



**Sixth Form  
Course Guide  
2021 - 22**

## Contents

Introduction	3
What are A Levels?	3
What to expect when studying A-Levels?	3
IGCSEs required	4
How to go about choosing the right A level subjects	5
Choosing the right A level subjects for popular degrees	7
The Curriculum	8
The Options Timeline	11
Course Change Requests	12
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	12
Art and Design	14
Biology	17
Business	19
Chemistry	21
Computer Science	24
English Literature	27
Geography	29
History	31
Mathematics	33
Modern Foreign Languages	35
Music A Level	38
Physical Education	40
Performing Arts	42
Physics	44

## **Introduction**

You are about to embark upon the most exciting stage of your school career. As you approach the end of compulsory education, you will need to be thinking of the subjects you wish to study in Years 12 and 13.

The qualifications we offer lead to university entrance worldwide. The courses are all designed for specialists and are therefore excellent preparation for the rigorous demands of top-class Universities. Our students gain admission to a large number of Universities, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Students progressing into the Sixth Form follow a rigorous schedule and helping you to reach your academic potential is one of our primary aims. Our examination results are excellent, and we are very proud of the achievements of our students.

## **What are A Levels?**

A-levels are internationally recognised qualifications that are required for entry into many university courses and professional training opportunities. Students typically study A-levels between the ages of 17 and 18. A-levels can help you: get a place at college or university, start the career you want and explore the subjects you love.

A Levels are two-year qualifications that give students a chance to study an existing GCSE subject in greater depth or sometimes it is possible to try a completely new subject. In the first year, you study the first half of the A-level, which is called the AS-level. In the second year, you study the A2-level. Your combined result from both years is your A-level grade. A-levels are assessed by a mixture of practical coursework and exams in both years (AS and A2).

## **What to expect when studying A-Levels?**

- An increase in difficulty compared to IGCSEs.
- Differences in the way you're taught and what's expected from you.
- More independent study time – you'll only have between three and five subjects to study as opposed to high volume at GCSE, meaning less time in the classroom.

## **IGCSEs required**

Students should be aware whilst making decisions for the Sixth Form that linear A Levels are very demanding. As such, A Level subjects should ideally be undertaken by students possessing high IGCSE grades in related subjects. (High grades at IGCSE typically include grades 5 – 9 or B – A\*). Universities expect applicants to have a wide range (minimum of 5 is recommended) of good passes at IGCSE as well as three strong passes in their A Level subjects. Therefore, we recommend and advise students only to enter our A Level programme with a proven track record from previous courses taken.

If you have not achieved a 5 or higher in English Literature or English Language or a C or higher in IGCSE Mathematics, you are required to retake these courses. We offer Senior IGCSE English classes for this purpose and Senior IGCSE Mathematics classes. Senior Mathematics may be taken by a student who has not achieved a C or a student who would like to study Extended Mathematics in order to achieve a grade higher than a C. This cannot be achieved through the IGCSE Core Mathematics course.

Traditionally passes in 5 IGCSE subjects are required for students to progress to the A Level course. Due to the International community at Mougins School, students may have different qualifications depending on their previous school. Thus, if you do not have 5 passes in IGCSE subjects, it is necessary to make an appointment with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss a possible path.

## **How to go about choosing the right A level subjects**

There are three principles which should guide your choice:

- choose A level subjects that you will enjoy
- take time to find out all you need to know
- choose subjects which will fit in with your career plans

### Enjoyment

If you do not enjoy studying a subject, it is difficult to do well in it. In the Sixth Form you want to be stimulated and feel you are achieving something, not bored or frustrated. If you enjoy the work, you will probably get a good grade in the exam.

To know whether you will enjoy a subject you should consider two things: the content of the subject and the skills it requires.

You should have a real interest in the subject content – the things that you study. It should seem relevant, important and interesting to learn about. And you should also think about the skills that the subject requires. One subject might require a lot of learning detail, another might require a lot of independent reading, some subjects involve a lot of writing, others a lot of creativity. Each of these activities requires skills you must be confident that you have or that you can develop.

The way a subject is assessed might also be important to you, particularly if assessment involves project work. Do exams involve a lot of writing, a lot of problem solving, a lot of reading?

Beware of taking a subject just because 'it sounds interesting'. Check it out carefully. Finding out more about a subject is essential if you haven't studied it before, but it is also important to review subjects you are familiar with – they are likely to change significantly as you move from IGCSE to A level. The following guide to individual A levels contains information about the content, skills and assessment for a range of subjects.

### Clear understanding

Don't assume that an A level in a subject will be just like the IGCSE was, only a bit harder. A level is a whole new ball game, and to find the best way forward you'll need to tap into good information, from a variety of sources. Here are some ideas for where to look and who to talk to. You might not find that the choices become simple, but you will find that you can narrow down your options more easily, and that the final choices you make are likely to be the right ones.

- A Level subject guides
- Your current teachers – Your current teachers will know your intellectual strengths and weaknesses. It is certainly worth asking their opinion on the subjects you are thinking about. Of course, you need to balance their opinions with the other information you acquire, but if they advise against taking a particular subject, that’s a warning sign that you need to take seriously.
- Sixth form teachers – Studying with a teacher you like and respect can make a real difference but don’t choose a subject just because you get on well with the teacher. Teachers change jobs, and your group might be assigned to another member of the department.
- A level subject specifications – The exam board ‘specifications’ (new term for ‘syllabus’) describe the topics to be covered, often in considerable detail. You can find exam board specifications for each A level subject online.
- Other students – Talk to sixth formers who are currently studying the subjects you are considering. Ask them what they like best about their subjects (and what they don’t like). They can give you an insight into the day-to-day rewards and challenges of the subject that no other source can.
- Texts and reference books – Skimming through a book on the subject can give a good idea of the type of work you would be doing. This is particularly useful when you are considering an A level subject you have not studied before.

## Career

If you have clear ideas about what you want to do in life, you should check whether your plans require specific subjects, but don’t feel you have to nail down your future plans before choosing A levels. Keeping options open is a good idea, though you should check that your A level choices don’t rule out degrees you’re interested in. You will also find that there are many degree subjects which you can apply to with any combination of A levels.

It is not always a good idea to take an A level subject that you know you will find really tough, just because it is needed for a particular career. You may want to rethink your choice of career. We sometimes find ourselves advising students who want to become doctors but who don’t like science – not a good ambition!

Consult widely: use your Bridge U account to research different careers, courses and Universities. Discuss your thoughts with your parents, your subject teachers and your tutor. In addition, Mougins School employs the careers service SPW who are available to answer any questions that you may have. They are experts on Universities worldwide, including what requirements are necessary for various degrees. Ask your tutor how you can contact them.

## Choosing the right A level subjects for popular degrees

This section describes the A level subjects which are essential for various popular degree courses, and those which would be directly useful.

- **Chemistry** A level is essential or very useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology (and related subjects like Biochemistry).
- To study **Medicine**: Chemistry is essential, plus 2 other A levels, one of which should be a science; Biology and Mathematics are highly recommended.
- For a **Business Studies** degree: No essential A level subjects, though Maths is useful and you will need a good Maths result at IGCSE. Business Studies or Economics A levels are helpful. Top Universities do not like you to do both. The same is true for degrees like Accounting, Management etc.
- **European Business Studies** generally requires a European Language.
- **Law degrees**: No essential subjects, though they like you to have subjects which show logical ability and the ability to write (eg: a mixture of Arts and Science subjects).
- **Psychology**: No essential subjects (a mix of Arts and Science subjects is good.) You will need IGCSE Maths.
- **Computing**: Computer Science is not an essential subject for many courses; however, Maths A level is essential for most Universities and courses and useful for all.
- **Engineering**: Maths and Physics are generally essential (though you can apply without them and complete an extra Foundation year). Chemistry is essential for most Chemical Engineering degrees.
- Most other degree courses either have no essential A level subjects, or just require an A level in the subject concerned plus any two others. Do check though! And do bear in mind that the top academic degree courses will generally expect three 'academic' A levels. These are referred to as "Preferred A level Subjects" by these Universities.

## **The Curriculum**

At Mougins School the subjects offered are from one the following examination boards, with the following qualifications:

- Cambridge Assessment International Education – CAIE
- Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels – IAL
- Pearson Edexcel Linear A Levels
- Pearson BTEC International Level 3

### **Cambridge Assessment International Education – CAIE**

Thousands of learners worldwide gain places at leading universities every year with Cambridge International AS & A Levels. The syllabuses develop a deep understanding of subjects and independent thinking skills.

Cambridge International A Level (A2) is typically a two-year course, and Cambridge International AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Level is typically one year. The AS course is half of the syllabus content of the A Level course and contributes to 50% of the final A Level grade. At Mougins school, you will sit the Cambridge International AS Level examinations at the end of Form 12. This is a complete qualification obtained, even if you do not wish to continue to the A Level course in Form 13. The second half of the course is taken in Form 13 and completes the A Level qualification.

Each subject that a learner takes receives a separate grade. Grades are benchmarked using internationally recognised grades, which have clear guidelines to explain the standards of achievement. The Cambridge International A Level is reported on a grade scale from A\* (highest) to E (minimum required performance). There is no A\* grade for Cambridge International AS Levels, which run from grade A to E.

Subjects offered: Computer Science, Geography, History and Mathematics.

### **Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels – IAL**

Pearson Edexcel International AS/A Levels (IAL) are globally recognised qualifications which open doors to top universities worldwide. They use the popular and flexible modular approach which mean exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, or throughout the programme of study when a student feels prepared and ready, or all together at the end the course. This flexibility, together with exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels have an AS/A2 split, which means AS can either be taken as a stand-alone qualification or used as a stage on the way to completing an Advanced Level.

You'll be issued an UMS mark and grade for each unit. When you complete the course we will ask Edexcel to add your unit UMS scores together to calculate your overall AS or A level grade - this is called 'cashing in'.

- AS units and overall qualifications (cash-ins) are graded A to E.
- A2 units are graded A to E but we publish the theoretical A\* boundary.
- Overall A level qualifications (cash-ins) are graded A\* to E.

If you don't get enough marks to pass with an E, you'll be awarded a U which means 'Unclassified'.

Subjects offered: Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, English Literature, French, Physics and Spanish

### **Pearson Edexcel Linear A Levels**

Instead of separate modules that students can take at any time, the linear A Level courses are organised such that all exams for AS and A level are taken at the end of the course.

AS is a stand-alone qualification, meaning that AS does not contribute in any way towards an A level qualification, and you would choose between studying an AS or an A level. Mougins school offers the two-year A Level course. You'll be issued an overall subject mark and grade for the A Level qualification.

If you wish to improve your grade, you will need to resit all papers of the qualification (please note, some non-exam assessments can be transferred).

- AS level grades will be awarded on a 5-point scale of A to E.
- A level grades will be awarded on a 5-point scale of A\* to E.

If you don't get enough marks to pass with an E, you'll be awarded a U which means 'Unclassified'.

Subjects offered: Art and Music

### **BTEC Level 3 International Subsidiary Diploma in Sport**

BTEC International Level 3 qualifications are high-quality, career-focused qualifications that provide specialist, work-related learning in a range of sectors. BTEC courses focus on skills-based learning and are designed around themed units. This practical approach allows BTEC learners to develop and apply the knowledge and skills that employers, colleges and universities are looking for.

The BTEC International Level 3 qualification is equivalent to an A Level course. Some universities have been historically more focussed on A-Levels as suitable entry requirements, but as the numbers of students studying BTECs has risen, the qualification has become more and more respected. Universities have learned that BTECs are a great alternative to A-Levels, and very few institutions won't consider BTEC students as candidates.

Currently, the BTEC qualifications are graded using the following system, although this is under review. These are aligned with the equivalent A Level grades:

Starred Distinction	A*
Distinction	A
Merit	C
Pass	E

Subjects offered: Sport

## **The Options Timeline**

### Form 11

#### *January/February*

In Form 11, you will sit IGCSE Mock examinations at the beginning of Term 2. These results will be analysed and discussed with you by your subject teachers at a parent/teacher/student information evening. Traditionally this evening begins with a presentation by the Head Teacher about A-Level subjects and Sixth Form Studies. This year, due to Covid restrictions, parents and students will be invited to listen to the presentation online.

#### *March*

You will be asked to choose four (or five) subjects and an alternative back up option. You will need to rank your choices. Option blocks will then be generated. We try to be as flexible as possible to allow student needs to be met, however this is not always possible. Not all students will get their first four (or five) choices. Difficulties that arise will be discussed with individual students as soon as possible.

#### *May/June*

Work on the whole school timetable will begin. Your subject choices will be confirmed, depending on demand for each subject, teacher availability and the ability for the blocks to fit into the timetable.

#### *August*

Results for the IGCSE examinations will be released by the Examination boards. In the light of IGCSE results, some students may have to change courses or rethink their educational future. You should be available during the last week before the start of term to discuss any concerns with staff at school.

### Form 12

#### *September*

Year 12 courses start. Ideally, subject changes should be completed within the first 4 weeks or before half term break.

## Course Change Requests

Early in Form 12 and up to half term break, you may wish to change courses. The procedure to do this is as follows:

1. Speak to the Head of Sixth Form about your desire to change a course and ask for a change of subject form.
2. Speak to your parents.
3. Speak to the subject teacher of:
  - the subject you want to change from, and
  - the subject you want to put in its place

The final decision will be made by the Head in consultation with the staff mentioned above. No student is allowed to change courses without following this procedure.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*How do I make my choices?*

You will be sent a Google Forms document via your school email where you will select your choices in rank order.

*How many subjects do I have to choose?*

You need to choose a minimum of four A Level subjects in rank order to be studied in Form 12. You can choose five subjects if you wish. You will need to choose an additional subject just in case the timetable does not allow for your chosen subjects.

*How will I know what my final subjects are?*

Once the blocks have been established, the Head of Sixth Form will contact you with your final program of study. At this point, if you have already changed your mind, you will need to contact the Head of Sixth Form straight away. Changes may or may not be possible.

*What happens if I do not obtain 5 passes in my IGCSEs?*

Once the results have been released, the Head of Sixth Form will analyse them and your A Level choices. If your IGCSE grades are lower than expected and indicate that you will find the A Level courses chosen very challenging, the Head of Sixth Form will contact you and request a meeting to discuss possible changes and options.

*What happens if I don't like one of my subjects once I've started?*

We often encourage you to try your chosen subject for several weeks before you ask to change. See the *Course Change Request* section on how you go about requesting a change. Please keep in mind, the later you start a course, the more content you will have missed and the harder it will be to catch up and achieve.

*Can I study three subjects only in Form 12 as well as Form 13?*

It is not encouraged to study just three subjects as this will lock you into a certain path with no flexibility to change. It is common for students to realise at the end of Form 12 that they are actually doing better in the subject that they wanted to drop than one of their other subjects.

*Can I study five subjects in Form 12?*

It is possible to study five subjects provided that your IGCSE grades are very high and you have shown that you will cope with the high academic demands that this will mean.

*Do I have to give all my results to Universities and employers?*

All your IGCSE and AS qualifications must be declared when applying through UCAS. Similarly, most Universities around the world will require you to state all official results and may even ask for your Academic transcript. This is your record of achievement as stated on your report cards.

## **Art and Design**

### **Course content and assessment**

A Level - 2 year Course. Graded A-E

Edexcel 9FA0 – Fine Art

### **Induction period - Autumn term**

Students are given opportunities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, including;

- generating and developing ideas
- researching primary and contextual sources
- recording practical and written observations
- exploring materials, processes, technologies and techniques

### **Spring term of first year (continues up until spring term of second year)**

*Component 1 – Personal investigation.*

This component is weighted 60% of the total qualification.

This unit includes two elements – a practical project and an illustrated essay based on a self- directed theme.

### **Spring term of second year (February-May)**

*Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment. Theme set by Edexcel.*

This component is weighted 40% of the total qualification. (February – May of Year two). This includes a 15-hour timed session where students create an outcome unaided and under exam conditions.

**In each component of work students need to create evidence for each of the assessment areas;**

A01 – Their own ideas informed by critical artist analysis

A02 – Experimentation and refinement

A03 – Quality of recording and reflective annotation

A04 - Planning, making and evaluating a final outcome/s.

## **What will I learn?**

The two-year linear Art A-Level allows for a period of induction; building upon ideas and skills learned at GCSE level but with a much more vigorous approach. Component 1 is called a Personal Investigation which comprises of two interlinked parts: a practical investigation and an illustrated essay. The theme is decided by the student and facilitated by the teacher. The illustrated essay is an analytical written piece of continuous prose, based around the students chosen theme, expressing personal interpretations and using technical and specialist vocabulary. The essay comprises 12% of the final qualification and should be between 1000 - 3000 words.

The practical project, with a focus on fine art practise, will provide students with plenty of opportunity to build upon their drawing and recording skills in relation to their chosen theme. It is a project that will allow students to create work inspired by personal experiences and issues and themes they are passionate about. Students will continue to vigorously and comprehensively play and experiment with media of their choice, including; paint, print, textiles, relief and sculpture

## **What kind of student is this course suitable for/recommended entry requirements?**

Students who –

- Have either achieved a Grade 6 or higher in GCSE or has a portfolio of work that demonstrates strength and aptitude in observational drawing, experimentation and creative use over a range of media and can critically analyse the work of their own and others. (See art teacher for detailed portfolio requirements)
- Are genuinely interested and excited by art, craft and design and related careers. Driven to achieve their best potential and be prepared to give the necessary commitment and time to achieving this.
- Enjoy writing critically and analytically about the work of artists, crafts makers and designers.
- Would seek and enjoy opportunities to engage critically with artwork in galleries and exhibitions and use this to inform their own work.
- Enjoys exploring work that connects to personal, environmental, political, social themes.
- Are willing to experiment, take risks and demonstrate persistence when playing with techniques and media.
- Are able to review, reflect and refine their work.
- Apply consistent effort and positive attitude to learning.
- Are self-motivated and able to develop their work outside of directed learning time.

Please note - If a student does not meet the entry requirements the course is not recommended.

### **What could this course lead to?**

Students could continue to study in higher education; an Art foundation or a BA course, or enrol in an apprenticeship, work experience or jump straight into the creative industries. This could include disciplines and areas such as animation, illustration, architecture, gallery curating, art therapy, community arts, media and film, costume design, textiles and fashion marketing, graphic design, floristry, theatre design, interior Design, web Design, advertising and marketing and many, many more!

Follow the link to find out more about the relevance of an Art education and career opportunities-

<https://creativejourneyuk.com>

To find out more about the course go directly to Edexcel. –

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

To see some examples of our students work in progress go to the departments instagram account - artmisskench



## Biology

Pearson Edexcel International Subsidiary Level - XBI11

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level - YBI11

### What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This course builds on the knowledge and understanding of IGCSE Double Science Award. You should have either IGCSE grades BB or above in the Coordinated Sciences Double Award or at least a B grade in the associated (I)GCSE Triple Science Award. You should also have a grade B or above in IGCSE Mathematics (or equivalent) as numerical and mathematical skills are important. During the course, you will also be expected to be able to communicate effectively and research information from a variety of sources.

### What will I learn?

You will have opportunities to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other
- develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works
- extend your personal interest in the study of living systems
- appreciate how society makes decisions about biology-related issues and how biology contributes to the success of the economy and society
- be aware of the very latest developments at the forefront of biological research
- learn how to clone a cauliflower!
- learn techniques used in CSI

You may also undertake project work in the local environment and be given the opportunity for a more intensive ecological study to support the A2 component.

### What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- are intrigued by the behaviour of living organisms
- enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory and in the field
- are interested in the development of “new” biology topics, such as Genetic Engineering, and their impact on the world we live in
- are looking towards careers in the health related sector, biotechnology, genetic engineering, epidemiology, forensic science, the environment and so on
- would like to follow a personal interest in the subject as an accompaniment to an Arts or Language course

### What examinations will I take?

<b>A2 %</b>	<b>AS Modules – International Subsidiary Level</b>	<b>AS %</b>
20	Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, transport and Health	40
20	Unit 2: Cells Development, Biodiversity and Conservation	40
10	Unit 3 Practical Skill in Biology - tested in a written examination	20
<b>A2 %                      A2 Modules - International Advanced Level</b>		
20	Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity	
20	Unit 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology	
10	Unit 6 Practical Skills in Biology II - tested in a written examination	

### What could I go on to do at the end of the course?

Follow a degree course or Higher National program in biology, environmental science, medicine/paramedical studies, psychology, sports science, engineering, pharmacy, biotechnology, animal husbandry/agricultural science, teaching/child care, library studies and many others.

## **Business**

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Business XBS11

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Business YBS11

### **What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?**

It is preferable to have followed the IGCSE course in Business and to have gained at least a Grade C in the examinations. You may however have developed the abilities and skills in the handling and interpretation of data from a variety of sources that will enable you to succeed in AS and A2 Level Business.

### **What will I learn?**

- Awareness that Business can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders, including customers, owner/shareholder, manager, employee
- To acquire a range of skills including decision-making and problem-solving in the light of evaluation.
- To develop a critical understanding of organisations and the markets they serve

### **What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

There are so many aspects to business and Business Studies:

- Analysing, planning, organising, evaluating;
- Leading, developing, enabling; - Marketing, designing, making, selling;
- Counting (money) forecasting (weather? No, but it does have an effect on business); - Managing, strategy, human resources, finance, production.

All these require a wide range of abilities and personalities, the pick and mix. CAN YOU SEE A MIXTURE THAT YOU CAN PICK?

### **What will the course be like?**

A mixture of theory and practice with an emphasis, building throughout the course, on the application of business studies to real life situations.

### **What examinations will I take?**

#### AS UNITS:

Marketing and people

Managing business activities

#### A2 UNITS:

Business decisions and strategy

Global business

### **What could I do at the end of the course?**

Students who study AS/A2 have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. They are obviously related to many opportunities in the world of business, but also in the pursuit of many professions, where the abilities to analyse and evaluate circumstances and the skills to manage them are required.

# Chemistry

Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary XCH11

Edexcel International Advanced Level YCH11

## Why Study Advanced Level Chemistry?

Studying A Level Chemistry will give you insight into the physical universe. Chemistry touches every aspect of our lives from the bodily functions within us to the atmosphere around us.

Chemistry is often referred to as a central science as it combines physics, biology and mathematics. Through Chemistry we are able to explain biological and physical phenomena that cannot be understood through one science alone.

Through the work carried out by leading scientists in this field, we are able to make advances in many areas of life. Whether that's finding a more sustainable way of harnessing energy or making medical advancements.

This course will try to give you the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way Chemistry affects your everyday life by applying concepts into contemporary areas of Chemistry including: climate change, green Chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and Chemistry research. In addition, an Advanced Level in Chemistry allows you to develop a range of generic skills requested by both employers and universities. For instance, a successful Advanced level chemist will be an effective problem-solver and be able to communicate efficiently both orally and with the written word. Handling data will be a key part of your work, allowing you to demonstrate information retrieval skills as well as use of numeracy and ICT. You will build up a range of practical skills that require creativity and accuracy as well as developing a firm understanding of health and safety issues. As Chemistry is a subject in which much learning stems from experimental work it is likely that you will need to work effectively as part of a group, developing team participation and leadership skills.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

You should have either IGCSE grades BB or above in the Coordinated Sciences Double Award or at least a B grade in the associated (I)GCSE Triple Science Award. You should also have a grade B or above in IGCSE Mathematics (or equivalent) as numerical and mathematical skills are important. In Chemistry you will need to be able to communicate effectively, be able to carry out research, work independently and critically think about problems. Good practical skills are also important as Chemistry is a very practical subject.

## **What will I learn?**

Advanced Level Chemistry gives you the opportunity to study a core of key concepts in greater detail. Many of the ideas first covered at (I)GCSE will be revisited but with a greater emphasis on explaining rather than simply describing the behaviour of molecules. While studying Advanced Level Chemistry you will develop practical skills that include making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions. You will also gain an appreciation of how scientific models are developed and evolve the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

## **Is this the right subject for me?**

AS or A level Chemistry is suitable if you:

- have an interest in, and enjoy Chemistry
- want to find out about how things work in the real world
- enjoy applying your mind to solving problems
- want to use Chemistry to progress onto further studies in Higher Education or support other qualifications or to enter Chemistry-based employment.

## **How will I be assessed?**

### AS Level

You will complete a written exam that lasts for 90 minutes for each of Units 1 and 2. The papers will contain objective questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions. For Unit 3 you will have an experimental skills examination paper (80 mins) covering areas of physical, organic and inorganic Chemistry.

### A2 Level

You will complete a written exam that lasts for 105 minutes for each of Units 4 and 5. The papers will contain objective questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions. For Unit 6 you have an experimental skills examination (80 mins) covering areas of physical, organic and inorganic Chemistry.

### **What can I do after I've completed the course?**

Most UK universities require Advanced Level Chemistry in order to study Medicine. It is also usually a desired qualification if you wish to study Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Pharmacy.

Whilst many job opportunities specifically using Chemistry require higher qualifications, most laboratory-based jobs benefit from a Chemistry qualification. Many employers view success at Advanced Level Chemistry as a clear indication of sound academic ability.

Many university courses have a significant proportion of Chemistry content and this course is excellent preparation for such further study. UK HE institutions currently offer over 200 courses where chemistry is the primary subject. Often these courses can include an additional year's study, either in industry or at a university abroad. Visit the website below for ideas and jobs in Chemistry:

[www.rsc.org/careers/](http://www.rsc.org/careers/)

## Computer Science

Cambridge International AS and A Level Computer Science 9618

### Why choose Cambridge International AS and A Level Computer Science?

Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in computer science as well as twenty-first century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively, through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

Our approach in Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science encourages learners to be:

- confident, using a range of technology and programming paradigms
- responsible, using technology ethically
- reflective, as programmers, improving their own programming solution
- innovative, creating efficient solutions to problems
- engaged, in technology, how it is built and how software solutions are developed.

### The aims of this course are to enable students to develop:

- computational thinking skills
- an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers
- an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communication and people
- an understanding of the different methods of communication and the functionality of networks and the internet
- the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computer based solutions to problems

### Assessment objectives

Cambridge International AS and A Level Computer Science has three assessment objectives:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation.

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of the principles and concepts of computer science, including to analyse problems in computational terms.

AO3: Design, program and evaluate computer systems to solve problems, making reasoned judgements about these.



## AS Content

Computational thinking is developed using a structured approach that includes the use of programming and problem solving skills to provide solutions to real life problems. It requires the manipulation and storage of different types of data and the communication of solutions over networks.

Computational thinking is supported by developing an understanding of how computer architecture, hardware, systems software, security measures and communication systems, provide the infrastructure required in an efficient and ethical way. The syllabus supports opportunities for students to apply their skills in practical contexts that are required in the digital industry.

### *Paper 1 Theory Fundamentals*

1 hour 30 minutes      75 marks

Paper 1 will assess sections 1 to 8 of the syllabus content. It is a written paper.

50% of the AS Level

25% of the A Level

### *Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills*

2 hours      75 marks

Paper 2 will assess sections 9 to 12 of the syllabus content. Candidates will need to write answers in pseudocode.

50% of the AS Level

25% of the A Level

## A Level Content

Computational thinking is further developed at A Level to extend methods for searching, sorting, structuring and storage of data. This includes understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Programming paradigms are considered together with an extension of programming skills to include recursion and exception handling.

Computational thinking is supported by developing an in-depth understanding of how computer architecture, hardware, systems software, security measures and communication systems can have different structures and protocols. These can be combined to provide an appropriate infrastructure for solutions of problems. The syllabus encourages opportunities for students to apply their skills in a practical context that are required in the digital industry.

### *Paper 3 Advanced Theory*

1 hour 30 minutes      75 marks

Paper 3 will assess sections 13 to 20 of the syllabus content. Written paper.

25% of the A Level

### *Paper 4 Practical*

2 hours 30 minutes      75 marks

Paper 4 will assess sections 19 to 20 of the syllabus content. Candidates will submit complete program code and evidence of testing. Candidates will be required to use either Java, VB.NET or Python programming languages. Candidates answer all questions on a computer without internet or email facility.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) forms 50% of the assessment weighting of the full Advanced (A) Level.

### **What kind of student is the course suitable for?**

The Advanced Level Computer Science course builds on skills and knowledge gained in the IGCSE course. Ideally, students will have taken the IGCSE course and achieved at least a B grade. Computer Science is highly mathematical and logical; thus, it is recommended that students have studied Extended IGCSE Mathematics, receiving at least a B grade. A-Level Mathematics is also very beneficial; however, it is not essential. It is important to note that students who wish to continue studying in the field of Computers at University will usually require A-Level Mathematics.

Students without a GCSE in Computer Science or without Extended Mathematics should discuss their suitability for the course with the Computer Science teacher.

## English Literature

AS Level (XET01) Edexcel IAL

A Level (YET01) Edexcel IAL

### What do I need to be able to study this course?

A Grade 6/'B' or above in both English Language and Literature is highly recommended. A genuine interest in Literature is the key to success in this subject. The desire to explore texts and the contexts in which they were written is vital, as well as the ability to respond to texts thoughtfully, writing to a suitably high academic standard.

### Qualifications, aims and objectives:

- Read a wide range of set texts with independence and vigour
- Engage critically and creatively with texts, and explore different ways of responding to them, producing responses written with style, imagination and detail
- Develop and effectively apply knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- Analyse the craft of a writer and how they have shaped the meaning of a text through their literary choices
- Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and assess alternative interpretations through further independent research

### What kind of student is the course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Have a genuine interest in literature of all kinds
- Are fascinated by the work of authors, poets and dramatists throughout the ages
- Want to learn through discussions and the exchanging of ideas
- Wish to keep their options open by taking a course, which is widely considered as desirable preparation for the study of a range of higher-level arts or humanities courses, both at colleges and universities.

### *Year 12 Texts Studied:*

Contemporary 21<sup>st</sup> Century poetry

Drama – 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams

Drama – 'Dr Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe

Prose – 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini

### *Year 13 Texts Studied:*

Romantic Poetry – Blake, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Shelley, Byron, Keats, Emily Brontë

Drama – ‘Hamlet’ by William Shakespeare

Prose – ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ (by Margaret Atwood)

Prose – ‘Frankenstein’ by Mary Shelley

### **What examinations will I take?**

Two AS Exams at the end of the first year:

Post 2000-Poetry and Prose (50% of AS, 25% of A2) & Drama (50% of AS, 25% of A2)

Two A2 Exams at the end of the second year:

Romantic Poetry and Prose (25% of A2) & Shakespeare and Poetry (25% of A2)

### **What could I go on to study?**

The study of Literature is appropriate for a wide range of higher education and career opportunities. It is aimed at developing analytical and critical skills, improving the ability to communicate effectively, both in spoken and written responses.

At university, it can be taken as a complete subject, or combined with a large range of others. It is a sound basis for studies in all areas, especially Humanities, Media, Philosophy, Law and Politics.

# Geography

Cambridge International AS and A Level Geography 9686

## What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The Advanced level course builds on the skills and concepts developed in the IGCSE course, so you should ideally have gained at least a grade C at this level. You will also be required to demonstrate abilities in continuous prose writing and to use skills in data handling and interpretation, including the application of statistics. Students without a GCSE in Geography should discuss their suitability for the course with Mrs Warren.

## What will I learn?

The course will enable you to:

- improve your analytical abilities in the interpretation of geographical systems
- apply statistical and graphical methods
- interpret maps and other cartographic data
- use a variety of sources, such as newspapers, magazines, websites, DVDs
- appreciate the interrelationships operating in a globalised world
- gain a greater knowledge of the local environment

You will also learn fieldwork techniques. The A-level course may include trips to destinations such as Marseille, St Cézaire sur-Siagne, the Plateau de Caussols, the Camargue and the French Alps.

## What kind of student is the course suitable for?

The course will appeal to you if you find the Earth a fascinating, dynamic place in which to live. You will need to be curious about a wide range of natural phenomena, such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and tropical storms, as well as how humans interact with each other and their environment. If you want to make sense of issues in the media, such as climate change, globalization and migration, and have strong opinions on how our planet should be managed, then this is the course for you.

## **What form does the course take?**

Candidates for the CIE A Level in Geography study the following topics:

### **Core Physical Geography**

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology

Atmosphere and weather

Rocks and weathering

### **Core Human Geography**

Population

Migration

Settlement dynamics

### **Advanced Physical Geography**

Coastal Environments

Hazardous Environments

### **Advanced Human Geography**

Environmental management

Global Interdependence

Candidates will take two core exams and two advanced exams, each worth 25% of the A Level. All exams are 1 hour 30 minutes. Candidates may take only the Core Physical and Core Human Geography exams to attain the AS qualification. The core papers contain data response questions and structured questions. The advanced papers contain structured questions and essay questions.

## **What could I go on to do at the end of the course?**

Geography combines elements of the social sciences, practical sciences such as Biology, and Mathematics. As such, it provides excellent support for a large number of higher education courses. It can be studied to provide a sound basis for a career in Environmental Work, Natural Sciences, Economics, Politics, Business, Leisure and Tourism, Air Traffic control, Meteorology, Publishing, Farming, Architecture, Journalism and many more.

## History

AS Cambridge International Examinations 9489

Topic: 'European option: Modern Europe, 1750–1921'

A2 Cambridge International Examinations 9489

Topic: 'European history in the interwar years, 1919–41'

### What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The study of History at Advanced Level requires a love of reading, a desire to discuss and debate contentious issues and events and an inquiring mind. Many of the skills will have been gained in the IGCSE course and these will be extended and developed over the following two years. A fluency in both written and spoken English is essential, and the ability to build, formulate and present a balanced and sustained argument is an integral requirement. AS /A level History also builds on the context of the IGCSE course: we look at different events within the modern historical era.

A minimum of grade 'B' at IGCSE will normally be required to study at Advanced Level. We are also usually happy to accept students who have not studied History at IGCSE providing they have excellent IGCSE grades in English Language / Literature. Please speak to Mr. Carver for more details.

### What will I learn?

During the course you will learn:

- about the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in History. We study some of the great defining changes of Modern History: the French and Russian Revolutions, the Unification of Germany and the role played by remarkable individuals whose impact in changing the past was profound and fascinating: Robespierre, Bismarck, Lenin, Stalin and Hitler.
- the theories of historians and the language that they use to discuss their ideas. We look carefully at how the world's finest historical minds have sought to understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians to analyse and evaluate it in order to explain the great events of the past: the collapse of centuries old European dynasties, the triumph of the working classes in violent revolution, the horrifying genocide of the Holocaust.
- to develop an understanding of how the past has been interpreted and presented. History is an ever changing discipline: ideas, beliefs and opinions constantly adapt and evolve. New evidence emerges all the time and historians are constantly looking to define and redefine the past. Students will learn to formulate and express their own historical ideas confidently and effectively during the course.

### **What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

The course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in the way that the world has developed through the ages
- enjoy investigation and discovery
- enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case
- want to improve their analytical skills
- want to study a subject which encourages them to consider evidence and make up their own minds
- want to broaden their studies or keep their options open

There is an overseas trip at both AS & A level. We visit Berlin (Germany) and Krakow / Auschwitz (Poland) in alternate years.

### **Examination Assessment:**

AS - Paper 1 [20% of total marks]: (document question) 1 hour 15 mins.  
Paper 2: [30% of total marks]: (outline study) 1 hour 45 mins.

A2 - Paper 3: [20% of total marks]: (interpretations question) 1 hour 15 mins  
Paper 4: [30% of total marks]: (depth study) 1 hour 45 mins

### **What could I go on to do at the end of the course?**

History is a highly rated academic discipline. It can be studied in its own right at undergraduate level at university or works well in combination with a whole range of subject disciplines: English Literature, Politics, Economics, Archaeology, Classics.

Many people who study History acquire a love of and fascination for the study of the past which lasts a lifetime but in terms of skills acquired for the future, the subject provides an excellent foundation for many important careers, notably law, teaching / lecturing, the civil service, diplomacy, politics, journalism, local government, archivist, museum work, commerce and tourism.

The ability to learn detailed facts accurately, write coherently, analyse effectively and argue in a balanced, lucid and logical manner are strengths that many employers in business and industry prize very highly.



## Mathematics

AS Cambridge International Examinations 9709

A2 Cambridge International Examinations 9709

AS Further Mathematics Edexcel 8372

### What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Mathematics is not an easy option. You should not start on this course unless you are strong in Algebraic manipulation and have well developed logic and reasoning skills. You must have at least a grade B in the IGCSE extended course.

### What will I learn?

The course will enable you to:

- develop the ideas of Algebra, Sequences and Vectors
- learn more about Calculus, Logarithms and Complex Numbers
- appreciate the effects of Forces on Motion and Equilibrium
- become proficient in Data Handling and Probability

### What kind of student is the course suitable for?

Mathematics is a subject, which you may enjoy and are good at, reasons in their own right for studying it to an advanced level, and even continuing it at university. You may also wish to study it as a support tool for other scientific, technological and related subjects. It will suit those students who have a passion for problem solving and enjoy the mental exercise associated with analysing and interpreting data.

### What examinations will I take?

AS

Module P1: Pure Mathematics (Algebra, Sequences, Vectors Trigonometry, Calculus)

Module S1: Probability and Statistics (Data Handling and Probability)

A2

Module P3: Pure Mathematics (an extension of the concepts developed in P1, Logarithms, Complex numbers, Vectors and Equation of Lines in 3-Dimensions)

Module M1: Mechanics (constant Acceleration Equations, Forces and Motion and Forces and Equilibrium)

All modules are examined by written papers, two at the end of Form 12 (AS) and another two at the end of Form 13 (A2).

## AS Further Mathematics

This course is only offered to a select few in Form 13 at the discretion of their teachers and also if they have achieved more than 90% in their AS modules.

Students take 3 Modules.

Decision Mathematics (D1):

Algorithms; Algorithms on Graphs; the Route Inspection Problem; Critical Path Analysis; Linear Programming; Matchings.

Statistics 2 (S2):

The Binomial and Poisson Distributions; Continuous Random Variables; Continuous Distributions; Samples; Hypothesis Tests.

Further Pure 1 (FP1):

Series; Complex Numbers; Numerical Solution of Equations; Coordinate Systems, Matrix Algebra, Proof.

### **What could I go on to do at the end of the course?**

Everything and anything!

## Modern Foreign Languages

There is a common syllabus to French and Spanish and the examination structure at the bottom of the page is the same for all languages. Students taking Advanced Subsidiary level courses in languages should have a minimum of Grade C at (I)GCSE or equivalent examination.

### What will I learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in the language you have chosen. You will also learn much more about a wider range of aspects of the societies in which the language is spoken. There will be literary texts and films to study.

**Reading:** You will be able to read, understand and extract information from written passages in the target language that are taken from authentic sources, such as magazines and newspapers, reports and books.

**Listening:** You will be able to listen to, and understand contemporary spoken language and answer questions on what you have heard. The passages that you will learn to listen to will be taken from a range of sources, such as news reports on the radio and television, weather forecasts, announcements, interviews and discussions.

**Speaking and Writing:** You will learn how to write essays or longer pieces, and to hold conversations and discussions in the target language. You will learn all the appropriate grammar, words and phrases that will help you to:

- organise your arguments
- provide opinions
- analyse your ideas

### What kind of student is this course suitable for?

If you are interested in languages and communication, enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life, a Modern Foreign Languages course could be suitable for you.

The General Topic Areas studied at IAS Level are:

Youth Matters, Lifestyle, Health and Fitness; Travel and Environment; Education and Employment.

The General Topics Areas studied at IA2 level are:

All the IAS themes and Technology, Society and Ethics in the target language speaking world.

## **What examinations will I take?**

The International Advanced Subsidiary and International Advanced Level in French and Spanish are structured into 4 units, externally marked.

*IAS Level XFR01; XSP01*

Unit 1: WFR01 ; WSP01

Spoken Expression and Response 30% of IAS marks Examination 8 - 10 minutes with 15 minutes preparation

Unit 2: WFR02 ; WSP02

Understanding and written response 70% OF IAS marks Examination 2 hours and 30 minutes

*IA2 Level YFR01; YSP01*

Unit 3: WFR03 ; WSP03

Understanding and Spoken Response 30% of IA2 marks Examination 11 – 13 minutes

Unit 4: WFR04 ; WSP04

Research, Understanding and Written 70% of IA2 marks Response Examination 2 hours and 30 minutes

## **What could I go on to do at the end of the course?**

You could use your language(s) to follow a course in the business world, travel and tourism, or journalism and the media. Whether you want to use your language for work, for further study or for leisure, these courses will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge. Commercially, industrially, culturally and politically, a good knowledge of languages is an undisputed asset for tomorrow's citizens.

## **French**

Edexcel IAdvanced Subsidiary XFR01 Edexcel IAdvanced YFR01

French is an international language widely used and spoken in Europe, Africa and even North America. The teaching is almost exclusively in French with constant exposure to native speakers and authentic materials (newspapers such as Le Figaro, Le Nouvel Observateur, L'Express, textbooks, literature, films, television, CD ROMs), ensuring a high degree of "Frenchness".

## **Spanish**

Edexcel IAdvanced Subsidiary XSP01 Edexcel IAdvanced YSP01

The course book for this relatively new advanced level subject is "Edexcel Spanish for A Level". In addition, students are encouraged to read both popular and traditional literature in their study time. Great use is made of authentic materials, such as El Pais newspaper, Television Espanola, and the department now has an expanding video collection. This course caters for students who have followed the usual GCSE course as well as those who have a Spanish background.

## **Other Languages**

If you would like to be entered for a language other than the one listed above, e.g. Italian, Russian, German ... please ask the MFL coordinator for information. Dutch A Level is no longer available.

## Music A Level

EDEXCEL 9MUO

### What skills or subject knowledge is desirable for this course?

It is highly recommended to have taken music at GCSE level, but in some special cases this may not be essential as long as you can play a musical instrument (including voice) to a minimum ABRSM Grade 5 level and have theory skills of a ABRSM Grade 5 level, minimum. You will be expected to devote a large amount of time out of lessons to practising and performing on your instrument, so your interest should extend beyond the syllabus and into your everyday life if you are to be successful in this subject. Learning to set regular practice goals will help you to be a successful musician.

### What will I learn?

The course demands performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in almost equal measure. You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. You will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed.

### What examinations will I take?

#### **AS Component 1:** Performing (30% NEA) 8MUO/01

Total performance time of 6 minutes

Performance can be solo and/or ensemble

#### **AS Component 2:** Composing (30% NEA) 8MUO/02

2 compositions 1 to set brief – min 2 minutes

1 free or to set brief – min 2 minutes Together total min of 412 minutes

#### **AS Component 3:** Appraising (40% Exam) 8MUO/03

6 Areas of Study with 2 set works in each

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz Fusions
- New Directions

#### **A-Level Component 1:** Performing (30% NEA) 9MUO/01

Total performance time of 8 minutes

Performance can be solo and/or ensemble

**A-Level Component 2: Composing (30% NEA)**

2 compositions

1 free or free choice brief - min 4 min

1 brief assessing technique - min 1 min Together total min of 6 minutes

**A-Level Component 3; Appraising (40% Exam)**

6 Areas of Study with 3 set works in each

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz. Fusions
- New Directions

**What could I go on to do at the end of the course?**

You could go on to study music or performing arts in higher education at degree level at university or Music College. This could lead to a career in the music industry as a performer, composer, music arranger, sound technician, arts administrator, teacher, music therapist, the sound and music industry.....

## Physical Education

### BTEC Higher National Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma/ Certificate in Sport Edexcel

#### What is the course about?

This course provides an excellent preparation for careers within the sport and fitness industries and can support entry into higher education. It is a vocationally delivered course and develops the skills and knowledge students will need to thrive in a professional sports and fitness environment. Students complete a series of projects and assignments based upon real life sporting scenarios. If you studied GCSE PE and wish to take your knowledge of the subject to a higher level then this is the course for you. This qualification is equivalent in UÇAS points to an 'A' level in PE. If you prefer coursework to exams and you can meet deadlines then this may be an appropriate course for you.

#### What will I study?

Year 12

Mandatory Unit:

(Unit 1): Health, Wellbeing and Sport

2 other Units:

(Unit 28) Fitness Testing

(Unit 34) Sports Development

Year 13

3 Units from the following areas:

(Unit 24) Applied Sports Anatomy and physiology:

(Unit 26) Nutrition for physical performance

(Unit 30) Organising Events in Sport and Physical Activity

(Unit 35) Practical Sports Performance

#### How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by internal assessment and one externally set and marked assignment. Your completed portfolios are awarded Pass, Merit or Distinction for every unit. The maximum grade is a Distinction \*. All work is externally moderated.



### **What are the entry requirements?**

All BTEC qualifications require you to have achieved five GCSE grades A\* - C including a C in English GCSE. It is preferred that you studied PE at GCSE level and achieved a high mark in the theory section of the exam as your portfolio work will be theory based and relies heavily on your understanding of sports concepts as well as being an able sportsman/woman.

### **What skills do I need?**

- A passion for sport and exercise.
- Punctuality and good attendance.
- A capacity to be hard working.
- An ability to be organised.
- A dedication to self improvement
- An ability to meet deadlines.

### **How will I be taught?**

You will attend 4 x 75 min lessons per week. There are 2 teachers who deliver the subject, Mrs Glyde and Mrs Johnson. These lessons will include taught content, learning activities and time set aside to complete portfolio work.

### **Where can this qualification lead me?**

To higher education to study a sport based degree or alternatively a non-sport based degree ( If you wish to use the points and experience to access a related degree of your choice.) It could be a route directly to employment in the Sport and Fitness Industry.

### **What are the enrichment opportunities?**

Students will have the opportunity to engage in a range of recreational, developmental and competitive sporting activities through the school's sports programme.

## **Performing Arts**

### **PEARSON BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA**

Equivalent to ONE International A Level

#### **What do I need to be able to study this course?**

A Grade C and above in IGCSE Drama or success in LAMDA (London Academy of Dramatic Arts) or NEA (New Era Academy) performance exams are all highly recommended. A genuine ability and interest in Performing Arts may also be expressed through involvement in theatre or musical productions, both in and out of school. Enthusiasm and skill in performance, the desire to create a unique performance event that can be shared with an audience, the ability to work creatively and effectively (both individually and in a production team) and a high degree of self-motivation are all prerequisite to success in this field.

#### **Qualifications, aims and objectives**

Develop the skills inherent in one or more of the complementary pathways available: general performing arts, acting, dance, musical theatre or the circus

Work independently within a framework of structured supervision

Analyse with objectivity the quality of their own work and that of others

Acquire the knowledge and skills required for particular degree courses, including problem solving, teamwork, project work, presentation, analytical skill, creative development

#### **What kind of student is the course suitable for?**

This course will appeal to students who:

Are interested in learning about the performing arts industry

Wish to take it alongside another area of contrasting or complementary study

Have the ability to learn independently

Have the ability to research actively and methodically

Wish to develop both practical and personal communication skills

#### **How is the course assessed?**

The Subsidiary Diploma requires the completion of two learning and teaching modules, each assessed through one mandatory and two optional assessment units. Learners must complete one mandatory assessment unit and choose two from three optional units and achieve a Pass grade or above in at least two assessment units.

These are the key features of this specification model:

- three pathways are available for learners to focus on: general performing arts, acting or musical theatre
- all content in each pathway is mandatory
- content is defined in large blocks – called learning and teaching modules
- all assessment is of substantial size and linked to clear assessment objectives.

Learners are encouraged to continually revisit their approaches to making and understanding the performing arts, refining their skills, adding complexity and exploring new contexts. At the same time assessment requirements are clearly delineated; this ensures that all learners are being consistently measured to international standards, facilitating progression to university and to employment in the performing arts industry.

BTEC International Level 3 qualifications are assessed using a combination of internal assessments, which are set and marked by teachers, and Pearson Set Assignments, which are set by Pearson and marked by teachers.

Mandatory units have a combination of internal and Pearson Set Assignments.  
All optional units are internally assessed.

The available grades are Pass, Merit, Distinction

### **What could I go on to study?**

The BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts facilitates any chosen field of study that demands a creative yet structured approach to learning. It may be particularly appropriate to Arts and Media courses, but could also be integrated into subjects that require assured communication skills, such as Politics and Journalism.

## Physics

Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary XPH11

Edexcel International Advanced Level YPH11

### What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you achieved in IGCSE Science. You should have either IGCSE grades BB or above in the Coordinated Sciences Double Award or at least a B grade in the associated (I)GCSE Triple Science Award. You should also have a grade B or above in IGCSE Mathematics (or equivalent) as numerical and mathematical skills are important. Communication is also important as you will need to be able to communicate effectively, carry out research and critically think about problems.

### What will I learn?

#### *Unit 1: Physics on the go*

You will learn about motion, forces, energy, power, flow of liquids, viscosity and properties of materials. Applications that use these concepts include sports, the production of sweets and biscuits, and spare-part surgery.

#### *Unit 2: Physics at work*

The Physics content of this unit is related to applications that include medical physics, music, technology in space and solar cells. You will learn about waves including standing waves, refraction, polarisation, diffraction and the nature of light. You will also learn about electric circuits, resistivity, thermistors, emf and internal resistance.

#### *Unit 4: Physics on the move*

The Physics content of this unit is related to applications that include transport, communications and display techniques. It is also related to exciting, current research in the field of particle physics. You will learn about momentum, circular motion, electric and magnetic fields, evidence for a nuclear atom, particle accelerators, particle detectors and different types of subatomic particles.

#### *Unit 5: Physics from creation to collapse*

The Physics content of this unit is related to applications that include the construction of buildings in earthquake zones and a detailed exploration of astrophysics and cosmology. You will learn about thermal energy, radioactive decay, simple harmonic motion, resonance, gravitation, the life cycle of stars, fission, fusion and the fate of the universe.

While studying these units you will develop practical skills that include planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and making conclusions. You will also gain an appreciation of how scientific models are developed and how they evolve, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings, and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions. Two other units (3: Exploring physics and 6: Experimental physics) are not shown above because they are assessments that are based on the practical skills you will develop while you are studying the above units.

### **Is this the right subject for me?**

AS Physics is suitable if you:

- want to progress to the full A-level
- want a grounding in a relevant worthwhile qualification of recognised value
- want to broaden your educational experience before making a decision about which A-levels to take
- are taking A-levels in the other Sciences and/or Mathematics and want to take another course that will support your studies.

A2 Physics is suitable if you:

- have an interest in, and enjoy, Physics
- want to find out about how things work in the physical world
- enjoy applying your mind to solving problems
- enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, logical thinking
- want to use physics to move on to further studies in Higher Education, support other qualifications or enter physics-based employment.

### **What can I do after I've completed the course?**

Physics leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. You could use Physics to support other qualifications or move on to further studies or employment, including:

- a degree course such as Physics, Astrophysics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Metrology, various Engineering courses, Nano-Science, Biosciences or Geophysics
- employment in the field of, for example, nanotechnology, telecommunications, particle physics, aviation, radiography or biotechnology, in the space or energy industries, or, with skills developed in mathematical modelling work, in the stock market or banking services
- visit the website for the Institute of Physics (IOP) [www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org) for further information on careers in Physics
- visit; <https://brightrecruits.com/physicsworld-jobs/> for ideas and jobs in Physics and Engineering,
- visit; <https://myphysicscourse.iop.org/> to order a copy of a careers booklet