

AS Level Programme

Full-time courses



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FULL TIME AS-LEVEL PROGRAMME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What entry qualifications do I need to join the AS programme?

You should have gained at least five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English and Mathematics. You may need to achieve a B grade in certain subjects to go on to study the subject at AS level. There are supplementary entry criteria for Biology (42.4 GCSE points) and there are various criteria, for example you should have double science at C to study science, you should have grade C in French to study AS French. You will be advised about this in your interview and at enrolment.

How many AS subjects will I be studying?

You are normally expected to study for 4 AS subjects.

What is an AS level?

An AS level is made up of three units of study taken over one year. The final grade is produced by adding together the marks you achieve in the three units. If you go on to the second year and study a subject at A2 level, then your AS marks will make up 50% of your full A level.

What will my time table look like?

The classes are timetabled in blocks. You will see a copy of the subjects and the times they run in your introductory pack.

Your individual timetable will be constructed by choosing subjects from the blocks. Each AS level is delivered over 4.5 hours, usually as a one 3 hour session in the morning and a one 1.5 hour session in the afternoon. Morning classes begin at 9.00am and afternoon sessions begin at either 1.45pm or 3.30pm. Your day will finish at either 3.15pm or at 5.00pm.

NHC is a member of the Stevenage 16-19 Consortium and additional subjects may be available at local schools: transport at lunchtimes is provided to enable you to move from NHC to the school.

An example NHC subject matrix is available separately to this document.

Which teaching methods are used?

This will very much depend on your subject choice. There is a variety of teaching methods and learning activities. In addition to formal, structured taught classes, you will be engaged in many of the following; discussion, debates, practical work, small group work and individual investigations. You will have the opportunity to learn using the internet and the interactive whiteboard. Regular homework and assignment tasks form an important part of your learning and assessment.

How are the AS levels assessed?

There are formal written examinations, project work, research essays, practical assessments, case studies. The actual methods depend on which subjects you study.

Will I have a personal tutor?

You will be allocated to a personal tutor and a tutor group on the first day of your course. The personal tutor meets with the students weekly for a group tutorial. You will also have individual tutorials. Your tutor is there to help you to succeed academically and also to help with any difficulties that you have at college.

What about key Skills?

You will be expected to work towards achieving Key Skills. The qualifications you will take are likely to be Communication at Level 3 and Improving Own Learning and Performance at level 2. These are compulsory parts of the programme.

How much private study is involved?

We will expect you to spend approximately three hours private study a week on each of your AS-levels. This time should include organising and reading course notes, reading and researching, completing homework and assignments, working on coursework, revising for tests and preparing revision materials. At times you will spend more than three hours and it is important that you realise that the grade you get is largely a result of the work you put in.

Can I get any extra support with my studies?

There is a virtual learning environment called Blackboard. We are developing support for individual course and subjects through online resources. Blackboard can be accessed via any Internet enabled computer, at college or at home.

Relevant visits are arranged, such as revision conferences, to support your learning.

If you need help with any aspect of your use of English or with numeracy your personal tutor will arrange this for you.

What costs are involved?

You will need to pay for text books and writing materials. There may also be additional costs for trips and visits. If you need to retake any examinations, you will be expected to pay.

If you are 19 or over, you will also need to pay the college administration fee at the beginning of your course and to pay for your examination entries.

When do I take my examinations?

You will take your examinations in the summer sitting in May-June. It is important not to book holidays in these periods. Resit opportunities will be available in January of the A2 year.

How do I progress to A2?

Progression to A2 is conditional on:

- Achieving a pass in the AS-level qualifications
- Satisfactory attendance and behaviour record
- Satisfactory completion of homework and assignments

In the A2 year, how many subjects will I be studying?

You will normally study three subjects at A2 level. It is also possible for you to take a new AS subject alongside two A2 subjects in your second year.

What do most full time A-level students do when they leave college after two years of study?

Almost all of the A2 students progress to degree level study at university.

Will I get advice with my university application?

Yes, we organise several events to help you to begin thinking about University towards the end of the AS year. You will have the opportunity to hear speakers from Universities and be able to visit the Higher Education Convention at Hatfield. You will also talk through your plans with your personal tutor.

At the beginning of your A2 year, your personal tutor will monitor your completion of the online application form.

What do I do next?

If you are interested in applying to study AS-levels with us, please complete the application form in the middle of the NHC full-time prospectus and send it to central Enquiries at NHC. You will then be contacted and invited to come in to college for an informal interview. All places offered are subject to satisfactory results and reference.



AS-LEVEL COMMUNICATION STUDIES

This is a course which focuses on both the theory and practice of Communications. Starting from the learner's own knowledge and experience as a communicator, the course aims to develop an understanding of how and why we communicate in the way we do, as well as develop the Learner's own communication skills.

Course content and assessment

Module one: Introducing Communication Practice

Learners are introduced to the theory and practice of personal communications, together with techniques of communication research.

Assessment will be through a coursework portfolio containing:

- A research essay on communication skills
- An oral presentation incorporating script and audio visual aids
- A review and discussion of the presentation and related communication techniques

Module two: Texts and Meanings in Communication

Critical reading of communication texts

Two tasks will be set on visual (print) texts to be completed in an examination

Module three: Themes in Personal Communication

Learners study verbal and non-verbal communication, interpersonal communication and group communication.

Three questions are then answered in an examination.

Teaching & Learning

Much of the teaching of this course takes place through group discussion where Learners respond to ideas, visual material and media extracts presented to them by their lecturer. Small group practical work, role-play and individual presentations will all form a central part of the learning process.

The ability to research independently is vital.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: 5626

AS-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE



This course aims to encourage Learners to develop their understanding and enjoyment of Literature through reading widely, critically and independently. Learners will read texts from different centuries and learn different ways of approaching texts.

Course content and assessment

Module one: The Modern Novel

The aim of this unit is to introduce learners to the detailed study of one modern novel written in the second half of the twentieth century. Assessment will be through examination at the end of the academic year.

Module two: Study of a Shakespeare text

Learners will examine one play in detail, with a view to completing coursework with a negotiated title.

Module three: Texts in Context

The aim of this unit is to introduce candidates to the study of two texts (one poetry, one drama) with an emphasis on the context of the writer and the reader and on how interpretation of text changes through time and according to circumstance. Assessment will be through examination at the end of the academic year.

Teaching & Learning

Group discussion of texts is at the heart of the study of this subject. Small group work, individual research and the sharing of written work all form an important part of the course. Trips to the theatre are arranged where possible. Students are expected to read widely around their set texts and encouraged to experiment with their own reading for pleasure.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A

AS-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



This course allows you to study language and literature as interconnecting subjects in order to deepen your understanding and enjoyment of these areas.

You will learn to:

- Develop as independent, confident and reflective readers.
- Develop skills in speaking and writing for different purposes and audiences.
- Relate literary and non-literary texts to the contexts in which they were produced.
- Develop your ability to use linguistic and literary critical concepts and analytical frameworks.

Course content and assessment

Module One: Introduction to Language and Literature Study

This module focuses on examining language in a particular context; you will be required to produce a text using unseen material as a springboard for your writing, then comment on certain aspects of the written production in a commentary.

Module Two: The Changing Language of Literature

This module meets one of the genre requirements of the Subject Criteria, that is of poetry, focussing on the linguistic issues within this genre. The pre-1900 textual study can be assessed either in this or the following module.

Module Three: Language Production

You will study one prepared prose text and the language of speech. This meets one of the literary genre requirements of the Subject Criteria. The pre-1900 textual study can be assessed either in this or module 2.

Teaching and Learning

All learners are encouraged to participate fully in class discussion and to engage in independent research outside of the classroom. A variety of teaching and learning methods are employed to enhance the learner experience.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A



AS-LEVEL FILM STUDIES

The syllabus provides a course of study relevant to Learners who wish to pursue film and related subjects into further/higher education or to develop their own potential for a variety of careers. Learners with no prior knowledge of Film Studies can pursue this course, though it is likely to appeal to those Learners whose principal interests lie in the arts and media.

The syllabus makes possible the systematic study of cinema and film based on the key conceptual issues which informed film study and criticism.

The syllabus seeks to encourage:

- An understanding of a wide range of different types of film, including Hollywood, British Cinema, Surrealist Cinema, early Russian Cinema, French New Wave, Counter-Cinema, as well as major figures in cinema such as Godard, Hitchcock, Eisenstein and Tarantino.
- An ability to deploy the critical language which has been developed to understand how meaning is constructed.
- A critical sense of the contexts, past and present, in which films are produced, circulated and consumed.

Course content and assessment (Year1)

Module 1:FS1 Making Meaning (Coursework)

Module 2: FS2 Production, Exhibition and Distribution (includes for example, Poster analysis)

Module 3: FS3 British Cinema

Candidates will be required to sit two written papers and coursework done during the course (40% of the marks) some of which can involve practical work (e.g. a video).

Teaching and Learning

Though much of the teaching of this course takes place through lectures, discussion is also a feature of this course, where learners respond to ideas, visual material and film extracts presented to them. Learners are encouraged to do practical work, e.g. storyboards, screenplays and making films in addition to their academic studies.

Exam Board: WJEC (Welsh Board)

Syllabus: Specification 42080



AS-LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies will be offered at AS in September 2007.

Key Concepts

The Key Concepts which underline the course are:

- Media representations
- Media language
- Media institutions
- Media values and ideology
- Media audiences

Specification Structure

Unit 1: Reading the media. 30% of AS marks.

The aim of this module is to introduce candidates to a conceptual framework for reading and understanding media texts.

Unit 2: Textual topics in contemporary media. 30% of AS marks.

In this module candidates will have the opportunity to apply the key concepts introduced in Module 1 to a more detailed study of two contemporary media topics, including film and broadcast fiction texts, and to evaluate topics and ideas.

Unit 3. Practical production. 40% of AS marks.

This module allows candidates to use one or more media technologies to produce a finished piece of practical coursework. For example, for the study of British Newspapers, desk top publishing packages will be used to produce a page-based text including words and photographic images.

A2

It is anticipated that with sufficient interest, A2 Media Studies will be offered in September 2008.

Career progression

Media Studies is of interest to any learner interested in journalism, creative media and creative industries.

AS-LEVEL FRENCH



French is one of the official working languages in many international organizations, including Amnesty International, Interpol, International Olympic Committee, United Nations, Red Cross and, of course, the European Union(EU).

13 million Francophones speak French as a native or adopted language regularly. There are 61 million “occasional” Francophones and 110 million students of all ages.

France is only one hour away by plane and it is easy to find the chance to practise your French.

You will also increase your knowledge and understanding of the French people, language and culture and develop the ability to understand and use French effectively for communication. You will extend language skills with particular emphasis on the understanding of sophisticated spoken and written language, and correctly formulating answers in French to comprehension questions

Course content and assessment

Module 1 Young People Today (listening, reading and writing)

Candidates will be issued with a question paper/answer booklet and an individual cassette. The Learner will have control of the cassette and may replay the recording at any point. The cassette will contain authentic material. The reading material will include items such as extract from magazines, reports and books.

Module 2 Aspects of Society (writing)

Candidates will be issued with a preliminary booklet of 10 texts. There will be two texts on each of the five topics listed in the specification. Candidates will be required to answer one of the questions in French/Spanish.

Module 3 People and Society (speaking)

This is an oral exam which lasts 15 minutes. It will consist of three parts.

- Part 1 **based on stimulus material**. Candidates have preparation time during which they prepare and then speak to the examiner on one of the following areas: Family and relationships, rights and responsibilities, leisure, healthy living, education, jobs and careers.
- Part 2 **Presentation and discussion**. Candidate will give a brief presentation on any topic related to the French/Spanish Speaking World. They will also be required to discuss their chosen topic and issues arising from it
- Part 3 **conversation**, Candidates will take part in a general conversation based on 2-3 topics studied during the AS course.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching will be largely through discussion and group work using audio, video and computer support. There will also be considerable focus on reading comprehension and written work both in class and at home. Independent study is an essential part of the course and learners will have access to the provision in the Learning Resource Centre to help them with this.

Exam Board: AQA * Syllabus: Specification 5651 AND 5696

AS-LEVEL SPANISH



Through its membership the EU and the EMU and its close links to Latin American countries, Spain is a relevant economic power in international markets. Spain plays a major role as one of Britain's most important trading partners.

Spanish is the official language of 21 countries and there are 400 million native Spanish speakers

It is easy to learn, Spain is only two hours away by plane and it is easy to find the opportunity to practise your Spanish.

You will also increase your knowledge and understanding of the Spanish people, language and culture and develop the ability to understand and use Spanish effectively for communication. You will extend language skills with particular emphasis on the understanding of sophisticated spoken and written language, and correctly formulating answers in Spanish to comprehension questions

Course content and assessment

Module 1 Young People Today (listening, reading and writing)

Candidates will be issued with a question paper/answer booklet and an individual cassette. The Learner will have control of the cassette and may replay the recording at any point. The cassette will contain authentic material. The reading material will include items such as extract from magazines, reports and books.

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Candidates will be issued with a preliminary booklet of 10 texts. There will be two texts on each of the five topics listed in the specification. Candidates will be required to answer one of the questions in French/Spanish.

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Teaching will be largely through discussion and group work using audio, video and computer support. There will also be considerable focus on reading comprehension and written work both in class and at home. Independent study is an essential part of the course and learners will have access to the provision in the Learning Resource Centre to help them with this.

Exam Board: **AQA**

Syllabus: Specification 5651 AND 5696



AS-LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

In AS Music Technology you learn how to produce performances using sequencing software in a range of musical styles, develop the skills to produce high quality recordings, learn how to compose and arrange using technology, develop your knowledge of the principles of music technology and learn how to control and interpret data.

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Part (a) Practical work unit (70%)

Here you will develop your skills in sequencing, recording and arranging. You will produce music and submit this with the relevant stimulus material and written commentary.

Module 1: Part (b): Written work (30%)

In this part you will be required to demonstrate your ability to listen to unfamiliar music and analyse its features. This music will be provided on CD and you will be allowed to listen to it as many times as you require to answer the question.

There will also be a written paper where you will discuss musical features and the impact of technology on music, as well as discussing the broader cultural and social issues.

Teaching and Learning

As well as lectures there will a significant amount of practical work in order to develop the required competence. Group work and discussion is essential to evaluate cultural and social ideas.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus: Specification 8511



AS-LEVEL ART- PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is defined as embracing images created by digital as well as chemical (silver halide) means, and by a combination of the two. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic techniques.

You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to Photography and a wider range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples.

You will also carry out practical and critical activities which demonstrate your understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

You will explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

- portraiture, documentary and/or photo-journalism
- landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- working from objects, still life or from the natural world
- experimental imagery

You will be required to demonstrate skills in the following:

- the ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of Photography;
- responding to an issue, theme, concept or idea or working to a brief;
- an appreciation of viewpoint, composition, depth of field and movement; time-based, through such techniques as sequence or frozen moment.;
- the appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area of Photography;
- an understanding of techniques related to the developing and printing of photographic images, presentation, layout and mounting.

You must also show knowledge and understanding of:

- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in the context of their chosen area(s) of Photography;
- the historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres in their chosen area(s) of Photography;
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created;
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to Photography;
- the working vocabulary and specialist terminology which is

relevant to

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Coursework (30%)

Module 1: Coursework(30%)

Module 3: Controlled test- 5 hours (40%)

This is based on pre-release material

Teaching and Learning

As well as lectures there will a significant amount of practical work in order to develop the required competence. Group work and discussion is essential to evaluate cultural and social ideas. Superb darkroom facilities are available on the Hitchin Centre for the Arts, hence this AS level is taught at Hitchin.



AS-LEVEL LAW

This AS Level aims to develop:

- An understanding of legal method and reasoning.
- The techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules.
- The ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority.
- A critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

Course content and assessment

Module 1 Law Making

This deals with the way in which law is made. It includes law making at a European level down to a very local level. It also looks at how laws develop through precedent.

Module 2 Dispute Solving

This looks at the key players in solving disputes such as courts, legal profession, judges and lay people.

Module 3 The Concept of Liability

This deals with introduction to criminal liability, tort, sanctions and remedies and capacity

Assessment is by examination only

Teaching and Learning

In addition to the lectures there is a significant amount of discussion of legal and moral issues. Learners will analyse Cases and develop their written ability to present arguments.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification 5161



AS-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

The specification enables candidates to:

- Study research, theory, concepts, methods and terminology in Psychology.
- Develop an understanding of ethical issues in Psychology.
- Develop critical and evaluative skills in relation to this material.
- Design and report psychological investigations and analyse the results.

Course content and assessment

Module 1:

Cognitive Psychology: Memory, Short and long term memory forgetting and eye-witness memory.

Developmental Psychology: Attachment, Development and variety of attachments, Deprivation and privation, Day care.

Module 2:

Physiological Psychology: Stress, Bodily responses, Sources, Stress Management
Individual Differences: Abnormality, Definitions and models, Eating disorders.

Module 3:

Social Psychology: Social influence, Conformity and obedience.

Research Methods: Methods, Design and analysis.

Teaching and Learning

A significant amount of group work and discussion takes place. The subject is very well supported by learning resources on the virtual learning environment. The essay writing skills of each learner will progressively improve and there will be regular online testing.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A 5181



AS-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

This subject enables candidates to:

- Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary societies.
- Appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate.
- Understand sociological methodology and a range of research methods.
- Reflect on their own experience of the social world in which they live.
- Develop skills, which enhance their ability to participate more effectively in adult life.

Sociology is an interesting subject, especially if you are interested in current affairs and enjoy asking questions. It is a challenging subject and learners have to back up statements with logical argument and statistics.

Course content and assessment need more detail on units and assessment

Module 1

Families and Households; Health; Mass Media
Is marriage a good thing, who wins and who loses?

Module 2

Education: Wealth, Poverty and Welfare; Work
Why do girls do better than boys in examinations?

Module 3

Sociology Research Methods
Why do sociologists love questionnaires?

Teaching and Learning

In addition to the lectures there is a significant amount of discussion of issues relating to the society we live in. Learners will analyse relevant articles and develop their written ability to present a supported argument.

Exam Board: AQA
Syllabus: Specification 5191



AS-LEVEL HISTORY

English and Aspects of European History 1485-1660)

This course is intended to stimulate interest in and promote the study of History:

- Through the acquisition of an understanding and a sound knowledge of selected periods or themes.
- By consideration of the nature of historical sources and the methods used by Historians
- Through acquaintance with the variety of approaches to aspects and periods of history and a familiarity with differing interpretations of particular historical problems
- By promoting an awareness of change and continuity in the past

Spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural development objectives:

- The study of history can contribute to the personal growth of the individual.
- Candidates will have the opportunity to interpret their own search for more meaning in life through the study of the past.
- Varying patterns of belief, issues of ethical and moral development, problems of intolerance, the consequences of civil conflict, poverty and cultural diversity, provide challenging opportunities for Learners to question a variety of moral and social concerns.

Course content and assessment details on units required

Unit1- Henry VII and the establishment of a secure dynasty

Unit 2- Religious change and its consequences in reformation Europe

Both units externally assessed by exams lasting 1.5 hours each, based on documents and sources.

Unit 3- Henry VII's foreign policy and Henry VII and Wolsey

Assessed by coursework, two timed essays externally set and marked.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning is through a variety of media including the examination of primary and secondary sources. Any class could consist of a variety of delivery methods from workshops, discussions, lectures, interactive teaching materials and role play.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification 5041 OPTIONS B AND N



APPLIED AS-LEVEL IN BUSINESS STUDIES

The department offers the single award option of AS Applied Business. The course is coursework based and involves a high usage of ICT. AS Applied Business aims to make you think critically about business, in terms of both good and bad aspects and apply your knowledge to real businesses through independent research and various activities. Applied Business at this level encompasses many disciplines and covers different forms of organisation and business areas. The course also integrates ideas drawn from various disciplines, including Economics, Accounting, Law, Government, Sociology and Psychology.

Course Content and Assessment

The course is based firmly on the aims and objectives of business, the principles which govern their decisions and the methods of solving business problems. You will learn to look at problems from a number of viewpoints and to take these into account when making business decisions. The course includes a study of operations management, marketing and financial decisions and looks at the different roles that individual and groups have in influencing those decisions both within and outside the company. Hence, the influences that legal controls, economic and environmental constraints and human behaviour have on business will be explored.

The content of the Edexcel AS Applied Business Single Award Programme comprises:

- Unit 1: Investigating people at work (externally assessed in June by 1h30m exam paper)
- Unit 2: Investigating Business (internally assessed by portfolio)
- Unit 3: Investigating Marketing (internally assessed by portfolio)

Progression

To progress to A2 you will need to achieve Grade E at AS as well as having a good track record reflecting commitment to all aspects of study in AS.

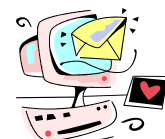
In year 2 of the course, you will study the following A2 units:

- Unit 8: Business development (Compulsory unit – externally assessed)
- Unit 11: Impact of Finance on Business Decisions (internally assessed)
- Unit 14: External Influences on Business (internally assessed)

Teaching and Learning

Applied AS-Levels are taught using a wide range of methods. As well as lectures there will be group work, discussions, research, presentation and structured report writing.

Exam Board Edexcel



BTEC National Award for IT Practitioners (2-Year programme)

Information Technology (IT) is everywhere. Whether you work in an office or in manufacturing, computer technology will be a major component in your work practices. It will also be an integral part of every degree programme. IT is more than using a word-processor, spreadsheet or database; and it's more than playing games. It's about computer equipment (hardware), communication of information and ideas, facilitating and developing processes (software), and more. The BTEC Award is a two-year programme, consisting of 6 units and equivalent to a full A-level. It will provide you with a broad in-depth knowledge and a practical experience of the range of IT. It will be informative, challenging and fun!

Course content and assessment

YEAR 1

Module 1: Communication and Employability Skills for IT (Unit 1)

This unit provides you with an opportunity to identify and consider your own set of employability and communication skills and, where necessary, improve them. On completion of this unit you should:

- Understand the attributes of employees that are valued by employers
- Understand the principles of effective communication
- Be able to exploit ICT to communicate effectively
- Be able to identify personal development needs and the ways of addressing them.

Module 2: Computer Systems (Unit 2)

This unit is a general introduction to the 2 main aspects of a computer system: the machinery/electronics; and the programs that run on it.

On completion of this unit you should:

- Understand the hardware components of computer systems
- Understand the software components of computer systems
- Be able to undertake routine computer maintenance.

Module 3: Computer Animation (Unit 26)

This unit brings together computer graphics and animation techniques to create moving images via the use of computers. This is an increasingly prominent application of ICT in both WEB, film and games development.

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- Understand the origins and types of animation
- Be able to use software techniques used in animation
- Be able to plan, create and review an animation using digital methods.

YEAR 2

Module 4: Principles of Software Design and Development (Unit 18)

Sometimes, a business need is identified that cannot be addressed using existing packages and in these situations it is necessary to build a solution using an appropriate computer language. This unit will introduce you to the whole design and development process of programming.

On completion of this unit you should:

- Know the nature and features of programming languages
- Be able to use software design and development tools
- Be able to design and create a program
- Be able to document, test, debug and review a programmed solution.

Module 5: Website Production and Management (Unit 21)

The need for good web designers and developers continues to grow as more and more companies realise they must develop a web presence and keep it maintained and updated. This unit considers the whole development process of identification of need, design, build, upload, test, maintain and review.

On completion of this unit you should:

- Be able to design an interactive website
- Be able to create an interactive website
- Understand the factors that influence website performance
- Understand the constraints related to the production and use of websites.

Module 6: IT Essentials (part of CompTIA A+ examination) (Unit 49)

This unit will provide you with an industry standard qualification in computer maintenance. This unit is delivered using CISCO training materials and achieved by means of an external on-line examination.

On completion of this unit you should:

- Understand the process of installation, configuration and upgrade of hardware systems
- Be able to diagnose and troubleshoot hardware systems (PCs and portable systems)
- Know about PC preventive maintenance, safety and environmental issues
- Understand the fundamentals of operating systems
- Know printing and scanning technologies
- Understand the principles of networks
- Be able to communicate effectively and professionally.

Teaching and Learning

You will be taught in a variety of ways; including class discussion, small group work, presentation. Practical work with computers will feature strongly, both as reinforcement of the theory and as preparation for the assignments, which are the method of assessment in 5 modules. You will find the practical work that you will do both enjoyable and stretching. By the end of the two year programme, you will be confident and skilful in your knowledge and use of IT. Exam Board: EDEXCEL



AS-LEVEL COMPUTING

This AS-Level aims to develop:

- An understanding of the main principles of solving problems with computers and the range of applications of computers and the effects of their use.
- An understanding of the organisation of computer systems including, software, data, hardware, communications and people.
- The skills of communication, numeracy, presentation, analysis, interpretation, application and evaluation of accounting information.
- An understanding of the principles of systems analysis and design, planning the use of computers, implementing testing and documenting systems.
- Skills in project management.

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Computer Systems, Programming and Networking Concepts

This module gives a sound introduction to each of the topics above.

Module 2: Principles of Hardware, Software and Applications

This covers applications and effects, files and databases, operating systems, hardware devices.

Module 3: Practical Systems Development

An exercise will be set that will test at least two skills from analysing, designing, implementing, testing and evaluating.

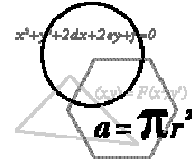
Assessment is by examination and coursework

Teaching and Learning

Learners will be engaged in a variety of methods, e.g. lecture, group work, discussion, problem solving and of course practical work.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification 5511



AS-LEVEL MATHEMATICS

The AS-Level Mathematics Course aims to encourage students to:

- Develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment;
- Develop abilities to reason logically and to recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs;
- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult unstructured problems;
- Develop an understanding of coherence and progression in mathematics and of how different areas of mathematics can be connected;

Course content and assessment

The following equally weighted modules are covered:

Module 1: Core Pure 1 – This module extends the work you covered in GCSE Maths. Some new topics are introduced including calculus and algebraic division. You will develop the ability to produce logical and coherent work by using appropriate mathematical symbols and language.

Module 2: Core Pure 2 – This module extends the trigonometry you covered in GCSE Maths and the calculus you covered in Core Pure 1. New topics introduced are sequences and series, exponentials and logarithms.

Module 3: Statistics 1 – This module extends the concepts of probability, numerical measures and correlation and regression covered in GCSE Maths. New topics introduced are normal distributions, binomial distributions and estimation.

There is no coursework element in AS Mathematics.

Each module is assessed by a 1.5 hour examination.

Calculators are **not** allowed in the Pure Core 1 examination.

Scientific and graphics calculators are permitted in the Pure Core 2 and the Statistics 1 examinations.

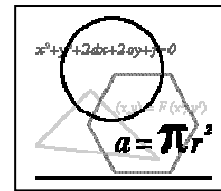
Teaching and Learning

Teaching is by lectures, class problem solving sessions and individual help.

Homework is set every session and students will need to complement their class and homework study with additional work outside class.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification 5361



AS-LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

The AS-Level Further Mathematics Course aims to encourage students to:

- Develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment;
- Develop abilities to reason logically and to recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs;
- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult unstructured problems;
- Develop an understanding of coherence and progression in mathematics and of how different areas of mathematics can be connected;
- Acquire a wider range of mathematical knowledge, skills and experience particularly relevant to higher study of subjects like Physics and Engineering.

Course content and assessment

If enough learners enrol for us to mount a full course, then we shall use the AQA syllabus which we follow for the single subject Maths. If, however, there are fewer enrolments, we shall not be able to mount a full course, but will give some support to students studying through the Further Maths Network, and that might involve them studying the MEI syllabus.

AQA

The following equally weighted modules are covered:

Module 1: Decision Maths 1 – This module can be studied independently of any other AS-Level modules. Subjects covered will include sorting algorithms, linear programming and a selection of problems dealing with graphs and networks.

Module 2: Further Pure 1 – This module extends some of the topics covered in the single subject syllabus: complex numbers are used to provide solutions for all quadratic equations; coordinate geometry stretches to include a basic treatment of all the conic sections; the general solution is found to trigonometric equations; matrices are used to extend the range of transformations covered.

Module 3: Further Pure 2 – This module continues the work of FP1 in polynomials and complex numbers; and it introduces proof by induction, the summing of series, hyperbolic trig functions and the use of calculus to find an arc length or a surface of revolution.

There is no coursework element in the AQA syllabus.

MEI

If the MEI syllabus is used, there will also be three modules.

Module 1 – Decision Maths 1 – This is similar to the AQA Decision 1, with the addition of a couple of topics, notably critical path analysis.

Module 2 – Further Pure 1 – The syllabus is similar to the AQA syllabus with one or two additions like a more rigorous treatment of mathematic proof, including proof by induction.

Module 3 – Numerical Methods – This module picks up and extends some of the numerical methods covered in the single subject but makes more of them. Methods are studied for finding approximate numerical solutions to equations, and for approximating definite integrals and gradient functions. This module has a coursework component which forms 20% of the marks for this module.

GENERAL

Each AQA module is assessed by a 1.5 hour examination. Each MEI module exam lasts 1 hour 20 mins.

Calculators are permitted in all the exams. We encourage learners to use the latest Casio fx-83 Natural Display calculator. A graphics calculator could also be useful but is not necessary.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching is by lectures, class problem solving sessions and individual help. Homework is set every session and students will need to complement their class and homework study with additional work outside class. The AQA syllabus is Specification 5371.

If learners work with the Further Maths Network, the network will provide support to individual study and will set and mark assignments. The College will also provide some tutorial support.

The MEI syllabus specification is 3896.



APPLIED AS-LEVEL IN SCIENCE

Why study Applied Science AS?

This qualification allows learners to study a range of scientific principles and see how they are applied in industry and scientific services, such as the health service, and the impact that science has on society. Learners will also develop significant insight into the importance of Health and Safety and the relevant legal requirements.

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Investigating science at Work

In this unit learners will learn about scientific organisations, the science that is used, how Health and Safety regulations are used and how the organisation impacts on the local community.

This is assessed via a portfolio of evidence which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Module 2: Energy Transfer Systems

In this unit the structure and function of the circulatory and respiratory systems are studied. Learners will find out how physiological status is monitored and how ethical issues impact on the monitoring diagnosis and treatment of patients. You will also learn out imaging methods, such as X-rays, ultrasound and magnetic resonance and how energy is transferred within, and outside of, living organisms.

This is assessed by an external examination.

Module 3: Finding out about substances

Learners will find out how to prepare samples for analysis and how to analyse them using a range of methods, e.g. titrimetry, colorimetry, chromatography, qualitative analysis. There will also be a study of the energy changes that take place when substances react.

This is assessed via a portfolio of evidence which is internally assessed and externally moderated

Teaching and Learning

Applied AS-levels are taught using a wide range of methods. As well as lectures there will be group work, discussion, research, presentation and structured report writing.

Exam Board:AQA

Syllabus: 8771



AS-LEVEL BIOLOGY

Many learners study Biology because they wish to study the subject at university while others do so in order to study subjects such as medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, psychology, biochemistry and pharmacy, for which A-level Biology is essential. However Biology is an important subject, not just for science, but for many other types of career.

Biology at A level involves a good deal of biochemistry it is highly recommended that you take Chemistry to at least AS level alongside AS-level Biology.

Biology is also far more numerical at A-level than at GCSE, confidence with basic numerical skills is essential for successful study at A-level.

Course content and assessment

Module 1 Molecules, cells and cell systems.

This module provides the key underpinning concepts in Biology: Levels of organisation, Cell theory, role of biological molecule(s) and also looks in depth at the structure and function of the respiratory and cardiovascular systems (including a heart dissection).

Module 2 - Making use of Biology

This module looks at applications of biological processes and knowledge: biotechnology, gene technology, forensic biology, reproductive biology and also physiological adaptations of cereals.

Centre assessed coursework - Practical assignments.

Module 4

This includes – Drawing, an essay and the design implementation and write up of a practical investigation.

The AS Level comprises of two written papers, plus the centre assessed practical component.

Teaching and Learning

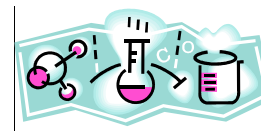
You will be taught in a variety of ways; including whole class teaching, class discussion, small group work, presentation, doing quizzes. Practical work will feature strongly, both as reinforcement of the theory and as preparation for the practical exam.

A key aspect of preparation for the AS examinations will be frequent tests – expect a test every 2 weeks, the tests will take 2 forms: 1. Mastery learning tests – a series of 16 short answer tests designed to aid your learning of key terminology and 2. Longer Class tests at the end of 6 key topics designed to give exam practice.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: Specification A

AS-LEVEL CHEMISTRY



Many learners study chemistry because they wish to study the subject at university while others do so in order to study subjects such as medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, biochemistry and pharmacy, for which A-level chemistry is essential. However Chemistry is an important subject, not just for science, but for many other types of career. Even if you have no idea what you would like to do but you are interested in chemistry you will make a good choice with A-level chemistry.

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Foundation Chemistry

This module provides the basic underpinning chemistry concepts:

- Chemical formula, equations and the mole
- Atomic structure
- Chemical bonding and structure – ionic, covalent and metallic bonding. Shapes of molecules and Intermolecular forces
- An introduction to the periodic table looking in more detail at the chemistry of group 2 and 7 elements and compounds

Module 2: Chains and Rings

This module is about organic chemistry:

- The basic concepts – formula, naming, functional groups and isomerism
- Alkanes – physical and chemical properties
- Reactions of the alkenes, alcohols and halogenoalkanes

Module 3: How far, how fast and practical work

A theory half module looks at the energy changes in reactions, the rate at which they go and the idea of chemical equilibrium.

- Enthalpy changes – exothermic and endothermic reactions, reaction profiles and Hess's law.
- Reaction rates – factors which affect reaction rates particularly catalysts, reversible reactions and equilibrium.
- Acids and bases

The Practical work is the other half of the module and is examined by means of a practical exam at the end of the year.

The theory modules are examined by means of a written paper. There is also a planning exercise which is handed in on the day of the exam.

Teaching and Learning

You will be taught in a variety of ways; including class discussion, small group work, presentation, working on the laptops doing quizzes. Practical work will feature strongly, both as reinforcement of the theory and as preparation for the practical exam. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the course is the amount of practical work that you will do. By the end of the year learners are confident and skilful.

Exam Board: OCR Syllabus: Specification 3882

APPLIED AS-LEVEL IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



Health & Social Care is an important subject not, just for future nursing or caring related employment. Many Learners study Health & Social Care because they wish to study the subject at university while others do so in order to study for other careers in social work, education, health promotion and research analysts. Health & Social Care is highly regarded by universities.

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Human Growth and Development

This module provides the knowledge for working with people in every stage of their lives. You will explore key aspects of growth, development, health and well-being:

- Aspects of human growth and development
- Factors that influence human growth, development and health experience, including those that are inherited and those that are acquired during our lifespan.
- What it means to be healthy

This is an external assessment (examination)

Module 2: Communication and values

This unit will give you an understanding of the importance of communication in all caring activities, and about the values involved in care. You will learn about the care value base and the transmission of values through communication.

This will include:

- Knowledge and understanding of communication
- The care value base
- The transmission of values through communication

This is an internally assessed unit which will be assessed in January

Module 3: Positive care environments

You will learn that positive care practice relies on practitioners having a comprehensive understanding of the diverse society we live in. On completion of this unit you will understand that organizations and society have a responsibility to protect and safeguard the rights of those who are vulnerable through formal policy and legislation.

This is an *internally assessed* unit which will be assessed in April

Teaching and Learning

Applied AS-levels are taught using a wide range of methods. As well as lectures there will be group work, discussion, research, presentation and structured report writing.



AS-LEVEL PHYSICS

Physicists are wanted in many areas, such as nursing, oceanography, patent examiner, as well as the more obvious engineering, communications and many other careers. There are often incentives in the form of grants and scholarships, to study physics to higher levels.

Over half of all physicists work in R&D, Engineering, and Information Technology. Some physicists work on problems at the frontiers of knowledge; others tackle the challenging problems which arise in the application of physical ideas to industrial and engineering problems - offering personal satisfaction as great as that from work in 'frontier' physics. If you want to go for the best paid jobs the highest paid sectors are finance, telecommunications and the electrical industry - each with an average salary of about £40K! Physicists are found working in research and development, medicine, astronomy, meteorology and of course teaching (Institute of Physics website www.iop.org Jan 2006).

Course content and assessment

Module 1: Foundation Physics

Scalars and vectors. Kinematics. Energy concepts. Current electricity. DC circuits. Information and communication.

This unit is assessed by written exam.

Module 2: Waves and Nuclear Physics

Waves. Diffraction and interference. Spectra. Radioactivity. Physics of particles. Information and communication.

This unit is assessed by written exam.

Module 3: Experimental Work

Planning. Implementing. Analysing evidence and drawing conclusions. Evaluating evidence and procedures. Linking experiment and theory.

This unit is assessed by a practical exam.

Teaching and Learning

A variety of teaching and learning methods are used to assist your study. There is regular practical work to support the learning of theory and practice of skills leading to the assessment in the practical exam. There are various computer resources, including many different simulations to support the practical and theoretical work. The course has a workbook developed particularly for this specification with key information as well as questions to check your understanding. Students are expected to undertake work outside the classroom with directed homework and your own research to improve your understanding. This is supported by the college Virtual Learning Environment "BlackBoard".

Exam Board: AQA Syllabus: Specification B