



Cambridge House
Grammar School

A LEVEL
OPTIONS

2020 - 2022

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 may be offered through BLT next year:

- Construction
- Engineering
- Sports Studies

Engineering and Sports Studies are also delivered in-house. If any of the subjects usually delivered in CHGS are under-subscribed, 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. We 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 reserves 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.

Art and Design

AS/A2

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?

1. Direct entry to degree courses that include: Textiles, 3-D design and Photography.
2. Develops key transferable skills such as creativity, problem solving, innovation and risk-taking
3. Prepares learners for fast-growing creative and cultural employment sectors
4. Is relevant to a wide range of other careers

This course provides a solid foundation if you wish to progress to higher education or employment in Art and Design. The creative industries are the fastest growing area of the economy and are vital to economic success. Studying art, craft and design creates a pathway to a career in a creative industries-related field.

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. GCE Art and Design requires students to develop key transferable skills such as creativity, innovation, higher level thinking skills and problem solving. It encourages students to find alternative approaches and take risks in their work. It also develops in depth knowledge of art and design through research and practical activities, intellectual capabilities and independent approaches to learning.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE 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?

The course has four units: two at AS level and two at A2: Students may follow a broad pathway through Art, Craft and Design – Combined Studies, or choose from one of three specialisms: Photography and Lens-Based Media; Three Dimensional design or Textiles.

Art and Design

AS/A2

AS 1	50% OF AS	20 % OF A LEVEL	AS 2	50% OF AS	20 % OF A LEVEL
Experimental Portfolio Students develop, explore and record ideas. Teachers assess students' work and CCEA moderate their marks.			Personal Response Students present a personal outcome in response to a given theme and finish this off during a 10 hour period of supervised (controlled assessment) study. Teachers assess the Personal Outcome and CCEA moderate their marks.		
A2 1	60% OF AS	36% OF A LEVEL	A2 1	40% OF AS	24 % OF A LEVEL
Personal and Critical Investigation Practical work and written investigation. Teachers assess students' practical work and CCEA moderate their marks. Written Investigation (1000–3000 words) is externally assessed.			Thematic Outcome Students present a personal outcome in response to a given theme and finish this off during a 15 hour period of supervised (controlled assessment) study. Teachers assess the Personal Outcome and CCEA moderate their marks.		

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 and are relevant to many types of careers.

Biology

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE BIOLOGY?

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.

The AS specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed within GCSE Science: Double Award, GCSE Science: Biology and other equivalent courses. Knowledge, understanding and skills developed within GCSE Mathematics are also relevant.

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

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

It is essential that students attain;

- Grade AA or above at Higher Tier Double Award Science
- A minimum grade B in Mathematics (Higher Tier)
- A minimum of 70% accumulatively in Double Award Science B1 and B2 units

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.

Biology

AS/A2

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

Unit	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Molecules and Cells	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay,	37.5% of AS 15% of A Level
AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer six to eight structured questions and write an essay.	37.5% of AS 15% of A Level
AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills. 1 hour Internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment, and we moderate the results)	25% of AS 10% of A Level
A2 1: Physiology, Co-ordination and Control, and Ecosystems	External written examination 2 hours and 15 min Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A Level
A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends	External written examination 2 hours and 15 mins Students answer six to nine structured questions and write an essay.	24% of A Level
A2 3: Practical Skills in Biology	External written examination assessing practical skills 1 hour 15 mins Internal practical assessment (Teachers mark the assessment, and we moderate the results)	12% of A Level

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN BIOLOGY?

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.

Business Studies

AS/A2

One of the key competencies requested by employers is commercial awareness. Business Studies will provide you with an insight into the world of business, enabling you to develop sound business acumen, thereby making you highly employable. Regardless of the career path you choose, having an A Level in Business Studies will provide you with important knowledge and skills that will support all university degrees and future employment opportunities.

Highly successful past pupils have studied A Level Business Studies with Science, Mathematics, Languages, History, Home Economics, Technology and Design and many other combinations. Through both theoretical and practical methods, you will discover how businesses operate and learn about their key elements and essential business functions.

The Business Studies Department in Cambridge House adds value to pupil performance and works effectively with pupils to achieve very good A Level outcomes.

WHY STUDY GCE BUSINESS STUDIES?

Through studying this specification, you will:

- gain an understanding of business and the international marketplace
- gain an understanding of organisations and their relationship with key stakeholders
- evaluate the role of technology in business communication, operation and decision making
- generate enterprising and creative solutions to business problems and issues
- understand the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and business decision makers
- acquire a range of skills including: decision making; problem solving; interpretation of management information and strategic thinking
- develop advanced study skills which will help you to prepare for third level education.

As a Year 13 Business Studies pupil, you will be given the opportunity to work as part of a team to set up and run your own business through The Young Enterprise Company Programme. Your team will make all the decisions about your company, from deciding on the company name and product, creating a business plan, managing the company finances, selling to the public at trade fairs to ultimately winding up the company and paying your taxes.

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

GCSE Business Studies Grade B or good academic performance at GCSE, particularly at literate subjects. Business Studies is not a subject that all pupils will have had the opportunity to study before. It is not essential to have studied GCSE Business Studies, but you will find it beneficial if you have. Pupils who have achieved good results at GCSE will find it much easier to take up Business Studies as a new subject at this level.

Business Studies

AS/A2

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

Unit	Assessment	Weighting
AS 1: Introduction to Business	Students answer two compulsory, structured data response questions. 1h 30mins	50% of AS 20% of A Level
AS 2: Growing the Business	Students answer two compulsory, structured data response questions. 1h 30mins	50% of AS 20% of A Level
A2 1: Strategic Decision Making	Students answer five compulsory, structured data response question. 2 hours	30% of A Level
A2 2: The Competitive Business Environment	Students answer six compulsory, structured data response questions. 2 hours.	30% of A Level

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN BUSINESS STUDIES?

Put simply, A Level Business Studies is an excellent career choice. When you consider that everyone is involved with business as an owner, employee or a customer, then having knowledge of how businesses function can only be beneficial to your future career. More specifically, it offers an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue careers in Accounting, Actuarial Science, Banking and Finance, Consultancy, Engineering, Health-Related Professions, Human Resources, Management, Marketing, Retailing and Sales.

Chemistry

AS/A2

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 other.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE 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 an AA in Double Award Science and a grade B in Mathematics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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, Electrochemistry 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

Chemistry

AS/A2

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.

Construction

Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

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

Entrance Requirements: Entrants should normally possess GCSE Mathematics and English at grade C or above.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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)

QUALIFICATIONS

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

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN CONSTRUCTION?

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.

Digital Technology

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY?

- 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

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

Grade A* or A at GCSE Digital Technology OR

Grade B at GCSE Digital Technology AND an average GCSE score of 5.8 or above

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 UNIT OF WORK

A2 1: Information Systems

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.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY?

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

The IT industry in Northern Ireland is currently booming with many multinational companies choosing to base their IT systems here. This means that there are a large number of job opportunities for IT graduates in a wide variety of disciplines right on our doorstep.

For further information on IT careers, <http://bringittonni.info/> and www.e-skills.com are useful websites.

Drama and Theatre Studies

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

This is a course for those that wish to work practically as well as study academically all aspects of Drama, theatre and production skills. You will explore all of the following that will include directing, acting, script writing, set design, costume, lighting, sound and use of multi-media. This is a course for those that are already confident in front of an audience. In Year 13 we will prepare you with a wide range of contemporary practitioners, texts and scripted works. Year 14 develops this further with a study of classical and modern texts as well as writing and devising your own contemporary play.

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

GCSE English Language C and Drama B

The most important qualities are a love of theatre and drama, a sense of humour, an ability to get on with others and a willingness to work hard. Additionally, you must be willing to carry out the necessary written work and research to develop and broaden your skills. You will learn how to analyse plays in a variety of ways and how they can be interpreted for realisation in performance. You should be confident enough to develop your characterisation, movement, vocal and ensemble skills. Other skills include practical improvisation, performance skills, movement and voice exercises, note taking, research, discussion, use of film, theatre visits and workshops.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS and A levels in Drama and Theatre will be assessed through a combination of a 60% practical assessment and coursework and 40% written exam. It is based on four main areas of study of drama and theatre: interpretation of plays for performance; the contribution of theatre practitioners to the development of theatre; the analysis of live productions seen and candidates' own practical work.

Drama and Theatre Studies

AS/A2

The year 13 AS course includes:

UNIT 1: PERFORMANCE

60%

A Group play as well as either a Monologue or duologue from 2 different plays. A 2500 word portfolio is also included around a theatre practitioner or theatre company who influenced your group play.

UNIT 2: WRITTEN EXAM

40%

There will be three questions in total. The paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length. One question will be on a live review and then two questions around a set text one on performance and one on design from page to stage.

The Full A level Course at A level includes:

UNIT 1: DEVISING

40%

You will be writing, directing and acting in your own original piece of theatre. A 3000 word Portfolio around the play is also required

UNIT 2: PERFORMANCE

20%

A Group Play performance and also either a Monologue or Duologue. There is no written work around this.

UNIT 3: WRITTEN EXAM

40%

There are three questions in total. The paper is 2 hours and 45 minutes. There is a Live review as well as the study of two texts from a directors perspective.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES?

In the future you are going to have to be a creative thinker, not a follower. The skills you learn are key in a wide range of working environments. Skills of teamwork, communication and problem solving are necessary for future success. This can open up a career in a number of fields such as teaching, business or management, public relations, liaison officer, social work and any area where you have to talk publicly. More and more employers are looking for Drama on CVs as it builds confidence, social, communication and team building skills.

There are a number of courses and careers directly related to the subject such as acting, producing, directing, film making, stage management, working for Media companies such as the BBC, lighting or sound design, costume or set design and make-up. There are good courses in Drama available at Queen's, UUC, Central, LIPA, LAMDA as well as study stage management at Central or set design at Bristol Vic, amongst many others. It is also worth noting that The Arts is a growing industry within Northern Ireland.

Engineering

Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

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

WHY STUDY ENGINEERING?

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.

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

GCSEs must include Maths and two Science related subjects, at Grade C or above.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

	Prospective Queen's University Entrants	Prospective University of Ulster Entrants	Prospective Higher National Diploma Entrants
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)

Engineering

Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN ENGINEERING?

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**

English Literature

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

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.

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*

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 English Language (B or above). It is also strongly advised that you have obtained a GCSE in English Literature (B or above); if this is not the case you will need to discuss this with the Head of English as well as your GCSE English Language teacher.

You should enjoy reading, be an effective independent learner and possess good critical thinking skills. A sustained, committed effort from the outset is essential if you wish to be successful in this subject.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 one question 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

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Many pupils have gone into the teaching profession, pursued journalism, law as careers or become writers.

French

AS/A2

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 (Grade A or above) 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.

French

AS/A2

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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

AS

Relationships

Culture and Lifestyle

A2

Young people and society

Our place in a changing world

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 WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS

AS 1 – Speaking Test

30% of AS, 12% of A level

11 minutes speaking test, including a 3 minute presentation

AS 2 – Listening, Reading and Use of Language

40% of AS, 16% of A level

2 hour written examination

AS 3 – Extended Writing

30% of AS, 12% of A level

1 hour written examination

A2

A2 1 – Speaking Test

18% of A level

15 minutes speaking test including an individual research project (6 mins)

A2 2 – Listening and Reading

24% of A level

2 hours 45 mins written examination

A2 3 – Extended Writing

18% of A level

1 hour written examination

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.

Geography

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE 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, e.g. Business Studies. 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
- Grade B in GCSE English Language
- 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 of Department.

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 1h 15min 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 1h 15min 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

Geography

AS/A2

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 1h 30min 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 1h 30min 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 1h 30min 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.

Health and Social Care

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in Northern Ireland. By choosing this subject you will be given the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects including communication, health promotion, legislation, family issues and values of care. This subject prepares you for a career in the caring profession. There is a good balance between examinations and internally assessed units which enable you to plan work effectively and monitor your work on a regular basis.

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

There are no specific GCSE subject requirements but a good standard of English is vital, preferably at C* level. Students not achieving this grade should speak to the Head of Department - entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Title	Content	Assessment
AS Unit 1 (Compulsory)	Promoting Quality Care	This unit gives students the opportunity to examine how care workers apply values of care, how legislation impacts on the rights and responsibilities of service users and care workers.	Written report 25% of AS 10% of A Level
AS Unit 2 (Compulsory)	Communication in Health, Social Care and Early Years Settings	This unit gives students the opportunity to learn and practise communication skills. They observe communication skills in a care setting and carry out interactions.	Written report 25% of AS 10% of A Level
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 50% of AS 20% of A Level

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.

Unit	Title	Content	Assessment
A2 Unit3 (Compulsory)	Providing Services	Legislation and policy, Meeting individual needs, Barriers to service provision, Roles and responsibilities, Team working, Quality assurance	2 hour external examination 30% of A level
A2 Unit 5 (Optional)	Supporting the Family	Family structures, Support provided, How families meet needs of vulnerable members, Family issues	Written report 15% of A level
A2 Unit 4 (Optional)	Health Promotion	Local health improvement priorities, Planning a health promotion activity, Carrying out the activity. Evaluating the activity	Written report 15% of A Level

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

Many students with a qualification in GCE Health and Social Care continue to third level education to study a wide range of courses including child care, nursing, midwifery, social work, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, teaching and similar careers.

Other students go on to complete a BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care. Some students go straight into employment in the health, social care or early years sectors.

History

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE HISTORY?

History is not about “stuff;” History is about people - a real-life drama full of villains and heroes, the mighty and the meek. It examines the circumstances that moved its players to transform people and places (for better and for worse), and it holds the answers to how and why our lives are fashioned the way they are today - from our language, fashion and technology to our sports, political systems and religious practices. History explains the major events happening in our world at present and provides lessons and clues for the future.

History teaches us to ask two very important questions: why and how. This is key to sharpening your critical thinking abilities, which combine the following skills:

- Analysis
- Research
- Essay writing
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Argumentation
- Teamwork
- Economic & Political Literacy
- Interpretation & evaluation of evidence

Historians look at all the available evidence and come to conclusions, a lot like a good detective, which helps them learn to be organised and manage information. It will be up to you to bring together all your knowledge and to try and solve the mysteries of the past.

The Russell Group of top universities recognize History as one of eight “Facilitating Subjects” which provide the best preparation for a wide variety of courses in Higher Education.

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

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.

Ideally you will have an interest in current affairs with a keen eye on the ongoing political & economic issues of today’s world.

Students not meeting these criteria may discuss entry for this course with the Head of Department (Mr Alexander) after results day in August. However, entry will not only be permitted at discretion of the Head of Department.

History

AS/A2

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Assessment	Content	%
AS1	1 structured question from a choice of 2. 2 Source questions. 1 hr 30 mins.	Germany 1918 – 45 The challenges left by the First World War; Weimar Republic; the Great Depression; the Rise of Hitler & the Nazi Party; treatment of minorities & terror; & Germany at War.	20%
AS2	2 questions from a choice of 3. Each contains a short response question & an essay. 1 hr 30 mins.	Russia 1914 - 41 The causes & consequences of the 1917 Communist Revolution; Lenin's Russia including the role of Trotsky & the use of terror; Stalin's Russia including why he rose to power, his leadership style & how he transformed Russia.	20%
A2 1	1 essay question from a choice of 2. 1 hr.	Clash of ideologies in Europe 1900 – 2000 The relationship between the USSR & the West until the collapse of the Iron Curtain; motives & methods of Russian & Western foreign policy over issues like the nuclear arms race & the Berlin Wall.	20%
A2 2	3 source-based questions. 1 Essay question from a choice of 2. 2 hrs 30 mins.	Partition of Ireland 1905 – 1923 The Ulster Crisis; Impact of the Great War; 1916 Easter Rising; Anglo – Irish War; Michael Collins & the Civil War of 1922 – 23; creating & sustaining the new Northern Ireland.	40%

*There is no coursework in A Level History

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN HISTORY?

With your ace analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you'll be primed for a huge range of careers in history and beyond. Areas you could go in to include:

- Law
- Politics
- Civil Service
- Business
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Economics
- Teaching
- Academia
- Insurance
- Social Research
- Archaeology & Curation
- Armed Forces
- Tourism

Information Technology

Level 3 National Extended Certificate

WHY STUDY A BTEC IN IT?

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is equivalent in size to one A Level. It is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to employment, often via the stepping stone of higher education, not necessarily in IT.

Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

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

It is not essential, but may be beneficial to have studied Digital Technology or Business and Communication Systems at GCSE as a lot of the subject content is relevant and students will find it much easier to take up an IT qualification at this level.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors.

Learners will complete 4 units of work over 2 years

Unit 1

Information Technology Systems – External Assessment – 2hr Written Examination

Unit 2

Creating Systems to Manage Information – External Assessment – 5hr Computer-based Tasks (over 2 days)

Unit 3

Using Social Media in Business – Internal Assessment – Assignment based unit

Unit 6

Website Development – Internal Assessment – Assignment based

Unit results are used to calculate the overall classification (Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*)

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BTEC LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATION IN IT?

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses.

The qualification, when studied with other Level 3 qualifications, is aimed at progression to higher education but also enables learners to develop knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles such as a social media specialist, web/content developer, or business analyst.

Some university courses may require the achievement of specific units and learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

Life and Health Sciences: Single Award

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES?

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.

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

Minimum BB in Double Award Science

Minimum of 3 Higher Tier papers across (B1, B2 - C1, C2, P1 and P2)

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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.

Unit	Assessment	%
Unit AS 1: Experimental Technique	Internal Assessment Core unit	33.34% of AS 13.34% of A Level
Unit AS 2: Human Body Systems	External written examination Core unit 1 hour 30 mins	33.33% of AS 13.33% of A Level
Unit AS 3: Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes	External written examination Core unit 1 hour 30 mins	33.33% of AS 13.33% of A Level
Unit A2 1: Scientific Method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation	Internal assessment Core unit	20% of A Level
Unit A2 2: Organic Chemistry	External written examination Core unit 1 hour 45 mins	20% of A Level
Unit A2 3: Medical Physics		20% of A Level
Unit A2 4: Sound and Light	External written examination Optional units 1 hour 45 mins	(Single Award students take any one of these units.)
Unit A2 5: Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning		

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE MATHEMATICS?

CCEA stated in its press statement in August 2019 that Mathematics continues to be the most popular A-level, accounting for 1 in 10 entries. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) in its August 2019 press statement commented that 'traditional subjects such as Mathematics remain popular in Northern Ireland'. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are seen as 'facilitating subjects' as they are more frequently required than other subjects for entry to a range of degree courses.

Russell Group universities value mathematics skills for many different degree courses. Mathematical and statistical problem solving, data analysis and interpretation skills can be useful for a wide range of undergraduate courses.

A new CCEA GCE Mathematics specification was introduced in September 2018. It encourages students to understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.

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

The new GCE Mathematics specification assumes the knowledge of Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics. This therefore includes the mathematics studied in modules up to and including M4 and M8. The recommended minimum requirement for the study of A-level Mathematics is a grade A in GCSE Mathematics. Ideally students would have covered the GCSE Further Mathematics course and attained a passing grade.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The following are key features of the new GCE Mathematics specification.

- It includes four externally assessed assessment units
- Assessment at A2 includes more demanding question types and synoptic assessment that encourages students to develop their understanding of the subject as a whole
- It gives students a sound basis for progression to higher education and to employment

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

AS/A2

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination. 1 hour 45 mins Students answer all questions	60% of AS 24% of A-level
AS 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination. 1 hour 15 mins Students answer all questions	40% of AS 16% of A-level
A2 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination. 2 hour 30 mins Students answer all questions	36% of A-level
A2 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination. 1 hour 30 mins Students answer all questions	24% of A-level

Pure Mathematics includes: algebra and functions; co-ordinate geometry; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; vectors; and numerical methods.

Applied Mathematics includes: quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws; moments; impulse and momentum; statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions; and statistical hypothesis testing.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN MATHEMATICS?

Careers with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are often interesting and rewarding. Students who have studied mathematics are in a fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is that mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you can develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically.

Career prospects for mathematics graduates are very rich, with opportunities for employment in: Accountancy, Aerospace, Automotive, Business support services, Chemicals, Construction, Consultancies, Education, Engineering, Environment, Financial Services, Food & Drink, Government, Healthcare, Insurance, IT & Computing, Manufacturing, Metals & Minerals, Pharmaceuticals, Academic Research, Science, Telecoms, Transport, Utilities.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Studying GCE Further Mathematics gives students opportunities to extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and have an excellent choice of career.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Studying GCE Further Mathematics gives students opportunities to extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and have an excellent choice of career.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination. 1 hour 30 mins Students answer all questions	50% of AS 20% of A-level
AS 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination. 1 hour 30 mins Students answer all questions from their chosen sections	50% of AS 20% of A-level
A2 1: Pure Mathematics	External written examination. 2 hours 15 mins Students answer all questions	30% of A-level
A2 2: Applied Mathematics	External written examination. 2 hours 15 mins Students answer all questions from their chosen sections	30% of A-level

Pure Mathematics includes: further algebra and functions; complex numbers; matrices; vectors; proof; further calculus; polar co-ordinates; hyperbolic functions; and differential equations.

Applied Mathematics includes: Hooke's law; work and energy; power; circular motion; further particle equilibrium; resultant and relative velocity; further circular motion; gravitation; dimensions; sampling; probability; statistical distributions; and bivariate distributions.

Media Studies

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE MEDIA STUDIES?

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 the media. 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.

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

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

At least GCSE grade C in English Language.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS (3 components)

Component 1: Media Language, Representations and audiences: Music Videos, Video Games, Advertising and Film Marketing.

External Assessment: Written Examination Paper 35%

Component 2: Media forms and products (in depth)

Television, Magazines, Online Media.

External Assessment: Written Examination paper 35%

Component 3: Media Production

Individual production comprising a single media product created in response to a range of briefs set by the examination board.

Internal Assessment 30%

A Level (3 components)

Component 1: Media Language, Representations and audiences: A range of forms and products in relation to relevant aspects of the theoretical framework. Areas studied include Music Videos, Video Games, Advertising and Film Marketing.

External Assessment: Written Examination Paper 35%

Component 2: Media forms and products (in depth)

An in-depth study of three media forms in relation to all areas of the theoretical framework. Areas studied include Television, Magazines, Online Media.

External Assessment: Written examination paper 35%

Component 3: Media Production

An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by the examination board.

Internal Assessment 30%

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN MEDIA STUDIES?

Many former pupils have entered the teaching profession, have journalism careers, both in the newspaper industry and on television.

Music

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE MUSIC?

This specification aims to encourage students to:

- engage actively in studying music;
- develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians;
- recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising;
- develop particular strengths and interests, thereby encouraging lifelong learning and providing access to music-related and other careers; develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- develop skills in literacy;
- reflect critically and make personal judgements on their own music and the music of others;
- engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development; and develop awareness of music technologies and their use in creating and presenting music.

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

We will advise you of entry requirements.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS Level

AS 1: Performing

Externally assessed by visiting examiner
Solo performance, Viva voce
32.5% of AS. 13% of A level.

AS 2: Composing

Internally assessed, externally moderated
A: Composition Task or
B: Composition with Technology Task
Written commentary
32.5% of AS. 13% of A level.

AS 3: Responding to Music

Two external written examinations
Test of aural perception. 1 hour
Written examination. 2 hours
35% of AS. 14% of A level.

A Level

A2 1: Performing

Externally assessed by visiting examiner
Solo performance, Viva voce
19.5% of A level.

A2 2: Composing

Internally assessed, externally moderated
A: Composition Task or
B: Composition with Technology Task
Written commentary
19.5% of A level.

A2 3: Responding to Music

Two external written examinations
Test of aural perception. 1 hour 15 mins
Written examination. 2 hours
21% of A level.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN MUSIC?

Many pupils have entered the teaching profession, performed with orchestras, choirs etc

Nutrition and Food Science

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE?

Nutrition and Food Science is currently high in the public's perception and there could not be a better time to develop knowledge and understanding of the subject, given current global and national food issues. Nutrition is a fast-moving discipline that focuses on understanding the role of diet in maintaining a healthy body and preventing disease. Students will develop a critical appreciation of the issues affecting our food supply, how they impact upon the environment, and the ethical implications.

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

A B grade or above in GCSE Home Economics (or equivalent) is desirable.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Content	Assessment
AS1 Principles of Nutrition Study of macronutrients and micronutrients and other dietary constituents. Nutritional requirements and dietary recommendations across the life-span are also included.	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer all short questions in Section A and two extended writing questions from a choice of three in Section B 50% of AS. 20% of A level.
AS2 Diet, Lifestyle and Health Study of the current research in relation to diet, lifestyle and health: eating patterns, energy and energy balance, diet-related disorders, alcohol, physical activity.	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer all short questions in Section A and three extended writing questions from a choice of four in Section B 50% of AS. 20% of A level.
A2 1 Option 1: Food Security and Sustainability Study of consumer behaviour in relation to food purchasing decisions and considerations of issues and implications of consumer food choice: food security, food poverty, food sustainability, food waste, changing consumer behaviour. A2 1 Option 2: Food Safety and Quality Study of securing a safe food supply from primary producer to consumer: food safety, safety throughout the food chain, microbial contamination, chemical contamination, additives, allergens, controls and legislation.	External written examination 2 hours 30 minutes Students answer a compulsory question in Section A and three extended writing questions from a choice of four in Section B 30% of A level
A2 2 Research Project Student submits a report on a research project of their own choice. The research area is taken from AS 1, AS 2 or A2 1.	Internal assessment Students complete a 4000 word research-based project. Teacher marks the project. CCEA moderates the results. 30% of A level

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE?

This subject provides a solid foundation for higher education and a wide range of careers. There are numerous job opportunities in the diverse nutrition and food science sector and associated fields such as: Dietetics, Human Nutrition, Food Design and Nutrition, Food Product Development, Food Management and Marketing, Food Manufacturing, Environmental Health, Food Science and Technology Consumer Business Management, Teaching, Sports Studies, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Radiotherapy.

Physics

AS/A2

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 (AB). 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 and it is desirable to be studying Further Mathematics 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.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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 Astronomy	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.
AS 3 Practical Techniques and Data Analysis	In this unit you will acquire essential practical techniques, including planning, implementing, analysis, evaluation and communication.
A2 1 Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics	This unit's content on circular motion and oscillations extends the mechanics foundation included in Unit AS 1. Thermal physics connects the properties of gases to the basic principles of kinetic theory. The section on atomic and nuclear physics has important social and economic applications and leads to an introduction to particle physics.
A2 2 Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics	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 and Data Analysis	In this unit you will build on the essential practical techniques that were acquired in Unit AS 3.

Physics

AS/A2

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Assessment
AS 1: Forces, Energy and Electricity Worth 40% of AS / 16% of A Level	1 hour 45 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing. Available Summer only
AS 2: Waves, Photons and Astronomy Worth 40% of AS / 16% of A Level	1 hour 45 minute written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing. Available Summer only
AS 3: Practical Techniques Worth 20% of AS / 8% of A Level	1 hour External Practical including four short tasks testing practical skills. 1 hour Data Analysis Paper requiring the analysis of experimental results. Available Summer only
A2 1: Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics Worth 40% of A2 / 24% of A Level	2 hour written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and elements of synoptic assessment. Available Summer only
A2 2: Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics Worth 40% of A2 / 24% of A Level	2 hour written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and elements of synoptic assessment. Available Summer only
A2 3: Practical Techniques Worth 20% of A2 / 12% of A Level	1 hour External Practical including two experimental tasks testing practical skills. 1 hour Data Analysis Paper requiring the analysis of experimental results. Available Summer only

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.

Professional Business Services

AS/A2

The UK's professional and business services (PBS) sector is a global success story. The UK is host to top international firms providing the various highly skilled services that make up the sector, including accountancy, advertising, architecture, engineering, legal services, management consultancy and scientific research and development. The UK's PBS sector is highly competitive internationally, with a share of exports to developed countries second only to the US and a trade surplus of £19 billion. Its advice is also key to the success of much of the rest of the UK economy.

A key area to ensuring the future strength of the industry is through increasing access to the high level skills demanded by client-focused professional firms. PBS is critically dependent on the quality of its people for success. This means its recruits must have the skills that make them ready for work, the aptitude to gain specific knowledge, and a professional mind set. The opportunities are huge: the UK Commission for Employment and Skills expects 600,000 additional UK jobs to be created in the PBS sector in the next decade.

The UK is host to many world leading PBS businesses, including six of the top 10 international networks of accountancy firms, the 'magic circle' of leading law firms, and the world's largest advertising company, WPP. The UK has strong international players across the rest of the sector, including architecture, recruitment services and audit.

WHY STUDY GCE PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES?

Through studying this specification, you will:

- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for professional business services, including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject
- develop competence and confidence in a number of skills, including independent learning, creative thinking, practical, mathematical and problem solving
- carry out practical tasks and present your findings in different formats
- appreciate the needs of business professionals operating in the marketplace of Northern Ireland and beyond
- progress to relevant higher education programmes.

As a Year 13 Professional Business Services pupil, you will be given the opportunity to work as part of a team to set up and run your own business through The Young Enterprise Company Programme. Your team will make all the decisions about your company, from deciding on the company name and product, creating a business plan, managing the company finances, selling to the public at trade fairs to ultimately winding up the company and paying your taxes.

Professional Business Services

AS/A2

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

Pupils who have achieved good results at GCSE will find it much easier to take up Professional Business Services as a new subject at this level. Knowledge, understanding and skills developed in GCSE Business Studies and Mathematics will also be beneficial.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES?

By choosing GCE Professional Business Services as one of your A Levels you will have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and experience key to future successes in both higher education and the world of work. In addition to excellent academic preparation for further study and future employment, this A Level also provides the opportunity to develop the soft skills much sought after by employers. The adoption of a blended learning approach will help to make you work ready and as a result highly employable, well able to succeed in the recruitment and selection process and make a smooth transition into the work setting.

Whilst Professional Business Services is sound preparation for the majority of careers, it directly relates to accountancy, advertising, architecture, engineering, legal services, management consultancy and scientific research and development.

Religious Studies

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

- 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?

Grade "B" in Religious Studies & English. Any pupil without GCSE RS wishing to take A-Level must demonstrate a solid overall GCSE profile including at least a "B" in English. Ideally you will have an interest in current affairs with a keen eye on the ongoing ethical & religious issues

Students not meeting these criteria may discuss entry for this course with the Head of Department (Mr Ross)

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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.

Religious Studies

AS/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.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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.

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.

Spanish

AS/A2

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 (Grade A or above) 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.

Spanish

AS/A2

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

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

AS

Relationships

Culture and Lifestyle

A2

Young People and Society

Our Place in a Changing World

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 WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS

AS 1 – Speaking Test

30% of AS, 12% of A level

11 minutes speaking test, including a 3 minute presentation

AS 2 – Listening, Reading and Use of Language

40% of AS, 16% of A level

2 hour written examination

AS 3 – Extended Writing

30% of AS, 12% of A level

1 hour written examination

A2

A2 1 – Speaking Test

18% of A level

15 minutes speaking test, including an individual research project (6 mins)

A2 2 – Listening and Reading

24% of A level

2 hours 45 mins written examination

A2 3 – Extended Writing

18% of A level

1 hour written examination

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.

Sport

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

WHY STUDY SPORT?

The BTEC course will help to prepare students for a range of careers in sport and for higher education in this field. Students will complete the Subsidiary Diploma in Sport (equivalent to one A-level). This course is designed to give the learner the knowledge and experience of sport through practical and academic assessments.

On this programme, students will also have the opportunity to gain additional awards in coaching and leadership as well as a qualification in child protection. As a vocational course, we encourage students to gain as many additional qualifications as possible to support UCAS applications for higher education and further job opportunities.

In addition to theory lessons, practical activities and supported time to complete assignments, the learner will also be required to study independently to complete coursework using the ICT facilities.

Guest speakers are invited into the college to deliver talks on specialist topics such as sports nutrition, sports injuries and sports development.

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

In addition to the school entry requirements for Year 13, it is desirable that students have a keen interest in sport and/or have a grade A*-C in GCSE PE.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Throughout this two-year course students will study several specialist units, which will be selected by their tutors. Each of these units is designed to help gain a better understanding of the sports industry. The students will gain knowledge about sports and leisure facility operations, sports development, coaching techniques and training methods, and learn how to plan and lead a coaching session.

Some of the units available to study on this pathway include:

- Principles of anatomy and physiology.
- Risk assessment in sport.
- Sports nutrition.
- Sports injuries.
- Performance analysis.
- Fitness training and testing for sport.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT?

On completion of the BTEC subsidiary diploma in sport, students will hold the equivalent of one A-level. In combination with their other A-Level courses students will have the opportunity to progress onto higher education in a number of universities within the UK. Previous students on this course have also been accepted onto sports scholarships outside of the UK.

Technology and Design

AS/A2

WHY STUDY GCE TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN?

The subject entails all aspects of Design and Technology, with students having to improve a current products design, function and aesthetics. The Specification can be found on the examination board's website. The board is CCEA.

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

Pupils must have studied the subject at GCSE and obtained an overall grade B.

WHAT WILL I STUDY AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS LEVEL

- **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.

A2: SYSTEMS AND CONTROL

- **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.

A LEVEL OPTIONS



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