



Cambridge House

Grammar School

YEAR 12 OPTIONS

2016 - 2018

together we create futures

SUBJECT CHOICES FOR A LEVEL

INFORMATION FOR YEAR 12 PUPILS AND PARENTS

This booklet has been produced to provide you with information and advice to help you make informed decisions about your future studies. It contains information about the options available at Sixth Form and details about each of the courses.

In Cambridge House Grammar School we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, offering a range of general and applied courses at 'A' level to suit all our young people while meeting the requirements of the Entitlement Framework.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

In this decision making process you should ask yourself some questions:

- Do I have a career in mind?
- What subjects am I best at?
- What subjects do I like best?
- Am I going to meet any subject specific requirements?

In coming to your decision you should discuss all the issues with your parents, your class teachers and your careers advisor.

BALLYMENA LEARNING TOGETHER

Some of the courses we offer may be delivered by another school in the Ballymena area. The following subjects will be offered through BLT next year:

- Construction
- Engineering
- Music
- Sports Studies

If any of the subjects usually delivered in CHGS are undersubscribed, there may be a possibility of these courses being delivered at another school in the local area. Pupils are only allowed to study one subject in another school.

CONCLUSION

The school will make every effort to meet the needs of each pupil. In some instances staff may consider it wise to advise strongly on suitability for some courses. When numbers opting for some courses are so few that it would not be educationally or economically viable to offer them, School reserve the right to withdraw the option. It is essential therefore that you think very carefully about your choices now. When courses are oversubscribed, selection may be on the basis of attainment to date.

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY THE DEADLINE SHOWN

You may of course change your mind about your subject choices once you receive your GCSE results. You will be given another interview in August 2016 but it must be noted that if there is not enough interest in subjects at this point (March 2016), these subjects will not be offered.

AS/A2 ART & DESIGN

2016 - 2018

Art and Design at AS/A2 Level encourages students to build on their practical skills and develop their critical understanding. This course helps you expand your knowledge of artistic materials and processes and understand how professional artists and designers work. It nurtures and develops a very wide range of intellectual and creative abilities.

WHY STUDY GCE ART AND DESIGN?

This course provides a solid foundation if you wish to progress to higher education or employment in Art and Design. Also the range of creative activities studied will benefit your overall educational development, helping you to cultivate the type of skills and attributes which universities and employers in general are looking for – such as creativity, resourcefulness, problem-solving, adaptability and imagination. Moreover, this is arguably one of the most enjoyable courses in the post-16 curriculum.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

The course is designed to build on the study of Art and Design at GCSE level, so a good GCSE grade in the subject is usually necessary. However, in exceptional circumstances pupils may be accepted without GCSE Art, if they can demonstrate strong artistic ability and enthusiasm, via a portfolio of personal work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

UNIT AS 1	60% OF AS 30% OF A2	UNIT AS 2	40% OF AS 20% OF A2
Coursework Portfolio An opportunity for you to freely demonstrate and communicate artistic interests, visual curiosity, creativity and personal skills in art, craft and design. You choose the theme/starting point. You select the work which reflects your ability and personal achievement in relation to the assessment objectives for this course. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">evidence of observations from primary sourceswork in a range of mediaa final outcome from one area of art, craft or design		Externally Set Assignment Theme/starting point is set by CCEA . Paper released in February. You produce preparatory work; and a final response which is completed within an 8-hour supervised examination period .	

You will choose your own coursework theme with the help of your teacher. **The assessment objectives for AS and A2 are the same as those for GCSE.** You will be given an assessment timeline (similar to the one at GCSE) which lists every week of the school year and highlights each deadline for coursework and the exam unit. This will be attached to your sketchbook throughout the year and you can record your progress on it at each stage. **You will never be in doubt about what stage of your work you should be at.** We find that this clear structure helps pupils to plan their work very effectively.

The **overall grade** which you get for AS will be determined by formal assessment at the end of each unit, when all your work is marked internally by the Art Department staff. The work will then be externally moderated by CCEA in May/June.

AS/A2 ART & DESIGN

2016 - 2018

UNIT A2 1

30% OF A2

Personal Investigation (coursework)

Further opportunity for you to freely demonstrate and communicate your artistic interests, visual curiosity, creativity and personal skills in art, craft and design.

The work you choose to present in an area of art, craft and design should stem from your strengths and personal interests in this subject.

Work should consist of:

- visual investigations
- written investigations (including an extended essay)

UNIT A2 2

20% OF A2

Externally Set Assignment

Theme/starting point is **set by CCEA**.

Paper released in February.

You produce preparatory work; and a **final response** which is completed within an **12-hour supervised examination period**.

The assessment process at A2 is the same as at AS and your overall A2 grade will be based on your average mark across both courses.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN ART AND DESIGN?

A GCE in Art and Design is a good stepping stone towards further study of art, craft and design at higher level and towards degree courses in other fields. Art is also recognised as a Core Subject for primary teaching courses by universities such as Stranmillis.

Collectively, the design industries make up one of the largest and fastest growing employment sectors worldwide. Qualifications in Art and Design can lead to employment in areas such as architecture, animation, ceramics, furniture design, graphic design, fashion, interactive media design, interior design, jewellery/silversmithing, product design, textile design or teaching. The course will also provide you with the type of creative skills which are valued by many employers.



AS/A2 BIOLOGY

2016 - 2018

The specification is designed to promote continuity, coherence and progression within the study of Biology. The A Level award provides a basis for the further study, at tertiary level, of Biology and related courses. For those progressing directly into employment, an AS or A Level award is relevant not only in the fields of science, engineering and medicine, but also to areas of commerce and the public service in which problem-solving and practical skills are valued.

The specification helps to provide an understanding of how biological developments affect the environment. The specification also contributes towards an understanding of ethical and cultural issues, thus adding to a full and rounded education.

The AS specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed within Double Award Science. Understanding and skills developed within GCSE Mathematics are also very relevant.

The A2 specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed within the AS course.

The classification code for this subject is 1010.

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

This specification addresses and builds upon the broad curriculum objectives for Northern Ireland, England and Wales. In particular it enables students to:

- study living organisms which includes their structure, functioning, origin, evolution, classification, interrelationships and distribution;
- address the spiritual, moral, ethical, environmental, social and cultural issues which arise from this study and which are met in certain parts of the specification:
- pay particular attention to health and safety considerations throughout their practical work, including fieldwork and coursework; and
- obtain a prerequisite qualification to gain entry to higher education in the field of Biology, or prepare for direct employment in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, communications, computers and information technology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is **essential** that students attain;

- Grade AB or above in higher tier Double Award Science
- A minimum of 70% in Double Award Science B1 and B2 unit exams (Higher tier)
- A minimum grade B in Mathematics (Higher Tier)
- An average GCSE score of 6.3 or above

These criteria are essential as in the past, those students with lower grades have found the depth of understanding and the detailed knowledge required extremely challenging and have had limited success in this subject.

Students not meeting all of the essential criteria may discuss entry onto this course with the Head of Department (Mr Finlay) after results day. However, entry would only be permitted at the discretion of the Head of Department.

SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

The structures of the AS and A Level courses are summarised in the table below:

Unit	Assessment	Weightings	Availability
AS 1: Molecules and Cells	1 hour 30 minutes written examination, externally assessed	40% of AS 20% of A Level	Summer
AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity	1 hour 30 minutes written examination, externally assessed	40% of AS 20% of A Level	Summer
AS 3: Assessment of Practical Skills in AS Biology	Internal practical assessment	20% of AS 10% of A Level	Summer
A2 1: Physiology and Ecosystems	2 hour written examination, externally assessed	40% of A2 20% of A Level	Summer
A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends	2 hour written examination, externally assessed	40% of A2 20% of A Level	Summer
A2 3: Assessment of Investigational and Practical Skills in Biology	Internal practical assessment	20% of A2 10% of A Level	Summer

AS/A2 BUSINESS STUDIES

2016 - 2018

Business Studies provides students with a unique insight into the world of work. Through its study, students discover how businesses operate and learn about their key elements and essential business functions.

WHY STUDY GCE BUSINESS STUDIES?

'In the business world, everyone is paid in two coins: cash and experience. Take the experience first, the cash will come later.' **Harold S Geneen – international businessman**

Through studying this specification, students will:

- gain an insight into the world of business
- gain understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants
- learn how to develop enterprising and creative solutions to business problems and issues
- become aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals
- acquire a range of skills including: decision making; problem solving; the ability to quantify and manage information; and the ability to challenge assumptions.

Business Studies is a good choice for students wishing to take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme in Year 13.



WHY STUDY GCE BUSINESS STUDIES?

Business Studies is not a subject that all students will have had the opportunity to study before. It is not essential to have studied GCSE Business Studies, but it may be beneficial. Students who have achieved good results at GCSE will find it much easier to take up Business Studies as a new subject at this level.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN BUSINESS STUDIES?

Business Studies is totally relevant to the world in which we live. Everyone is involved with business as an owner, employee or a customer. A knowledge of Business Studies, therefore, makes a positive contribution to all career paths.

More specifically, it offers an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue careers in Accounting, Actuary, Banking and Finance, Business Journalism, Human Resources, Management and Marketing, Consultancy, Retailing and Sales.

AS/A2 BUSINESS STUDIES

2016 - 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

AS 1: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Central Purpose of Business Activity
- Forms of Business Ownership
- Stakeholder Groups
- Markets and Market Forces
- Quality Management
- Investment and Productivity
- Organisational Design
- Investing in People
- Motivation
- Principles of Management and Leadership

AS 2: GROWING THE BUSINESS

- Spectrum of Competition
- Market Research
- Marketing Mix
- Market Planning and Strategy
- E-Business
- Sources of Finance
- Break-Even Analysis
- Cash Flow
- Budgeting
- Financial Statements
- Final Accounts

A2 1: STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING

- Business Objectives
- Organisational Culture
- Stakeholder Objectives
- Communication
- Economies and Diseconomies of Scale
- Business Strategy and Planning
- Decision Tree Analysis
- Risk and Uncertainty
- Company Accounts
- Ratio Analysis
- Investment Appraisal

A2 2: THE COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- Macroeconomic Framework
- Globalisation
- Government Policies
- Business Ethics and Organisational Culture
- Sustainability
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Influence of Stakeholder Groups
- Organisational Design
- Monopolies, Mergers, Takeovers and Restrictive Practices
- Change
- Reports

ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment	Weighting	Availability
AS 1: Introduction to Business	Students answer two compulsory, structured data response questions. 1h 30mins	50% of AS 20% of A Level	Summer
AS 2: Growing the Business	Students answer two compulsory, structured data response questions. 1h 30mins	50% of AS 20% of A Level	Summer
A2 1: Strategic Decision Making	Students answer one compulsory, structured data response question. 2 hours	30% of A Level	Summer
A2 2: The Competitive Business Environment	Students are required to produce a business report analysing problems, evaluating evidence and proposing solutions. 2 hours.	30% of A Level	Summer

WHY STUDY GCE CHEMISTRY?

- to develop your interest and enthusiasm for Chemistry,
- understand how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society;
- develop a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works;
- gain knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you achieved in GCSE Double award Science. It is expected that you have at least an average GCSE score of 6.3 including an AB in Double Award Science and a grade B in Mathematics.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	Written paper. 1 hour 30 minutes	35% of AS 17.5% of A Level
AS 2: Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and Introduction to Organic Chemistry	Written paper. 1 hour 30 minutes	40% of AS 20% of A Level
AS 3: Practical Assessment	Practical examination 2 hours 30 minutes.	30% of AS 15% of A Level
A2 1: Periodic Trends and Further Organic, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	Written paper 2 hours	40% of A2 20% of A Level
A2 2: Analytical, Transition Metals, Electro-chemistry and Further Organic Chemistry	Written paper 2 hours	40% of A2 20% of A Level
A2 3: Practical Assessment	Practical examination 2 hours 30 minutes	20% of A2 10% of A Level

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN CHEMISTRY?

A chemistry qualification could open doors to all sorts of jobs that you may have never imagined. The food we eat, the clothes we wear and the technology we use all depend on chemistry. Chemists develop new medicines, safeguard our food supply and monitor and protect our environment.

Most laboratory-based jobs benefit from a chemistry qualification. Many university science courses have a significant proportion of chemistry content and a GCE in chemistry is an excellent preparation for such study. Over 500 additional courses contain a notable element of chemistry as well as allowing a degree of breadth of study. There are a number of other courses which require or find it desirable to have a GCE in chemistry.

It is advisable to check the requirements for any proposed course before making any decision about the study of chemistry at A-level.

Learning about chemistry is both stimulating and fun. Not only does it help us make sense of the world around us, but chemistry also touches upon the main social, ethical and cultural issues affecting our lives today.

We all experience chemical reactions daily: whether it is breathing, baking a cake or driving a car. Studying chemistry helps explain these and many other interactions, enabling us to analyse all the associated elements and the compounds they form.

Given its close links with physics, biology and maths, chemistry also provides a wide-reaching base of scientific knowledge and brings with it great career opportunities in science, industry and commerce.



A chemistry qualification opens the door to a wide range of careers options, both in and out of the lab. There are endless interesting and rewarding science-based jobs available – these can be in research, outdoors or in other industries you might not have thought of. As a chemist you could:

- Fight disease by discovering new medicines.
- Protect the environment.
- Invent new products and materials, including cosmetics, paints, food and drink, plastics and much more.
- Solve crime using forensic analysis.
- Inspire others through teaching chemistry.
- Move into areas you had never even considered.

SUB DIPLOMA CONSTRUCTION & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

2016 - 2018

EDEXCEL LEVEL 3 BTEC SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA

Entrance Requirements: Entrants should normally possess at least four GCSE passes at grade C or above, including Mathematics and English or equivalent

COURSE CONTENT

The Subsidiary Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment is composed of a selection of vocationally related modules which are assessed through work realistic assignments and projects. Six modules are required for the achievement of a Subsidiary Diploma.

MODULES OFFERED

- Construction Technology & Design in Construction & Civil Engineering
- Sustainable Construction
- Building Technology in Construction
- Science and Materials in Construction and The Built Environment
- Surveying in Construction & Civil Engineering
- Health, Safety and Welfare in Construction and the Built Environment
- Computer Aided Drafting and Design for Construction (subject to accreditation)

Choose a course that will enable you to gain a qualification equivalent to 1 A-Level and the opportunity to progress to a well-paid, prestigious career, within disciplines such as architecture, planning, civil engineering or surveying, equipped with industry standard skills recognised around the world.



CAREER PROSPECTS

The course is primarily designed for those who wish to progress to university to study degrees in construction related disciplines including, architecture, civil engineering, building surveying, quantity surveying, planning and property investment.

The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A' Level and as such is a great supplement to a pupil's portfolio of two or three other traditional A' Levels.

The University of Ulster and Queens University now recognise the combination of a Diploma along with two traditional A Levels as a legitimate alternative to three traditional A' Levels.

For students who are reasonably certain that they want a career within construction the further advantage of undertaking the Subsidiary Diploma is that when they arrive at University they already understand the fundamentals of what they will be studying, which will ultimately give them a massive head start over their other colleagues.

Students obtaining a subsidiary Diploma can also progress to a Higher National Diploma or Certificate (HND, HNC) in a range of disciplines relating to construction and the built environment professions.

QUALIFICATIONS

An Edexcel BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment
(Equivalent to 1 A Level 120 UCAS points)

CONTACT

For more information on studying The Subsidiary Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment please contact:

Mr Tom Heaney

028 2566 4224

Tom.heaney@nrc.ac.uk

Mr David Avery

02870340106

david.avery@nrc.ac.uk

AS COURSE

Systems and Control & Product Design

The Specification can be found on the examination boards' website. The board is CCEA.

The subject entails all aspects of Design and Technology, with students having to improve a current products design, function and aesthetics. If the students select the subject for AS/A2 they will be assessed in two separate ways. They are as follows:

- **Theory examination 50%** : this includes all theory learnt throughout the academic year. The theory is broken down into two sections.

Section A - Materials and Product Design

This section highlights the different materials used in products, along with the manufacturing processes used to create them.

Section B - Systems and Control

This section identifies the electronics aspect of Technology. The students learn through practical bread boarding of circuits, simulation of circuits on computer software and calculations needed to understand the theory content of systems and control.

- **Controlled Assessment 50%** : this incorporates the students selecting a product to re-design, creating an appropriate design portfolio which takes the reader from initial concept to completed manufacture, before evaluating the product to see if they were successful. This section must also include the relevant theory content which they have learnt throughout the year, in parallel with this controlled assessment.

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS AS PROJECTS



A2 COURSE

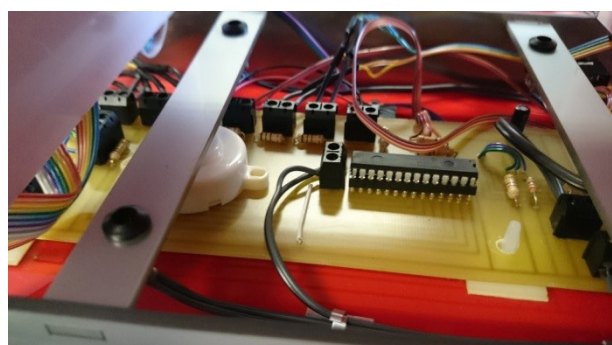
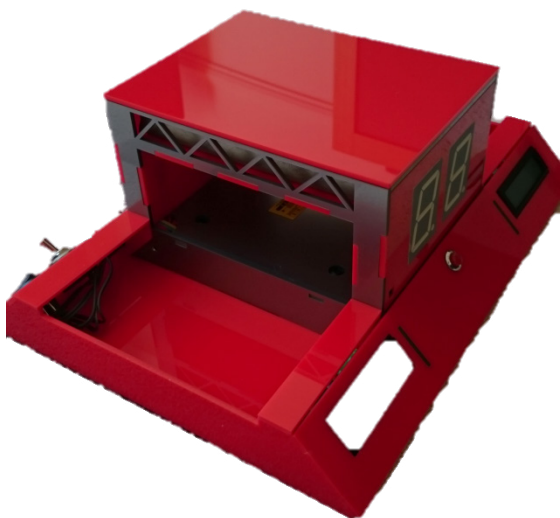
Systems and Control

The Specification can be found on the examination boards' website. The board is CCEA.

The subject entails all aspects of Design and Technology, with students having to improve a current products design, function and aesthetics. If the students select the subject for AS/A2 they will be assessed in two separate ways. They are as follows:

- **Theory examination 50%** : this includes all theory learnt throughout the academic year. The theory focuses on the systems and control aspect of Technology. The students learn through practical bread boarding of circuits, simulation of circuits on computer software and calculations needed to understand the theory content of systems and control.
- **Controlled Assessment 50%** : this incorporates the students identifying a design problem and finding the solution, creating an appropriate design portfolio which takes the reader from initial concept to completed manufacture, before evaluating the product to see if they were successful. This section must also include the relevant theory content which they have learnt throughout the year, in parallel with this controlled assessment.

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS A2 PROJECTS



AS/A2 DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

2016 - 2018

The Drama Department offer GCE Drama and Theatre Studies and students will follow the Edexcel specification.

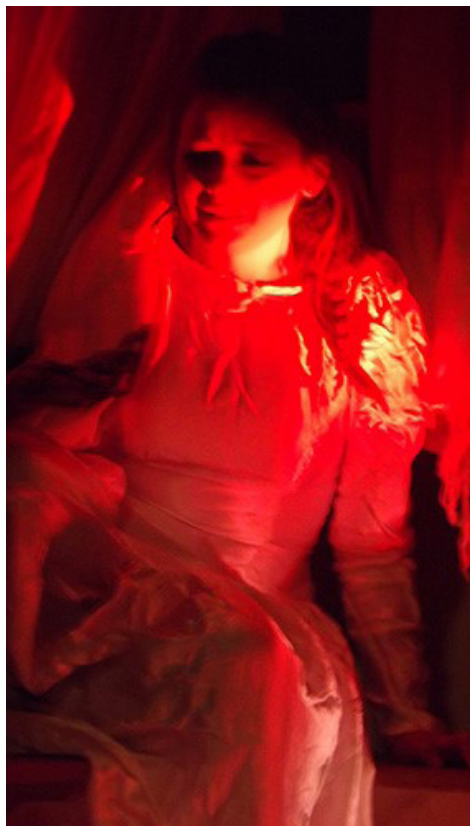
WHY STUDY DRAMA?

Drama helps pupils to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of style, genre and social context
- performance techniques – interpretation, improvisation, voice, physicality, stage relationships with others
- design skills – interpretation, visual and design impacts and the use of scenic devices
- technical abilities – lighting, sound, technology and appropriate equipment
- practical skills - from making masks and puppets to make-up
- collaboration and communication skills
- enquiring and reflective minds
- independent thinking and working.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?



UNIT 1: EXPLORATION OF DRAMA AND THEATRE 20%

Students will study two plays in a practical and active way. The unit is assessed through the completion of exploration notes and practical workshops. Students will also watch a live theatre performance and write a review.

UNIT 2: THEATRE TEXT IN PERFORMANCE 30%

This is an externally assessed unit. Students will present a monologue or duologue and will contribute either acting or design skills to a group performance.

UNIT 3: EXPLORATION OF DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE 20%

This is an externally assessed unit. Students will present a monologue or duologue and will contribute either acting or design skills to a group performance.

UNIT 4: THEATRE TEXT IN CONTEXT 20%

This unit is assessed through a 2 hour, 30 minute exam. Students will explore a text from the perspective of a director and will also be required to write about a live performance they have seen and compare it to how the play would have been performed in its original historical period.

SUB DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING

2016 - 2018

EDEXCEL BTEC SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA

Equivalent to 1 A Level / 120 UCAS points (Based on final grade – P, M, D)

Entrance Requirements: Entrants should possess at least 4 GCSE passes at Grade C or above or other relevant qualifications. GCSE's must include Maths and two Science related subjects.

BTEC Subsidiary Diplomas are six-unit qualifications at Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework. The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 'A' Level and as such is a great supplement to a pupil's 'A' Level portfolio. The Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering gives learners a solid foundation for building a career in the engineering sector or moving on to further qualifications or training.

COURSE CONTENT

	Prospective Queen's University Entrants	Prospective University of Ulster Entrants	Prospective Higher National Diploma Entrants
AS/A2	Mathematics (Essential)	Mathematics (Essential)	Mathematics (Desirable)
AS/A2	Physics/Technology/IT (Desirable)	Physics/Technology/IT (Desirable)	
Subsidiary Diploma	Engineering	Engineering	Engineering
Units to be Studied			
Year 1	Health & Safety	Health & Safety	Health & Safety
	Electrical & Electronic Principles	Electrical & Electronic Principles	Electrical & Electronic Principles
	Engineering Drawing	Engineering Drawing	Engineering Drawing
Year 2	Mechanical Principles & Applications	Mechanical Principles & Applications	Mechanical Principles & Applications
	Properties and Applications of Engineering Materials	Selecting & Using Programmable Logic Controllers	Selecting & Using Programmable Logic Controllers
	Principles and Applications of Electronic Devices & Circuits	Applications of Computer Numerical Control in Engineering (Ballymena) OR Fabrication Processes and Technology (Coleraine, Newtownabbey & Magherafelt)	Applications of Computer Numerical Control in Engineering (Ballymena) OR Fabrication Processes and Technology (Coleraine, Newtownabbey & Magherafelt)

SUB DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING

2016 - 2018

CAREER PROSPECTS

For students who are decided on a career within engineering, undertaking the Subsidiary Diploma means they arrive at University already understanding the fundamentals, which should ultimately give them an advantage over their peers.

Students may also progress to a Higher National Diploma or Certificate (HND, HNC) in a range of disciplines relating to engineering such as:

- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Electrical/Electronic Engineering**
- **Communications/Software engineering**
- **Engineering Management**
- **Biomedical Engineering**
- **Technology and Design**
- **Sports Technology**

If you want to get employment straight away local employers recruit apprentices with BTEC National qualifications to train them for jobs such as:

- **Manufacturing technicians**
- **Electronics service technicians**
- **Maintenance technicians**

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Continuous Assessment over the two year period. Methods include assignments and practical activities.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Particularly suited to students who achieve high grades in course work and assignment work.

Recognised by University of Ulster and Queens University, Belfast

CONTACT

For more information on studying the Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering contact:

Entitlement Framework Programme Support Services

Mr Tom Heaney

028 2566 4224

tom.heaney@nrc.ac.uk

AS/A2 ENGLISH LITERATURE

2016 - 2018

The English Department offer A-Level English Literature and follow CCEA's Specification.

Students will:

- read widely and independently both set texts and others they have selected for themselves;
- engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them;
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in speech and writing;
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them; and
- deepen their understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900-Present and Drama 1900-Present	External written examination 2 hours Students answer two questions Section A is open book. Section B is closed book.	60% of AS 24% of A Level
AS 2: The study of Prose Pre-1900	External written examination 1 hour Students answer one question Closed book.	40% of AS 16% of A Level
A2 1: Shakespearean Genres	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer two questions Closed book	20% of A Level
A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry	External written examination 2 hours Students answer two questions Closed book	20% of A Level
A2 3: Internal Assessment	Internal assessment Students complete a 2500-word essay.	20% of A Level

Texts studied may include:

William Shakespeare: The Taming of the Shrew
William Shakespeare: As You Like It
The Poetry of Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney
The Poetry of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath
Brian Friel: Translations
Arthur Miller: The Crucible
Nathaniel Hawthorne: The Scarlet Letter
Mary Shelley: Frankenstein



According to the 'Russell Group' of universities (which includes QUB), Modern Foreign Languages are classed as a 'facilitating' subject. The Education Secretary states: 'It's only by putting more of an emphasis on subjects like ... Modern Foreign Languages that our children will be able to flourish in the 21st century.'

GCE French will give you a fascinating insight into the world of French. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French in both speech and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary French society, cultural background and heritage of not only France but of other countries and communities where French is spoken. Your own personal development will also benefit greatly from taking GCE French. It will strengthen your confidence and help you gain a positive attitude to learning and independent study. The AS units can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification, or you can take the AS units combined with the A2 units to gain the full A level qualification.

WHY STUDY GCE FRENCH?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS course can be taken on its own without progressing on to the full A level qualification and this will still provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competency in French for use in leisure or travel; however if you wish to specialise in French at degree level or equivalent, it would be beneficial to complete the A2 units and obtain a full A level qualification.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

Before taking this course you will need to have obtained a good GCSE standard in both French AND English (grade B or above). You should also have a good knowledge of the culture and society of France and other countries where French is spoken and, of course, a desire to enhance this knowledge through further study. A sustained, committed effort from the outset is essential if you wish to be successful in this subject.

AS/A2 FRENCH

2016 - 2018

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Eight broad Contexts for Learning have been identified. These are basically topic areas which you will study and explore whilst developing your language skills. Four will be studied at AS and a further four at A2

AS

Media

Popular Culture

Healthy Living / Lifestyle

Family / Relationships

A2

Environment

The Multicultural Society

Contemporary Social Issues

Culture

At the end of this course you will not only have improved your ability to communicate at a much higher level in French but you will also have gained a very thorough knowledge of life in France and other French speaking countries.

HOW IS THIS COURSE ASSESSED?

AS

Unit 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing

70% of AS, 35% of A level

2 hour written examination, 110 marks

Available January and June

Unit 2 – Speaking Test

30% of AS, 15% of A level

35 minutes speaking test

(including 20 minutes preparation), 50 marks

Available January and June

A2

Unit 3 – Listening, Reading and Writing

35% of A level

2 hours 30 minutes written examination, 110 marks

Available June only

Unit 4 – Speaking test

15% of A level

35 minutes speaking test

(including 20 minutes preparation), 50 marks

Available June only

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN FRENCH?

Learning a language will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in GCE French will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing, but also in areas such as Financial Services, IT, Journalism and Engineering.

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geographers study the interaction between people and the places they inhabit. It is a relevant and flexible STEM subject which integrates well with a variety of other subject areas and can usefully be combined with science subjects, e.g. Maths, Computer Studies, Physics, Chemistry and Biology; arts subjects, eg. English, History and Modern Languages; or social sciences, eg. Economics. As a result A2 level Geography is recognised by the Russell Group of leading Universities as an important facilitating and bridging subject.

A level Geography allows the science specialist to develop important literacy skills and the arts specialist to develop important numeric and graphical skills.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

It is desirable that students attain:

- Grade B or above at GCSE Geography
- A grade B in GCSE English Language
- A grade C in GCSE Mathematics.

These criteria are important as in the past, those students with lower grades have found the depth of understanding and the detailed knowledge required extremely challenging and have had limited success in this subject.

Students not meeting these criteria may discuss entry onto this course with the Head of Department (Mrs Wylie) after results day. However, entry would only be permitted at the discretion of the Head

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Content	Assessment
AS 1	You will study three geographical themes: (1) Fluvial Environments, (2) Global Biomes and Ecosystems, (3) Weather and Climate The examination is divided into two sections: Section A – you will answer three short structured questions, one on each of the themes. Section B – there are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. You will answer any two questions.	One 1h15min examination. Worth 40% of AS 16% of A Level
AS 2	You will study three geographical themes: (1) Population and Resources, (2) Settlement Change and Challenges, (3) Development Issues. The examination is divided into two sections: Section A – you will answer three short structured questions, one on each of the themes. Section B – there are three questions requiring extended writing, one on each theme. You will answer any two questions.	One 1h15min examination. Worth 40% of AS 16% of A Level
AS 3	Section A – Fieldwork skills: in this you will focus on fieldwork and first hand data collection from the physical and human environment. Section B – Geographical Skill and Techniques: here you will focus on general skills including data collection, graphing and mapping techniques and data processing.	One 1 hour examination. Worth 20% of AS 8% of A Level

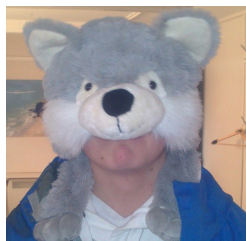
AS/A2 GEOGRAPHY

2016 - 2018

Unit	Content	Assessment
A2 1	<p>In this section you will study two units from the following: "Plate Tectonics: Theory and Outcomes", "Tropical Ecosystems: Nature and Sustainability", "Dynamic Coastal Environments", "Climate Change: Past and Present".</p> <p>The paper has four parts. Each part corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. You will answer two questions, one from each of our two chosen options.</p>	<p>One 1h30min examination.</p> <p>Worth 24% of A Level</p>
A2 2	<p>In this section you will study two units from the following: "Cultural Geography", "Planning for Sustainable Settlements", "Ethnic Diversity", "Tourism"</p> <p>The paper has four parts. Each part corresponds to one of the four options and includes two structured questions. You will answer two questions, one from each of our two chosen options.</p>	<p>One 1h30min examination.</p> <p>Worth 24% of A Level</p>
A2 3	<p>This examination paper is a decision-making exercise where you will use the skills and techniques you have acquired to examine, analyse and evaluate a range of resources.</p>	<p>One 1h30min examination.</p> <p>Worth 24% of A Level</p>

IS IT ALL CLASSROOM BASED?

No, Fieldwork is a fantastic and essential component of AS and A2 level Geography



"Fieldwork makes geography come to life, puts everything into context in glorious 3D and helps students really grasp how geography literally shapes the world around us."

Kate Humble, BBC "Springwatch" presenter

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN GEOGRAPHY?

The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing. Studying geography will help you gain a better understanding for example, of people and places, weather systems, tourism, environmental issues and sustainable development.

This course can help you develop a wide range of skills that are attractive to employers. It helps develop communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness.

There is a close link between what you will study in geography and what is going on in the world around you. Many of the topics or issues you will study are regularly reported about in the media.

Many geography students go on to have successful and interesting careers such as urban planners, climatologists, environmental managers, lawyers, researchers and teachers.

AS/A2 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

2016 - 2018

WHAT IS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

Health and Social Care is the study of health and well-being. Students learn about the key stages of physical and emotional development and begin to understand the profound influence relationships and life events can have on an individual's health. Students also examine the factors that influence a person's self-concept and how people react to change in their lives.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

Many students with a qualification in GCE Health and Social Care go into careers such as:

- nursing
- care assistant
- dental nurse/hygienist
- social work
- nursery assistant
- community worker
- occupational therapist
- speech and language therapist
- dietician

Other students go on to complete a BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care. Some students go straight into employment in the fields of health and social care.

AS COURSE CONTENT & MODE OF ASSESSMENT

Students are required to take three compulsory units.

Unit	Title	Content	Assessment
AS Unit 1 (Compulsory)	Promoting Positive Care	This unit gives students the opportunity to examine how legislation impacts on the rights and responsibilities of clients and carers.	Written report
AS Unit 2 (Compulsory)	Communication in Care Settings	This unit gives students the opportunity to learn and practise communication skills. They observe communication skills in a care setting and carry out two interactions.	Written report
AS Unit 3 (Compulsory)	Health and Well Being	This unit give students the opportunity to learn about health and well being and the factors which affect it.	2 Hour external examination

You will be required to complete a work placement of your choice in a health, social care, or early years setting. Unit 1 and 2 coursework will be based on this placement.

A2 COURSE CONTENT & MODE OF ASSESSMENT

Students are required to take one compulsory unit and two optional units.

Unit	Title	Content	Assessment
A2 Unit 9 (Compulsory)	Providing Services	This unit gives students the opportunity to learn about the way in which health and social care and early years services are organised.	Written report
A2 Unit 11 (Optional)	Support the Family	This unit gives students the opportunity to investigate family functions and changing family structure. Students will investigate the range of services available to meet family needs. They will also research how government initiatives help support families experiencing difficulties.	Written report
A2 Unit 15 (Optional)	Human Nutrition & Dietetics	This unit enables students to expose the relationship between food, nutrition and health. This unit explores the composition of food and dietary needs of individuals. The importance of a well balanced diet and the impact food choices have on an individual's health and well being are considered.	2 Hour external examination

IN HISTORY YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Understand different social, cultural, religious & ethnic identities within British, Irish & European societies e.g., Irish Republicans, Unionists;
- Improve as effective independent learners & develop skills such as evaluating information & weighing up evidence to build a case;
- To understand how individuals have shaped History e.g., Hitler, Mussolini. Appreciate that Historians can have differing views about people & events in the past.

COURSE CONTENT & SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment	Content	%
AS1	1 structured question from choice of 2 Source questions 1 hr 30 mins	Germany 1918 – 45 Weimar Republic; the Rise of Hitler & Nazi Germany; & Germany at War	25%
AS2	1 structured question from a choice of 4. 1 hr 30 mins	Liberalism & Nationalism in Europe 1815 – 1914 The fortunes of France & Austria during this period as well as the development & impact of the new Italian & German states.	25%
A2 1	1 Essay question from a choice of 2. 1 hr 15 mins	Liberalism & Nationalism in Europe 1815 – 1914 The fortunes of France & Austria during this period as well as the development & impact of the new Italian & German states.	20%
A2 2	2 Source questions. 1 Essay question from a choice of 2. 2 hrs	Partition of Ireland 1900 – 1925 The Ulster Crisis; Impact of the Great War; 1916 Easter Rising; Anglo – Irish War; Michael Collins & the Civil War of 1922 – 23.	30%

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade “B” in History & English. Any pupil without GCSE History wishing to take A-Level History must demonstrate a solid overall GCSE profile including at least a “B” in English.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

History can open up a wide range of opportunities for higher education & interesting careers. Many History students go on to have careers in the media, politics, law, editorial work, business, the civil service & armed forces.

AS/A2 HOME ECONOMICS

2016 - 2018

CCEA's GCE Home Economics focuses on the health and well-being of people in their everyday lives. The course will help enable you to address increasingly complex challenges related to human needs and the management of resources to meet those needs.

WHY STUDY GCE HOME ECONOMICS?

Through a range of practical and theoretical contexts, the course will enable you to develop and demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills, of factors which impact upon us as humans- for example, resource management to meet human needs in a diverse and ever changing society, rapid technological changes and the growth of scientific knowledge and understanding.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

A good standard GCSE in Home Economics (or equivalent) is desirable. A genuine interest in current social and consumer issues and an enthusiasm for learning will help you in this course.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit	Area of Study	Assessment
AS1	Nutrition for Optimal Health You will study micro and macro-nutrients and other dietary constituents: Protein, Fat, Carbohydrate, Vitamins, Minerals, NSP, Water This unit will also look at nutritional considerations through the life span.	One exam (1 hr 30) 50% of AS 25% of GCE
AS2	Priority Health Issues You will study current research in relation to diet and health, mental health and sexual health. This unit will also cover targets, strategies, initiatives, and campaigns for optimising health.	One exam (1 hr 30) 50% of AS 25% of GCE
A2 1	Consumer Issues Focuses on the main consumer issues in today's society: Food safety issues, Ethical issues, Financial management issues, Consumer information, Consumer protection and redress	One exam (2hr) 25% of GCE
A2 2	Research-based assignment You choose a research area from any of the other 3 units (AS1, AS2 or A21) and produce a report of no more than 4,000 words.	4,000 word research-based assignment 25% of GCE

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN HOME ECONOMICS?

This GCE course provides a solid foundation for higher education courses in Home Economics, other related subjects and for a range of careers in areas such as dietetics, hospitality, leisure, teaching, food management and supply, food technology and consumerism.

AS/A2 ICT (DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY)

2016 - 2018

REQUIREMENTS

Grade A* or A at GCSE ICT Full Course OR

Grade B at GCSE ICT Full Course AND an average GCSE score of 5.8 or above

KEY FEATURES

- It gives students opportunities to progress to career paths leading to professional IT management and the responsible use of IT within industry.
- It offers advanced study of modern technology-based systems.
- It reduces the assessment burden and provides stretch and challenge for A2 students.
- It offers the development of advanced skills in a range of development environments and a mixture of examination formats and question types.
- 20% coursework, 80% theory

SUMMARY OF COURSE

This course has been revised for first teaching in September 2016. Formerly known as ICT it is now called Digital Technology. The content of the course has been extensively changed to keep it up to date and relevant in today's digital world. In particular, the course now incorporates a programming element where pupils are introduced to fundamental programming concepts including object oriented programming.

AS LEVEL: 2 UNITS OF WORK

AS 1: Approaches to System Development – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% of AS, 20% of A2.

AS 2: Fundamentals of Digital Technology – 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% of AS, 20% of A2.

A2 LEVEL: 2 UNITS OF WORK

A2 1: Information Systems – a 2 hour 30 minutes exam, 40% of A2.

A2 2: Application Development – Internal assessment, 20% of A2. Students compile a portfolio showing evidence of the analysis, design, development, testing and evaluation of an application for a specified end user.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Further study of ICT or computing disciplines at university level can lead to high end professional careers in computer programming and systems development.

The total ICT workforce in Northern Ireland comprises 28,000 individuals – 3.49% of Northern Ireland's current workforce. This is made up of:

- 13,000 people in the ICT industry
- A further 15,000 working in ICT occupations in other industries.

AS/A2 APPLIED ICT

2016 - 2018

REQUIREMENTS

Applied ICT is a subject that is not currently studied at GCSE. It is not essential to have studied GCSE ICT, but it may be beneficial. Students who have achieved a B grade in GCSE ICT (Full Course) will find it much easier to take up Applied ICT at this level.

KEY FEATURES

- The A Level (6-unit) specification aims to encourage candidates to:
- apply their knowledge and understanding of ICT and use skills (eg planning, research, evaluation, problem solving) in vocational contexts;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the components, functions and applications of information systems within a range of organisations;
- develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using ICT and develop the skills necessary to apply this understanding;
- 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % coursework, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % exam

SUMMARY OF COURSE

CCEA's GCE Applied ICT qualification gives students hands-on experience of ICT and first-hand experience of how it is used in real life contexts. The specification builds on the foundations laid by the GCSE ICT specification and the GCSE Applied ICT Double Award.

To complete an A-Level in Applied ICT there is a requirement to complete six units of work as follows:

AS LEVEL: 3 UNITS OF WORK

AS Unit 1: Information and Communication – Practical task

AS Unit 2: Software Applications and Tools – 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour computer-based examination

AS Unit 3: Organisations and Information Systems – Practical task (based on a case study)

A2 LEVEL: 3 UNITS OF WORK

A2 Unit 7: Investigating Systems – 2 hour written examination (with pre-released case study)

A2 Unit 8: Database Development – Practical task

A2 Unit 10: Multimedia Technology – Practical task

All units are equally weighted and are worth 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the final A-Level qualification.

CAREER PROGRESSION

Further study of ICT or computing disciplines at university level can lead to high end professional careers in computer programming and systems development.

The total ICT workforce in Northern Ireland comprises 28,000 individuals – 3.49% of Northern Ireland's current workforce. This is made up of:

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- A further 15,000 working in ICT occupations in other industries.

AS/A2 LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES - SINGLE AWARD

2016 - 2018

CCEA - PENDING ACCREDITATION

Life and Health Science is an ever growing sector that already accounts for 25% of Northern Ireland's economic output. Science at KS5 provides an opportunity for students to build on the knowledge and skills obtained in Key Stage DA Science. Only students gaining a BB in DA Science should consider this option. Pupils should also have gained a B or above in GCSE Mathematics in order to cope with the mathematical demands of this course.

All students will be advised by Heads of Department as to their suitability to study this subject.

CCEA's new Life and Health Sciences is an innovative, broad yet cohesive Science A level that has been developed in partnership with industry to support the future workforce needs. Through this A Level, students can study a range of topics (pending accreditation) including Microbiology; Genetics; Medical Physics; Organic Chemistry, Material Science and Enabling Technology.

PROPOSED SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT AT AS LEVEL

Portfolio 66% Examination

Written Examination 33%

PROPOSED SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT AT A2 LEVEL

Portfolio 60% Examination

Written Examination 40%



AS/A2 MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS

2016 - 2018

Over the past few years the post-16 curriculum has undergone many changes with the advent of Advanced Subsidiary (AS) modules and the inception of Key Skills awards. The Faculty of Mathematics at Cambridge House Grammar School is committed in its strive for excellence, and through a proactive numeracy strategy supports life skills, such as problem-solving and Information Technology (IT) explicitly, and other key skills, such as, working with others implicitly. Skills in the communication of mathematical ideas are developed as well as the ability to reason, classify, generalise and prove.

While the uptake in AS Mathematics has fluctuated over recent years, the Northern Ireland examining board CCEA has revised the mathematics specification so that progression from GCSE to post-16 study can occur more seamlessly.

The GCE AS Mathematics and GCE A2 Mathematics specification offers pupils the opportunity to study various combinations of modules. Eight modules are available at Advanced Level with students at Cambridge House Grammar School taking the six modules in bold from the following list:

C1 Pure Mathematics 1
C2 Pure Mathematics 2
C3 Pure Mathematics 3
C4 Pure Mathematics 4

M1 Mechanics 1
M2 Mechanics 2

S1 Statistics 1
S2 Statistics 2

The recommended minimum requirement for the study of AS Mathematics is a grade A in GCSE Mathematics at the Higher Tier (having covered GCSE Module T4 topics).

We encourage high ability pupils with a real interest in mathematics to take A Level Further Mathematics (that is, two A Levels), consisting of a selection of the modules listed above and those listed as follows:

FP1 Further Pure Mathematics 1
FP2 Further Pure Mathematics 2
FP3 Further Pure Mathematics 3

M3 Mechanics 3
M4 Mechanics 4

The recommended minimum requirement for the study of A Level Further Mathematics is a grade B in GCSE Additional Mathematics.

It is worthy to note that courses at Advanced Level in Mathematics and Further Mathematics contain no coursework elements.

These Advanced Level mathematical courses enable pupils to acquire an appreciation of different branches of the subject and to develop an understanding of mathematical principles and the structure of mathematics. The courses provide suitable foundations for study of mathematics and other subjects in further and higher education, and for a range of interesting and well paid careers.

Mathematics is a hierarchical subject. This does not mean that there is an absolute order in which it is necessary to study the subject, but that ability to proceed to new work is very often dependent on sufficient understanding of one or more pieces of work which have gone before. Therefore, at this level it is a subject which requires constant hard work and much practice, whatever level of attainment has been achieved.

AS/A2 MEDIA STUDIES

2016 - 2018

The subject is designed to allow media students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to respond critically to a range of media industries and platforms. It enables students to explore a wide variety of media, including digital media technologies, drawing on the fundamental concepts informing the study of the media: texts, industry and audiences.

The specification also encourages creative work to enable students to gain a greater appreciation of the media through their own production work and to develop their own production skills. At A2 in particular, students are given the opportunity to research a topic which will then form the basis for their production, thus encouraging them to create productions informed by an awareness of contemporary media issues.

The specification is designed to encourage students to:

- enhance their enjoyment and appreciation of the media and its role in their daily lives
- develop critical understanding of the media through engagement with media products and concepts and through the creative application of production skills
- explore production processes, technologies and other relevant contexts
- become independent in research skills and their application in their production work and in developing their own views and interpretations

AS: 2 UNITS

Unit 1 MS1: Media Representations and Responses

External Assessment: 2 ½ Hour Written Examination Paper 50% (25% overall)

Unit 2 MS2: Media Production Processes (creating media products)

Internal Assessment 50% (25% overall)

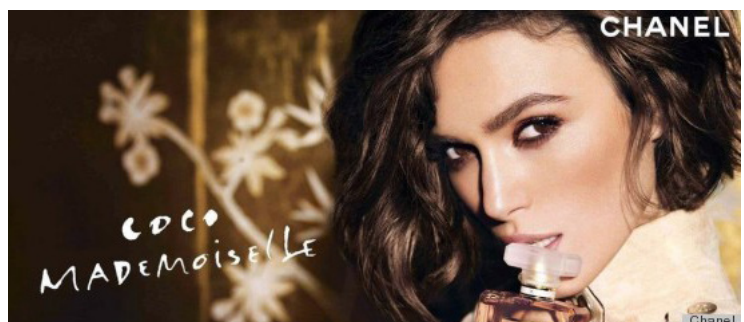
A LEVEL: THE ABOVE PLUS A FURTHER 2 UNITS

Unit 3 MS3: Media Investigation & Production (research essay & production of media products)

Internal Assessment 25%

Unit 4 MS4: Text, Industry and Audience

External Assessment: 2 ½ Hour Written Examination Paper 25%



AS/A2 PHYSICS

2016 - 2018

GCE Physics will give you a fascinating insight into the world of Physics. It reveals the link between theory and experiment and informs you about how physics has developed and is used in present day society. You will study three units at AS level and 3 at A2 level. Four of the units are theory based and are assessed by written examination papers. The remaining two units are practical units which are assessed by a practical examination.

WHY STUDY GCE PHYSICS?

This course is suitable if you wish to further your education in physics. You can take this course as a 1 year AS level course which would be beneficial for use with many subjects you would like to study in the future and also in various careers. If you go on to study the full GCE then it provides a good foundation for further study at university or for students going into the world of work. Through study in physics, you will develop new ways of looking at the world and new thinking skills.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

You will need to have obtained a good standard at GCSE Science: Double Award (BB) or GCSE Science: Physics (B). This is important as the AS specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed within these subjects. A good standard at GCSE Higher Tier Mathematics (B) is necessary if you plan to study GCE Physics. It is recommended that students have achieved at least an average GCSE score of 6.3 or that the Head of Department has advised the student of their suitability to study Physics at this level.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit	Content
AS1 Forces, Energy and Electricity	This unit teaches you to deal with physical quantities and scalars and vectors, which are required in all branches of physics. You will build on the knowledge and understanding of Newtonian mechanics and electricity to explain many economic and social applications of physics.
AS2 Waves, Photons and Medical Physics	The ideas about waves in this topic provide vital links to the study of light and sound. The section on photons introduces the quantum theory and the concept of wave-particle duality, two of the most revolutionary advances in physics. Work on medical physics introduces an application with opportunities for discussion on ethical, moral and environmental issues.
AS 3 Practical Techniques	In this unit you will acquire essential practical techniques, including planning, implementing, analysis, evaluation and communication.
A2 1 Momentum, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations & Atomic & Nuclear Physics	In this unit you will work on momentum, circular motion and oscillations. Thermal physics introduces an example of a simple model that can be extended to explain the properties of gases. The section on atomic and nuclear physics has important social and economic applications and leads to an introduction of particle physics.
A2 2 Fields and their Applications	This is a fundamental area of physics which has numerous applications in everyday life. You will study action-at-a-distance forces that arise between bodies that are separated from one another.
A2 3 Practical Techniques	In this unit you will build on the essential practical techniques that were acquired in Unit AS 3.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Assessment
AS 1: Forces, Energy and Electricity Worth 37% of AS / 18.5% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing Available January and Summer
AS 2: Waves, Photons and Medical Physics Worth 37% of AS / 18.5% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing Available January and Summer
AS 3: Practical Techniques Worth 26% of AS / 13% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute test of practical skills including 4 short experiment tests and 1 analysis of experimental results Available Summer
A2 1: Momentum, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations & Atomic & Nuclear Physics Worth 37% of A2 / 18.5% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and elements of synoptic assessment. Available January and Summer
A2 2: Fields and their Applications Worth 37% of A2 / 18.5% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and elements of synoptic assessment. Available Summer
A2 3: Practical Techniques Worth 26% of A2 / 13% of A Level	1 hour 30 minute test of practical skills: 2 experimental tests and 1 question on planning and design which includes synoptic assessment. Available Summer

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN PHYSICS?

Physics remains a popular A Level as it provides a sound basis for the further study of physics and related subjects at university, such as applied mathematics, astronomy, astrophysics, engineering (including its aeronautical, civil, electrical, electronic and mechanical branches), geophysics and materials science. If you go directly into employment, GCE Physics provides a basis for work in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, communications, computers, and information technology. It is also relevant to those areas of commerce and branches of the public service where problem-solving and practical skills are valued.

AS/A2 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2016 - 2018

IN GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES YOU WILL

- Develop your understanding of what various religious groups believe and do.
- Have the opportunity to learn about beliefs of those who are not religious with regards to moral issues and ideas about right and wrong.
- Be encouraged to reflect upon and express your own opinions of the topics being considered.
- Learn how to evaluate different issues, consider evidence and argue a case based on the evidence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

This course does not require previous knowledge although it is designed to follow on from CCEA GCSE Religious Studies. You will enjoy this course if you have a genuine interest in religious issues, have an enquiring mind and are keen to consider the effect of religion on your local community and the wider world.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be no Coursework.

There will be two examinations at the end of each year.

Year 13: two externally assessed written papers, each 1 hour 20 minutes long.

Year 14: two externally assessed written papers, each 2 hours long.

As the assessment requires extended writing it is recommended that you have sufficient levels of literacy to manage this.

COURSE OUTLINE: AS

UNIT AS 2: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Worth 50% of AS and 20% of A level

In this unit you will learn about

- the beginnings and growth of the early Christian Church, as recorded in the New Testament book of Acts.
- the life of the Apostle Paul
- the book of Acts as an historical document, exploring when, why and by whom it was written.

UNIT AS 7: FOUNDATIONS OF ETHICS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ISSUES IN MEDICAL ETHICS

Worth 50% of AS and 20% of A level

In this unit you will study

- Christian ideas about right and wrong from the Old and New Testaments
- alternative sources of ideas about right and wrong e.g. ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics.
- how to apply these different theories to real life moral issues such as contraception, abortion, embryo research, designer babies, surrogacy, euthanasia etc.

AS/A2 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2016 - 2018

COURSE OUTLINE: A2

UNIT A2 2: THEMES IN SELECTED LETTERS OF ST PAUL

Worth 30% of A level.

This unit builds upon AS 2 and will involve

- examining more of Paul's life as a missionary to the early church
- the study of Paul as pastor and theologian
- the teaching given to the early church in Paul's letters.

UNIT A2 7: GLOBAL ETHICS

Worth 30% of A level.

This unit focuses on

- various moral theories: Virtue Ethics, Moral Relativism, Free Will and Determinism
- practical issues flowing from the theoretical: Human Rights, Animal Rights, Sexual Identity, Conscience, Just War theory and the ethics of Justice and Punishment.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

You can gain a good A level in a subject which is accepted for entrance by all universities.

Not everyone who takes Religious Studies is intending to pursue the subject at University. Many use the qualification as a stepping stone in their career plan. Courses at university require A levels but many courses do not require specific subjects. Religious Studies can be one of the 3 (or 4) subjects which you need for university entrance.

Students of Religious Studies can go on to have careers in areas such as teaching, medicine, nursing, public service, advice work, counselling, journalism, social work, charitable organisations, youth work, community work and church ministry. Many of the courses leading to such careers will have a section which deals with the issues studied in A Level Religious Studies.

Sarah is a past pupil who went on to study English at QUB. This is what she says about RS at A level:

"To be honest I'd chosen to do R.S. for A level because I couldn't think of anything else to do and I thought that I would probably never use it again. But I've used it in every subject so far, especially the Free Will, Determinism, Marxist theories and all the stuff about Paul and his missionary journeys was really useful for Theology.

For Philosophy I've got an essay for Monday about proving that we actually exist and the A level RS work is going to be really useful for that. **I'd say that it was the most useful A level I did."**

AS/A2 SOCIOLOGY

2016 - 2018

This specification does not require previous knowledge although it is designed to follow on from WJEC GCSE Sociology.

Sociology is the study of society. It is a literary A level and provides detailed analysis of changes in the structure of society which is why it is useful for those considering a career in the legal profession and/or criminal justice sector. It is a valuable A level for careers in social work, social policy and nursing.

The A level comprises four units. Two units will be examined at the end of year 13 and are worth 40% of the total A level. This is in line with CCEA assessment.

AS CONTENT

UNIT 1: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF CULTURE

35.5% OF AS

This involves the processes and agencies of socialisation. It will draw on examples of the influence of socialisation on identity.

Family Diversity - Theoretical perspectives such as Functionalism, New Right, Marxism, Postmodernism and feminism. Changes such as demography, life expectancy, divorce, co-habitation in this institution examined and analysed.

UNIT 2: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND METHODS OF SOCIAL ENQUIRY

65.5% OF AS

Key concepts - reliability, validity, objectivity

Primary/Secondary methods, sampling, ethical issues, practical issues and theories of research such as positivism and interpretivism.

The sociology of religion examines the role and function of religion in contemporary society through different theoretical perspectives such as Neo- Marxism, Weberian and Functionalism.

A2 COMPRISES 60% OF THE TOTAL A LEVEL

UNIT 3: POWER AND CONTROL

This involves the processes and agencies of socialisation. It will draw on examples of the influence of socialisation on identity.

Family Diversity - Theoretical perspectives such as Functionalism, New Right, Marxism, Postmodernism and feminism. Changes such as demography, life expectancy, divorce, co-habitation in this institution examined and analysed.

UNIT 4: SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND APPLIED METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY

This involves an understanding of the mechanics of conducting an enquiry from research design through operationalization to selection of method to presenting data.

Students will finish with a view of Social differentiation and stratification through race, gender, class, pay, wealth and income supported by key theorists in this field.



This is a contemporary and interesting A level as it examines the problems and changes facing society today. It provides an opportunity for students to develop thinking and problem solving skills that are vital to higher education success.

AS/A2 SPANISH

2016 - 2018

According to the 'Russell Group' of universities (which includes QUB), Modern Foreign Languages are classed as a 'facilitating' subject. The Education Secretary states: 'It's only by putting more of an emphasis on subjects like ... Modern Foreign Languages that our children will be able to flourish in the 21st century.'

GCE Spanish will give you a fascinating insight into the world of Spanish. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in Spanish in both speech and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary Spanish society, cultural background and heritage of not only Spain but of other countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. Your own personal development will also benefit greatly from taking GCE Spanish. It will strengthen your confidence and help you gain a positive attitude to learning and independent study. The AS units can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification, or you can take the AS units combined with the A2 units to gain the full A level qualification.

WHY STUDY GCE SPANISH?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS course can be taken on its own without progressing on to the full A level qualification and this will still provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competency in Spanish for use in leisure or travel; however if you wish to specialise in Spanish at degree level or equivalent, it would be beneficial to complete the A2 units and obtain a full A level qualification.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS COURSE?

Before taking this course you will need to have obtained a good GCSE standard in both Spanish AND English (grade B or above). You should also have a good knowledge of the culture and society of Spain and other countries where Spanish is spoken and, of course, a desire to enhance this knowledge through further study. A sustained, committed effort from the outset is essential if you wish to be successful in this subject.

AS/A2 SPANISH

2016 - 2018

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Eight broad Contexts for Learning have been identified. These are basically topic areas which you will study and explore whilst developing your language skills. Four will be studied at AS and a further four at A2.

AS

Media

Popular Culture

Healthy Living / Lifestyle

Family / Relationships

A2

Environment

The Multicultural Society

Contemporary Social Issues

Culture

At the end of this course you will not only have improved your ability to communicate at a much higher level in Spanish but you will also have gained a very thorough knowledge of life in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries.

HOW IS THIS COURSE ASSESSED?

AS

Unit 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing

70% of AS, 35% of A level

2 hour written examination, 110 marks

Available January and June

Unit 2 – Speaking Test

30% of AS, 15% of A level

35 minutes speaking test

(including 20 minutes preparation), 50 marks

Available January and June

A2

Unit 3 – Listening, Reading and Writing

35% of A level

2 hours 30 minutes written examination, 110 marks

Available June only

Unit 4 – Speaking test

15% of A level

35 minutes speaking test

(including 20 minutes preparation), 50 marks

Available June only

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN SPANISH?

Learning a language will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in GCE Spanish will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing, but also in areas such as financial services, IT, Journalism and Engineering.

YEAR 12 OPTIONS



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