic
1	10	Portfolio	The Business Environment
2	10	Portfolio	Business Resources
3	10	Portfolio	Introduction to Marketing
4	10	Portfolio	Business Communication
9	10	Portfolio	Creative Product Promotion
13	10	Portfolio	Recruitment and Selection in Business

Exemplar Course Structure Year 2

Unit	Credits	Assessment	Topic
5	10	Portfolio	Business Accounting
15	10	Portfolio	Development Planning for a Career in Business
16	10	Portfolio	Human Resource Management in Business
18	10	Portfolio	Managing a Business Event
34	10	Portfolio	Website Design Strategy
36	10	Portfolio	Starting a Small Business

What does the course involve?

Most units consist of an in-depth investigation based around a specific business organisation or several business organisations as a comparative study. Evidence is presented through portfolio work in a variety of stimulating ways such as promotional materials, presentations and role plays.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in business, enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- If studied GCSE Business Studies, should have achieved grade 'C' or above.
- A good range of ICT skills would be beneficial.
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- HND, HNC and Degree courses such as Business Studies, Management, Communication, Administration, Marketing, Accounting, Economics, Social Sciences.
- Employment prospects – Self Employment, Business Ownership/Management, endless opportunities having developed business knowledge and important transferable skills.
- Future prospects in business ownership.

The B-Tec Level 3 Diploma in Business is 100% assignments there are **NO EXAMINATIONS** to be sat. It is vital that all assignment deadlines are adhered to. This will allow for the opportunity, where necessary to improve your grade meaning successful completion of the course to the best of your ability. Each unit within the qualification has specified assessment and grading criteria which are to be used for grading purposes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at pass merit or distinction.

- To achieve a 'pass' a learner must have satisfied all the pass assessment criteria
- To achieve a 'merit' a learner must additionally have satisfied all the merit grading criteria
- To achieve a 'distinction' a learner must additionally have satisfied all the distinction grading criteria.

Performing Arts

B-Tec – Level 3 Diploma

The B-Tec Performing Arts course is aimed specifically at those with a practical interest in performance. If you have already had performing experience or have enjoyed the practical aspects of GCSE Drama, then this course would be ideal for you.

The B-Tec Diploma is the equivalent of one A-Level. There will be internal and external assessments of written and practical assignments, plus performances. All units are assessed individually and the final grade is an aggregate of the unit grades.

What does the course involve?

- The focus of the course will be practical, but excellent organisational skills will be required in order to complete the necessary written assignments.
- The course consists of a number of compulsory units, as well as a range of optional units, giving choice and flexibility in your learning. Areas that may be covered could include performance, devising theatre, directing and voice.
- There will be regular opportunities to see live performances and events at a number of professional venues, both locally and nationally.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- A keen interest in Performance and Theatre.
- Good organisational skills.
- Grade C in Drama is desirable but not essential.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- This course can lead to further study of Performing Arts at Drama School or University. Career choices included a variety of jobs within the performing arts industry, teaching or careers that require good communication skills.

Public Services

B-Tec Level 3

This programme of study is made up of Core and Mandatory units which include; Government, Leadership and Teamwork, Citizenship and Diversity and Understanding the Discipline in the Uniformed Public Services. There are also an additional 26 specialist unit titles to choose from dependent upon which certification is taken.

Assessment methods employed within the academic units include: individual research, group work, projects work, oral presentations, visual displays, written papers etc. Each unit carries at least two assignments. Successful assessments will be graded at pass, merit or distinction.

Course Structure

Certification	Equivalence
Certificate	1 GCE AS Level
Subsidiary Diploma	1 GCE A2 Level
Diploma	2 GCE A2 Levels
Extended Diploma	3 GCE A2 Levels

What does the course involve?

- This is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career.
- Learners will develop their knowledge and skills via lectures, personal research, talks, visits and practical sessions.
- Expeditions and Residential visits, work place visits, guest speakers and a wide variety of sport and fitness training will be utilised to enhance the overall learning experience.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- You will have the opportunity to experience visits, which aims to develop your teamwork, communication and leadership skills
- As well as theoretical knowledge and practical skills relating to Public & Emergency Services, you will also develop key skills that will help prepare you for life after College e.g. the workplace, further education and social situations. Outdoor education and sports skills development are built into the programme.
- You will have at least 5 A*-C at GCSE Level

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- Move directly into the Uniformed Public Services (assuming you meet the eligibility criteria e.g. age, health criteria)
- Working for the Uniformed Public Services in a civilian capacity
- Higher Education, you can choose from a variety of University courses

Sport Studies

B-Tec – Level 3 Diploma (2 option choices)

B-TECs are an established and highly successful alternative to general qualifications, suitable for a wide range of learners. As work-related qualifications, they are designed to accommodate the needs of employers as well as allowing progression to university. B-TECs provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background, giving learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment.

Course structure

Unit	Topic	Credits
1*	The Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport	5
2*	The Physiology of Fitness	5
3*	Assessing Risk in Sport	10
4*	Fitness Training and Programming	10
28 *	The Athletes Lifestyle	10
7*	Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise	10
17*	Psychology for Sports Performance	10

In the second year the following units will be covered:

Unit	Topic	Credits
11*	Sports Nutrition	10
27 *	Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport	10
18	Sport Injuries	10
8	Practical Team Sports	10
5	Sports Coaching	10
12	Current Issues in Sport	10

- * these units are mandatory

What does the course involve?

- The one year programme will cover units 1,2,3,4,7, 17 and 28 and is the equivalent of an A2 Level
- The two year programme will cover all of the above units and in addition units 11, 27 and 18, and is the equivalent of two A2 levels.
- Evidence is presented through portfolio work in a variety of stimulating ways such as presentations, role plays and promotional material.

What Skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in working in the Sports, Fitness and Health Sector
- 5 A*-C grades in GCSE or equivalent. If you have previously studied GCSE PE you should have gained a C grade or above
- A good range of ICT skills would be beneficial
- Basic literacy skills
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Further study/employment prospects:

- Provides the opportunity for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.
- Prepares learners for employment in the sport, fitness and health sectors or for higher education, including university.

Travel & Tourism

B-Tec Level 3 Diploma

Course Structure

The course consists of 4 mandatory units and a range of optional units.

In the first year, the following units will be covered:

Unit 1 – Investigating the Travel and Tourism Sector
Unit 3 – The UK as a Destination
Unit 4 – Customer Service in Travel and Tourism
Unit 12 – Responsible Tourism*
Unit 15 – Working as a Holiday Representative*
Unit 19 – UK Visitor Attractions*
Unit 23 – Residential Study Visit in Travel and Tourism*

In the second year, the following units will be covered:

Unit 2 – The Business of Travel and Tourism
Unit 7 – European Holiday Destinations*
Unit 8 – Long Haul Travel Destinations*
Unit 14 – Specialist Tourism*
Unit 16 – Passenger Transport for Travel and Tourism*
Unit 21 – Entertainment for Holidaymakers*

***Optional units (Please note that the choice of optional units is flexible dependent on the specific interests of the group)**

What does the course involve?

- The course is offered a two year programme.
- Units consist of a range of tasks which develop knowledge and understanding of the Travel and Tourism sector and its component industries.
- Evidence is presented through portfolio work in a variety of ways, such as reports, promotional materials, presentations and role plays.

What skills, qualifications or interests do I need to study this subject?

- An interest in Travel and Tourism.
- At least a Merit if you have studied B-TEC Level 2 Travel and Tourism.
- A good range of ICT skills would be beneficial.
- An ability to work independently on portfolio work and meet deadlines.

Possibilities for further study/employment prospects:

- HND, HNC and Degree courses such as Tourism Management, Hospitality Management, Sport Tourism, Cultural Tourism.
- Employment prospects – in the Travel and Tourism industry (which the largest and fastest growing industry in the world), e.g. Airlines, Airports, Tour Operators, Travel Agents, etc. There are many opportunities to work overseas in the travel and tourism industry.
- You will pick up a range of transferable skills such as communication, organisational and research skills which can be used in many other areas of employment.