

Ramsey Grammar School

Excellence for all



Sixth Form Options Booklet 2024 - 2025



Ramsey Grammar School
Lezayre Rd,
Ramsey, Isle of Man,
IM8 2RG



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Message from the Headteacher, Mrs Taylor

Dear Year 11 Students

At Ramsey Grammar School we offer wonderful opportunities and support to take the exciting steps into Sixth Form study. We aim for excellence for all and encourage our young people to have the greatest ambitions. Your time in Sixth Form allows you to hone your academic abilities, find your true passions and plan for an exciting future after school.

Our Sixth Form is a stimulating place to learn; providing you with wide ranging study options as well as extracurricular activities and enrichment to develop your skills for the future. We are extremely proud of the achievements of our Sixth Formers past and present and are excited to welcome you to Ramsey Grammar School Sixth Form to be a part of our future.

Best wishes for shaping your inspiring future.

Mrs Sonia Taylor
Headteacher

Message From The Sixth Form Leadership Team

It's our privilege to welcome you to the next big step in your academic journey. As a team we pride ourselves in helping each student to achieve their full potential and as a result we have adapted and refined our range of Level 3 qualifications to suit a variety of skills, interests, and ambitions. Our tutor team are dedicated Sixth Form specialists with a great deal of experience between them, both in academic and pastoral matters. Whatever your goal, whether you are aiming for University, thinking of a career on the island or still need advice deciding, we're here to help get you there. Our facilities include two spacious study areas for silent and group study work, a kitchen, a computer suite and Lecture Theatre. All of this is designed to give you a dedicated learning experience more akin to the modern University or world of work by offering you a new level of independence and autonomy. We look forward to seeing you on GCSE results day where your next chapter begins.



Yours sincerely

Stuart Curran
Head of Sixth Form

Naomi Lewis
Assistant Head of Sixth Form



Life In The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Ramsey Grammar School (RGS) is an exciting place to learn, offering pathways to academic success, diverse and challenging enrichment opportunities, great facilities and a welcoming community. Sixth Form offers students the opportunity to take part in debates, discussions and other more social events, alongside academic studies. Students are encouraged to participate in various inter-school competitions such as Charity Challenge, Junior Achievement, the Linguistics Olympiad and the Inter-school Mathematical Team Challenge, as well as school-based enrichment programmes such as sports coaching, subject mentoring, Core Mathematics AS-Level and accredited certificates in languages including Manx, Mandarin, Japanese, German and Italian.

Being a member of the Sixth Form at RGS carries several privileges and responsibilities. Relationships with teachers, teaching methodology and the associated work change in Year 12 and Year 13 reflect the advancing intellectual and social maturity of the students who have considerable control over the organisation of their own studies. In Year 12 students are required to fulfil a specified amount of supervised private study time and to perform some element of 'service' to the school or the local community.

During the year all students will be able to visit the Island Higher Education Conference. There will also be visiting speakers to the school who will outline the University (UCAS) application procedure. This is further accommodated in daily lunchtime UCAS surgeries in the Sixth Form Office where students receive individual assistance with their applications and decisions and with their UCAS personal statement.

During July there is a four-day trip to England for all interested members of Year 12 to visit several universities, to listen to speakers, experience the wide diversity of campus types and stay in a student hall of residence.

There is, of course, no automatic right of entry into the Sixth Form. The normal entry requirement is 5 A*- C GCSE passes including English and/or Maths, preferably both.

Students achieving good GCSE results can be assured that the best possible Sixth Form academic education on the Island is to be found at Ramsey Grammar School, providing the qualifications required to be admitted to university or to enter employment.

Level 3 courses last for two years and can be followed by Degree or HND/Foundation Degree courses at a university or entry into employment.

Sixth Form courses

At RGS most students are expected to select three subjects, though occasionally some students will select four. In addition, all students will follow an enrichment programme.

We work in partnership with Castle Rushen High School (CRHS) and Queen Elizabeth II High School (QEII) to provide a wide range of courses and opportunities for our students.

The vast majority of students completing two years in the Sixth Form go on to university, sometimes taking a gap year either before or after their degree.



University colleges and colleges of higher education

These institutions provide a variety of degree and non-degree courses. Entry qualifications are as for university entrance. They also provide a range of post-graduate qualifications and degrees.

University College IoM (UCM)

UCM offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Currently, University of Chester degrees are offered in Business Management, Accounting & Finance, Event Management & Marketing, Computer Science/Applied Science, Cybersecurity, History and Heritage, Communication through Digital Media, Nursing, Sports Coaching, Fitness & Health and Public Health. The College also offers bespoke degrees for those wishing to complete a degree while in full-time employment, whilst also offering a range of postgraduate qualifications.

Further information

Various books concerned with higher education are available in the Sixth Form area and the library, although a number are now only online. In addition, there are current prospectuses for all Universities, Colleges of Higher Education and Colleges of Art readily available.

The Head of the Sixth Form, the Assistant Head of Sixth Form and all senior members of staff are also very happy to offer further advice and guidance.

Careers

Careers guidance is an integral part of the Sixth Form. The guidance takes the form of advice on higher education together with visits, speakers, work experience and interviews practice, as well as online support from our Unifrog platform. Students are kept up to date on apprenticeship opportunities and job advertisements throughout the year.

Dress code



The Sixth Form Dress Code is "Smart Business Attire". Smart office dress does not include the wearing of hoodies or any item of clothing with a large visible logo on it. The Headteacher is the ultimate arbiter of the dress code. Students who do not comply with expectations may be sent home to modify their choice of attire. The dress code includes the mandatory uniform item of an RGS Lanyard.

Physical Education

In Years 12 and 13 most students take part in a double lesson of Games on a Thursday. During the year they have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sports:

Football	Basketball	Cross Country
Rugby	Volleyball	Athletics
Hockey	Swimming	Table Tennis
Netball	Badminton	Weight Training
Cricket	Rounders	Aerobics
Tennis	Softball	Canoeing

Students are also encouraged to participate in the many interschool events and clubs that take place regularly throughout the year. We hope that by offering a wide options programme, coupled with a comprehensive package of extra-curricular clubs and fixtures, our senior students will see sport as being part of a healthy lifestyle that they will continue with into adult life.

Important dates

Important dates and events in the Sixth Form induction and future career decision making process:

- Thursday 22nd August - Final GCSE Results Day
- Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd August - Sixth Form Admission Interviews
- Wednesday 4th September - Start of Autumn Term

Sixth Form Subject Choices 2024

Ramsey Grammar School Sixth Form offers a wide range of Level 3 courses. These include A-Level, which is a General Certificate of Education (GCE) Qualification designed around an individual subject and is predominantly assessed by examinations, and BTEC, which is a vocational or applied coursework-based qualification that is also well regarded by universities and employers.

To maintain the maximum flexibility with respect to Sixth Form course choices students are encouraged to aim high and to gain the best GCSE results that they possibly can.



MAKING YOUR CHOICE

When deciding which courses to apply for there are a variety of factors that students will need to consider. The first thing is to think about what grades they are likely to achieve at GCSE. This will help to establish which subject combinations to study in the Sixth Form. Secondly, students will need to look at the entry requirements for the separate subjects under consideration. These entry requirements are put in place because students who do not achieve them are likely to struggle with the subject at A-Level.

In addition to this students should also ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I have the skills and abilities demanded by the course?
- Will I find the subject interesting?
- Am I prepared to work at least six hours per week on this subject as well as several hours outside the classroom?
- Do I need this subject for my chosen career or University course? (If you are unsure about what you would like to do, try to pick a variety of options so you can choose more than one career path).
- Is my chosen programme well balanced - in terms of subject matter and methods of assessment?

For extra information or guidance please feel free to contact the appropriate Head of Subject or visit the examining boards' websites:

- www.aqa.org.uk
- www.ocr.org.uk
- www.edexcel.org.uk
- www.wjec.co.uk
- www.cie.org.uk
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices>



Possible Sixth Form Choices 2024 – 2025 - Please choose 4 subjects labelled 1-4 in order of preference and a reserve (labelled 'Reserve'). These courses are subject to student numbers and staff availability.

AS/A-LEVEL	Order of Preference
Agriculture	
Art and Design	
Biology	
BTEC Performing Arts and Dance	
Business	
Chemistry	
Computer Science	
Core Mathematics	
Design and Technology	
Drama and Theatre Studies	
Economics	
English Language	
English Literature	
French	
Geography	
Geology	
Global Perspectives	
Health and Social Care (BTEC)	
History	
Information Technology	
Mathematics	
Further Maths	
Music	
Photography	
Physical Education (BTEC)	
Physics	
Politics	
Psychology	
Religious Studies	
Sociology	
Spanish	



Course: Agriculture
Exam Board: SQA
Qualification Type: SQA National Certificate Level 6 Agriculture

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

Although SQA Agriculture follows on from it nicely it is certainly not essential that you have studied Level 5 SQA Agriculture before starting this course. The course is aimed at all students with a keen interest in farming, livestock and the effects on the countryside and the environment. You do not need to be from a farming background to succeed on the course, but you do need to be willing to get involved in practical and written work alike.

What does the course involve?

This course is designed to give students a broad agricultural knowledge base. During your course you will study the following Core units:

- Livestock Husbandry, Health and Welfare
- Combinable Crop Production
- Tractor Operations and Attachments
- Farm Maintenance Skills
- Soils and Soil Fertility
- Grassland Production.

Option 1 Units (4-6 Units needed)

- Livestock Reproductive and Digestive Systems
- Sheep Production
- Pig Production

Agriculture: Environmental Awareness

- Poultry Production
- Milking
- Calf Rearing Systems
- Dairy Production
- Beef and Suckled Calf Production

Optional additional Units

- Sheep Shearing
- Tractor Driving

Students can also opt to take additional units or substitute optional ones with another to take into account their own personal interests or future career aspirations.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You need to have at least a grade C in a Science subject. This can either be double award Science, single award Science or Agriculture. The most important requirements are an enthusiasm for the subject, willingness to be involved with practical activities and the self-discipline to ensure that assignments are completed to the highest possible standards.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

There are no exams. The qualification is continuously assessed throughout the two years of the course via observations, short tests and a portfolio of evidence.

For students who are interested in:

Farming
Livestock
Countryside
Environment

Leading to a career in:

Agriculture
Animal Care
The Environment



<u>Course:</u>	Art and Design
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification Type:</u>	AQA Art and Design (Fine Art) 7202

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

If you have taken Art at GCSE level and enjoyed it then this is the course for you. Art and Design is taught through the AQA syllabus. Although this is a different exam board from Art GCSE the structure and assessment objectives are the same. The main difference between A-level and GCSE Art is that at A-level you design and develop your own themed projects, putting you in the driving seat. You will continue to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills that you developed during your Art GCSE course but you will also have greater freedom to develop as an artist. Although completing your A-level in Art and Design will give you the opportunity to go on to further education, the course will also develop a range of necessary skills needed for employment and the world of work.

What does the course involve?

You will cover two projects in Year 12.

All projects you will work on must be linked under a theme of your choosing.

There will not be any exams in Year 12 as all your attention will be project based.

In your final year you will work on your final project for the course. This will link to the theme that you developed in Year 12.

You will also write a 'Personal Investigation' 1000 word essay. This will be an in-depth written piece covering your portfolio of themed work, including the artists that you have studied, that you have been conducting since the start of the course.

In February of Year 13 you will receive your exam paper. Here you will select a question and spend the next eight weeks preparing for your final exam piece.

Your Art A-level exam is 15 hours long and will take place over three days.

What kind of student is this suitable for?

Taking Art and Design A-level as an option can lead to many exciting opportunities for the future. For just a taster, see below:

Accessories Designer, Acquisitions Specialist, Advertisement Designer, Advertising Photographer, Animator, Antique Appraiser, Antiques Refinisher, Architect, Architectural Illustrator, Art Appraiser, Art Auctioneer, Art Critic, Art Director, Art Gallery Curator, Art Gallery Owner, Art Gallery Manager, Art Historian, Art Investor, Art Librarian, Art Professor, Art Reviewer, Art Teacher, Art Therapist, Artists' Agent, Book Illustrator, Caricature Artist, Cartoonist, Commercial Artist, Corporate Communication Specialist, Costume Designer, Craftsperson, Creative Director, Courtroom Artist, Digital Illustrator, Digital Medical Animator, Digital 3D Modeller, Display Designer, Documentary Filmmaker, Dress Maker, Embroiderer, Estate Appraiser, Exhibit Installer, Fabric/Textile Designer, Fashion Consultant, Fashion Designer, Fashion Merchandising, Fashion Photographer, Film Editor, Film Production, Furniture Designer, Glass Blower, Graphic Designer, Graphic Layout Artist, Illustrator, Industrial Designer, Interior Designer, iPhone/Android App Designer, Interior Decorator, Landscape Designer, Logo Designer, Magazine Layout Designer, Makeup Artist, Multimedia Artist, Museum Archivist, Museum Curator, Museum Manager, Packaging Designer, Painter, Photographer, Pattern Maker, Photo Journalist, Police Sketch Artist, Portrait Artist, Set/Stage Designer, Shoe Designer, Sign Writer, Special Effects Designer, Tattoo Artist, Television Production, Typographer, Urban Designer / Town Planner, Videographer, Video Game Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Web Designer, Wedding Photographer



Even if you're not planning a career in the Creative Arts Art and Design looks great on your university or job applications. This is because being an artist requires passion, imagination and risk taking and shows commitment, individuality and creativity. Qualities and skills used in every career!

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

AQA Art and Design (Fine Art) 7202 is assessed through two components:

Component 1 : Personal Investigation (Coursework): 96 marks - 60%

Component 2 : Externally Set Assignment (Exam) 96 marks - 40%

Component 1: Is completed during Years 12 and 13. You will complete a series of themed project pieces using a range of media.

Component 2: Is completed towards the end of Year 13 during either April/May

Both the Personal Investigation and the Externally Set Assignment are marked using the table below. There are FOUR assessment objectives, each carrying an equal percentage. The overall grade is calculated by adding together the marks for components 1 and 2 to give a total overall mark.

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component 1 weighting (approx %)	Component 2 weighting (approx %)	Overall weighting of AOs (approx %)
A01	15	10	25
A02	15	10	25
A03	15	10	25
A04	15	10	25
Overall weighting of components	60	40	100



Course: Biology
Exam Board: OCR
Qualification Type: A-Level

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

A-Level Biology will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of Biology. It covers the key concepts of Biology alongside practical skills which are integrated throughout the course. Students will experience a combination of academic challenge and practical focus.

What does the course involve?

You will learn about the core concepts of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will learn to apply your knowledge, investigate and solve problems. Students will experience straightforward assessment through examinations and their practical skills portfolio. For more information on course content please visit the link below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015/>

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students who are interested in key biological ideas and understanding and how they relate to each other and those who are interested in the development of transferable skills including investigative, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills. This course opens up a range of possibilities for further study and careers associated with Biology.



What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Content is split into six teaching modules:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport
- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Component 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5

Component 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6

Component 3 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)

Assessment Overview	
Biological processes (1) 100 marks 2hrs 15 minutes written paper	37% of total A-Level
Biological diversity (2) 100 marks 2hrs 15 minutes written paper	37% of total A-Level
Unified biology (3) 70 marks 1 hr 30 minutes written paper	26% of total A-Level
Practical endorsement in biology (4)* (non-exam assessment)	Reported separately

For students who are interested in:

An excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science.

Leading to a career in:

Medicine, Health Care, Veterinary Science, Biological Engineering, Zoology, Biochemistry, Botany, Forensic Science, Agriculture and Conservation.



<u>Course:</u>	BTEC Performing Arts and Dance
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Pearson
<u>Qualification:</u>	BTEC Extended Diploma

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

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts and Dance is equivalent to one A-Level. The course will provide insight into the Performing Arts sector. It will give you an understanding of the Performing Arts with a specific focus on the essential skills, techniques and disciplines needed for a variety of careers in Dance. The qualification provides you with an insight into the employment opportunities available, helping you to choose a career or move on to further study. Whatever skills and experience you bring will be developed and improved through practical workshops, research, set tasks and public performances. The main requirements are some experience of performing (in or out of school), plus enthusiasm, energy, commitment and the ability to work hard as part of a team.

What does the course involve?

During the course you will be able to develop a variety of skills in Dance, both practical and personal. Organisational skills are essential to balance and manage your time between the different units. You will have the opportunity to undertake, prepare and perform as part of a Dance company presenting work to an audience. The units focus on practical skills and techniques in a range of Dance styles as well as critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of professional Dance practitioners work.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This is the course for you if you have already taken BTEC Level 2 Dance or are involved with performing in or outside of school and you have a real passion for dancing and combining your dancing skills with the opportunity to extend your skills in other areas. You will need to realise the importance of rehearsals after school to ensure you meet the course requirements. You will also be expected to watch and research a wide variety of performance work.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The Extended Certificate will involve a combination of mandatory internally set and marked assignments with working lesson logs, as well as two mandatory externally Exam Board set tasks. Assignments will be set and marked by school and related to a work-related scenario. This may take the shape of a practical project, performance and research within a team or individually. Tasks are set and marked by the Exam Board. This qualification also involves 1 written exam to be completed in controlled conditions, which draws on pre-released information.

For students who are interested in:

- Performing Arts
- Choreography
- Drama
- Musical Theatre
- Physical Theatre

Leading to a career in:

- Dance teaching
- Choreography
- Dancer
- Dance journalist
- Costume designer
- Stage manager
- Physiotherapist
- Movement based Therapy



<u>Course:</u>	Business
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of Business at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in learning about how businesses work. Students should be numerate and able to apply theory in real life situations, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to make recommendations with reference to business theory.

What does the course involve?

The aim of this course is to provide students with critical understanding of the following:

- The internal functions of contemporary business organisations of all types
- The dynamic external environment within which businesses operate and the effects this can have upon decision-making within a business
- Major topical issues that can generate change for business organisations and the ways in which businesses respond to these issues
- The range of stakeholder perspectives that can be taken on business activities.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students considering opting for Business will be completing extended written work and must possess well-developed written skills. Furthermore A-Level requirements now insist upon increased numeracy so confidence in handling numerical data is essential. Perhaps the most important requirement is a commitment to the course in terms of:

- Attendance at all lessons
- Completion of all work
- A genuine interest in business related issues

For students who are interested in:

- How businesses operate
- How the business world is changing

Leading to a career in:

- Accountancy
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Law
- Logistics, Operations
- Retailing



What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Throughout the course students will complete a wide range of both informal and formal assessments.

In line with RGS policy all external assessment will take place at the end of Year 13 in the form of three 2 hour written examinations based upon case study material.

There is no coursework in this subject. All formal assessment is via examination.



Course:	Chemistry
Exam Board:	CIE
Qualification:	AS-Level and A-Level

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

Cambridge International AS and A-Level Chemistry builds on the skills acquired at Cambridge IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, a section on some current applications of chemistry and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed in a timetabled practical examination. The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of chemistry ideas in novel contexts as well as on the acquisition of knowledge

What does the Course Involve?

Physical Chemistry	Inorganic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry and Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atoms, molecules and stoichiometry • Atomic structure • Chemical bonding • States of matter • Chemical energetics • Electrochemistry • Equilibria • Reaction kinetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Periodic Table; chemical periodicity • Group 2 • Group 17 • An introduction to the chemistry of transition elements • Nitrogen and sulphur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to organic chemistry • Hydrocarbons • Halogen derivatives • Hydroxy compounds • Carbonyl compounds • Carboxylic acids and derivatives • Nitrogen compounds • Polymerisation • Analytical techniques

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course encourages creative thinking and problem-solving skills which are transferable to any future career path. Cambridge International AS and A-Level Chemistry is ideal for learners who want to study chemistry or a wide variety of related subjects at university or to follow a career in Science.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of 5 examinations. Papers 1,2 and 3 are sat in November of your A2 year and papers 4 and 5 in May.

Paper	Types of paper	Duration	Marks	Weighting	
				AS	A2
1	Multiple Choice	1 hr	40	31%	15%
2	AS-Level Structured Questions	1 hr 15 mins	60	46%	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills	2 hrs	40	23%	12%
4	A-Level Structured Questions	2 hrs	100		38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation	1 hr 15 mins	30		12%

Jobs directly related to a Chemistry degree include:

- Analytical Chemist
- Chemical Engineer
- Healthcare Scientist
- Clinical Biochemistry
- Forensic Scientist
- Pharmacologist
- Research Scientist (Physical sciences)
- Toxicologist

Jobs where a degree in Chemistry would be useful include:

- Chartered Certified Accountant
- Environmental Consultant
- Higher Education Lecturer
- Nuclear Engineer
- Patent Attorney
- Science Writer
- Secondary School Teacher

Thinking about medicine?

If you're planning on studying medicine it's important to note that nearly all universities require students to have a Chemistry A-level.



Course:	Computer Science
Exam Board:	AQA
Qualification:	A-Level

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

The A-Level in Computer Science is intended to encourage students to develop;

- An understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills related to:
 - Boolean algebra
 - Comparison and complexity of algorithms
 - Number representations and bases
- The ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Pupils do not need to have studied GCSE Computer Science, however it will help.

What does the course involve?

Subject Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of programming • Fundamentals of data structures • Fundamentals of algorithms • Theory of computation • Fundamentals of data representation • Fundamentals of computer systems • Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture • Consequences of uses of computing • Fundamentals of communication and networking • Fundamentals of databases • Big Data • Fundamentals of functional programming • Systematic approach to problem-solving • Non-exam assessment – the computing practical project

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A-Level Computer Science is suitable for students who want to work in the IT/Computing industry, to go on to University to take a computer-related course or just know more about how the computer works and how to program it.



What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Paper 1	+	Paper 2	+	Coursework
What's assessed This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science.		What's assessed This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content.		What's assessed The pupil's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem.
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-screen exam: 2½ Hours • 40% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2½ Hours • 40% of A-level 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 marks • 20% of A-level
Questions Compulsory short answer questions that include writing, adapting and extending programs.		Questions Compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.		

Full details of the specification can be found on AQA's web site: www.aqa.org.uk

For students who are interested in: Working with computers and programming

Leading to a career in:

- Business Analysis
- Data Analysis
- Games Developer
- Information Systems
- IT
- Multimedia



<u>Course:</u>	Core Mathematics
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	Level 3 Certificate

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

The Level 3 course in Mathematical Studies was developed for those students who wished to keep up a mathematical element to their studies but not sit a full A-Level. The course is for students who have attained a C grade or higher in GCSE Mathematics and is run over two years during Enrichment. At the end of the course you will receive an AS-Level qualification.

What does the course involve?

The course is broken down into two parts.

The compulsory content:

- Analysis of data
- Maths for personal finance
- Estimation
- Critical analysis of given data and models
-

The optional content:

- Statistical Techniques
- Critical Path and Risk analysis
- Graphical techniques

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Core Maths is designed to support students who achieve C or above in GCSE Mathematics but decide not to study AS or A-Level Mathematics. The qualification is particularly valuable for any student planning a future that requires good quantitative skills, whether that be in higher education or employment. Degrees such as Biology, Geography and Business Studies all expect a high level of mathematical competency that can be supported by studying Core Maths.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Paper 1

Written exam: 1 Hour 30 minutes (Compulsory content)

Paper 2

Students must choose one of these options to be assessed on:

- Optional application 1 – Statistical techniques
- Optional application 2 – Critical path analysis
- Optional application 3 – Graphical techniques

Leading to a career in:

Core Mathematics is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science or maths-based course, ranging from Biochemical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medical Science and Psychology to Philosophy, Economics, Accountancy, Management and Actuarial Science. All of these courses expect a high level of mathematical competency that can be supported by studying Core Maths.



<u>Course:</u>	Design and Technology: Product Design and Textiles
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	AS-Level and A-Level

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

The study of GCE D&T is the culmination of a pathway that builds on the progression of work from the previous Key Stages. Ideally students will have successfully studied any D&T course at GCSE or its equivalent. This includes Product Design and Textiles.

A deep interest and enthusiasm for the subject are pre-requisite motivations for any student wishing to excel in this subject.

What does the course involve?

Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. The specification encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs and to design and make prototypes that solve real-world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. Students will choose to specialise in a subject area - either Product Design or Textiles - whilst studying a set of core principles.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

D&T is ideal for students who enjoy working creatively when designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise, both independently or collaboratively.

Candidates should be open to taking design risks, showing innovation and enterprise; wishing to gain an insight into the creative, engineering, and/or manufacturing industries; desiring to acquire in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes and be able to work safely and skilfully to produce high-quality prototypes.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years. The course is divided into 4 Units and AS-Level and A-Level.

The AS Unit 1 is a Written Paper
This is a 2 hour exam worth 20% (80 marks).

The AS Unit 2 is a Design and Make Task
This is completed over 40 hours and is worth 20% (80 marks)

The A2 Unit 3 is a Written Paper.
This is 2 1/2 hour exam worth 30% (100 marks).

The A2 Unit 4 is a Design and Make Task
This is completed over 60 hours and is worth 30% (100 marks)

For students who are interested in:

The creative, engineering and manufacturing, fashion and textiles industries.

Entrepreneurial enterprises.

Leading to a career in:

Whatever career you choose the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. Teamwork and time management are highly prized by employers.



Course:	Drama & Theatre Studies
Exam Board:	WJEC
Qualification:	A-Level

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

To successfully study Drama at A-Level students should have an interest in theatre and performance. They will need to work collaboratively to present performance pieces, possess good communication skills and be keen to develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre styles, playwrights and practitioners.

What does the course involve?

The aim of the course is for students to pursue their interest and develop their skills in a range of practical drama elements. The requirements of the specification, with its 40% written weighting, also enables students to gain an entry qualification for courses in higher education.

The specifications foster candidates' creativity, personal growth, self-confidence, communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, understanding and the exercise of the imagination. Students will have the opportunity to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. They will investigate the forms, styles and contexts of drama and will learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Drama and Theatre Studies provides students with a wide range of transferable skills which are important in many career fields. Jobs where a qualification in Drama may be useful include work in the Performing Arts, teaching, journalism, the law, marketing and social work.

Our teaching sessions often take the form of workshops and rehearsals, as well as more formal classroom-based practice. Students will be expected to participate fully, as well as attending rehearsals during their own time.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Unit 1: Theatre Workshop. Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a *reinterpretation* of an extract from a published play.

Unit 2: Text in Theatre. Written examination based on a set text.

Unit 3: Text in Action. Students participate in the creation, development and performance of **two** pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by the examination board.

Unit 4: Text in Performance. Written examination where students are required to answer **two** questions based on **two** different set texts.

For students who are interested in:

- Developing their interest in Drama and Performance Art
- Gaining confidence, self-presentation, analytical skills and self-discipline.

Leading to a career in: The Performing Arts, teaching, the law, marketing, social work.



<u>Course:</u>	Economics
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of Economics at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in learning about the wider economic issues affecting society. Students should be numerate and able to apply theory in real-life situations, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to make recommendations with reference to a wide range of complex economic theories.

What does the course involve?

The aim of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding of the following:

Year 1: Introductory Microeconomics - basic models such as demand and supply, the operation of the price mechanism and market failure.

Introductory Macroeconomics - basic models such as economic growth, unemployment, inflation and exchange rates.

Year 2: Advanced Microeconomics – the use of more complex models of microeconomics, particularly market structures and the labour market.

Advanced Macroeconomics – the use of more complex models of macroeconomics, including globalisation and government policy objectives.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students considering opting for Economics will be completing extended written work and must possess well-developed written skills. Furthermore A-Level requirements now insist upon increased numeracy so confidence in handling numerical data is essential. Perhaps the most important requirement is a commitment to the course, in terms of:

- Attendance at all lessons
- Completion of all work
- A genuine interest in economics-related issues.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Throughout the course students will complete a wide range of both informal and formal assessments.

All external assessments will take place at the end of Year 13 in the form of three 2 hour written examinations based upon case study material.

There is no coursework in this subject, all formal assessment is via examination.

For students who are interested in:

- How the wider economy operates
- How the economy affects society

Leading to a career in:

- Economics
- Accountancy
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Law
- Logistics, Operations, Retailing



<u>Course:</u>	English Language
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Edexcel
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of English Language at A-Level will require students to demonstrate a genuine interest in the origins, the growth and development, the acquisition and the linguistics of language. Students should be independent learners, able to undertake complex research and apply theories to textual studies, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to approach language in a scientific, rather than creative, way. English Language at A-Level is not the same as English at GCSE.

What does the course involve?

The 2-year course will help you to:

- Develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- Explore data and examples of language in use
- Engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English
- Develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language
- Independently investigate language in use.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

English Language at A-Level provides an excellent foundation for many varied careers and further study. The study of the development of language is at the heart of the qualification but the skills required to study it are wide-ranging and many graduates of English Language go on to contribute to the worlds of journalism, education, communication and social media management. They are critical thinkers, problem-solvers, analytical reflectors and skilled researchers.

We need our students to be confident speakers and collaborative workers, able to 'think outside the box' and develop interpretive approaches to personal research. We need passionate lovers of words who are willing to challenge themselves and adapt quickly to the new skills required for a fascinating subject. We want role models for younger students and Sixth Form champions of language.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of 4 components in a linear 2-year A-Level course. We do not study the AS course.

Component 1: Language Variation, written exam, 35% of total grade

Component 2: Child Language, written exam, 20% of total grade

Component 3: Investigating Language, written exam, 25% of total grade

Component 4: Crafting Language, coursework, 2 assignments of 3000 words total, 20% of total grade.

For students who are interested in: public and private sector organisations such as the National Health Service; educational institutions; local and national government, financial and legal firms; and voluntary and charitable organisations in a range of roles, including:

- administration
- finance
- general management
- advertising
- marketing and public relations agencies
- media organisations
- publishing companies
- retail
- leisure and tourism sectors



<u>Course:</u>	English Literature
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Edexcel
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of English Literature at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in, and love of, all things Literary – books, plays, poems, literary essays, world and historical contexts of writers and their writing, critical studies of texts and reviews of creative writing. Students should be independent readers, able to apply theories to textual studies, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to make links between what they read and what they know.

What does the course involve?

The two year course will help you to:

- read widely and independently set texts and others that you have selected for yourself
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- explore the contexts of the texts you are reading and others’ interpretations of them
- undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen your appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

English Literature at A-Level provides an excellent foundation for many varied careers and further study. The literary text is at the heart of the qualification but the skills required to study that text are wide-ranging and many graduates of English Literature go on to make a profound impact in the modern world. They are critical thinkers, problem-solvers, analytical reflectors – and they balance this with a creative approach to the world of words.

We need our students to be confident speakers and collaborative workers, able to ‘think outside the box’ and develop interpretive approaches to established literary works. We need passionate lovers of books and enthusiastic readers who are willing to challenge themselves, their preconceptions, their prejudices and their views of the world around them. We want role models for younger students and Sixth Form champions of reading.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

There are four components in a linear two year A-Level course. We do not study the AS course.

Component 1: Drama – 2 texts studied, written exam, 30% of total grade

Component 2: Prose – 2 texts studied, written exam, 20% of total grade

Component 3: Poetry – poetic form, meaning and language from modern and traditional poets, written exam, 30% of total grade

Component 4: Coursework – based on 2 personally chosen texts, extended comparative essay of 2500-3000 words, 20% of total grade.

For students who are interested in:

Writing about Reading
Leading to a career in:

students of English Literature are considered to have highly adaptable skills of analysis, research and communication and, as such, enter a wide range of careers



<u>Course:</u>	French
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

French at RGS is taught collaboratively with QEII and CRHS. Students must have obtained a grade A*- B in GCSE French, should have a good knowledge of French grammar and feel comfortable in making the effort to speak spoken French. They must have a passion for languages and an interest in French culture.

This three unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in French with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken French in a variety of contexts and genres.

Students study 4 topics: Aspects of Francophonie, Artistic Culture in the French World, Multiculturalism in French Society and Aspects of Political Life. These are in addition to French grammar which is ongoing through the course.

This course is particularly suitable for students who have studied GCSE and wish to study French at a higher level. The spoken and written exam will be assessed at the end of the two years. There is no AS examination.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for independent future European students who wish to develop their confidence and communication skills in French. It will enable students to develop a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

French is a widely spoken language and as such it is a highly practical A-Level to have. It often combines well with subjects like Business Studies, Economics and Travel & Tourism and is extremely useful in the world of business.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of three exams:

Paper 1 – Listening, Reading & Writing (2 hrs 30 mins) worth 50% of the A-Level.

Paper 2 – Writing (2 hours) worth 20% of the A-Level. Students are required to write two essays of approximately 300 words in French on one of the literary texts studied and another on the film studied. Alternatively students can choose to write two essays on the literary texts.

Paper 3 – Speaking (21-23 minutes) worth 30% of the A-Level including 5 minutes preparation time.

For students who are interested in:

- Teaching
- Interpreting and Translation
- Law
- Broadcast Journalism
- Travel, Tourism & Hospitality
- Sales and International Marketing
- Logistics & Distributions Manager



Course:	Geography
Exam Board:	Cambridge
Qualification:	AS-Level and A-Level

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

The A-Level Geography course builds and develops the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in KS4 so it is essential that you have already successfully completed the IGCSE Geography course.

What does the course involve?

Cambridge International AS and A-Level Geography encourages learners to explore the subject in depth. The course has been designed to develop knowledge and understanding of a range of Physical and Human geography key concepts.

- **AS-Level course** involves the study of **six** core units: Hydrology, Atmosphere and Weather, Rocks and Weathering, Population, Migration and Settlement Dynamics.
- **A-Level Course** involves the study of **four** out of eight Optional units: Coastal Environments, Hazardous Environments, Tropical Environments, Arid Environments, Environment Management, Economic Transition, Global Interdependence, Production, location and change.
- **Fieldwork** is still very much an integral part of both the AS and A-Level Course and there will be opportunity to take part in fieldwork activities both on the Isle of Man and in the UK.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This A-Level course would be suitable for students who:

- Take an interest in what is happening in the world around them and keep up to date with the latest changes
- Enjoy discussion and like to put forward their own opinion
- Can work as part of a team, especially on field work tasks and practical assignments
- Enjoy the challenge of problem solving and decision making

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of **4 units** of assessment:

Each exam is **1 hour and 30 mins** and accounts for **25%** of the overall grade.

Paper 1: Core Physical Geography (AS)

Paper 2: Core Human Geography (AS)

Examination in **June of Year 12**

Paper 3: Advanced Physical Geography options

Paper 4: Advanced Human Geography options

Examination in **June of Year 13**

For students who are interested in:

- The physical and human processes that have shaped our world.
- How we manage the environment for the future.

Leading to a career in:

- Town Planning
- Environmental management
- Weather forecasting
- Flood management
- Hazard management
- Surveying



Course:	Geology
Exam Board:	WJEC
Qualification:	AS and A-Level

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

Geology – also known as Earth Sciences – involves the scientific exploration and investigation of our planet Earth. It has a broad syllabus so we ask that students have a minimum of a C grade in Science, Maths and English GCSE but no prior knowledge of Geology is needed. Students will be expected to carry out supported independent study and homework tasks to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the course content. The course is offered as an A-Level or a AS-Level qualification.

What does the course involve?

In A-Level Geology we investigate the Earth’s origin, structure, composition, processes and history (including evolution of life) using visual observations, numerical analysis and deductive thinking. To dispel a common misconception – it is not “just about rocks”!

In the first year (the AS spec) we investigate common rock-forming minerals, the main groups of rocks (igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic) and the processes of the rock cycle that link them, structural geology, the main groups of fossils, the interpretation of geological maps and plate tectonics and the structure of the Earth. Also included are at least 12 compulsory practicals & two days fieldwork at various locations in the Isle of Man.

In the second year (the A-level spec) we add more depth to the earlier topics and add in dinosaurs, extensive work on the evolution of life and climate change over the history of the Earth, engineering geology, geohazards & their mitigation, mineral deposits and their extraction, more complex geological map investigations, environmental geochemistry and an in-depth look at the structure, volcanism and cycling of the Earth’s lithosphere. An additional two days of compulsory fieldwork are included.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course best suits those students who are inquisitive about our Earth and want to learn more about it’s past, present and future. Geology links well with all other STEM subjects, but also geography, history, business and economics in particular. Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of planet Earth and develop a broad range of skills including data analysis and interpretation, problem-solving, research and reporting findings and practical geological lab & field skills. We have a very extensive collection of rocks, minerals and fossils in school.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Practical Endorsement A non-examination pass or fail assessment of practical competency involving compulsory practicals and fieldwork through the course.

AS students will take 2 written exams (1hr 30mins each) at the end of their year of study.

A-level students will take 3 written exams at the end of their second year of study:

1. Geological Investigations

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes 35%

This includes a practical and map work.

2. Geological Principles and Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 30%

3. Applications of Geology

Written examination: 2 hours 35%

For students who are interested in:

Studying Earth Science to gain: observational skills; the ability to use practical investigation methods; problem-solving skills; the ability to communicate scientific ideas.

Leading to a career in any of:

Geology, archaeology, civil engineering, environmental work, field geology, forensics/police, geophysics, government agencies, hydrogeology, mining and quarrying, natural hazards agencies, oil industry, scientific research, travel & tourism, waste disposal.



<u>Course:</u>	Global Perspectives
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Cambridge
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of Global Perspectives at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in learning about the wider global issues affecting society. Students should be numerate and able to apply theory in real life situations, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who are able to make recommendations with reference to a wide range of complex global issues.

What does the course involve?

This course differs from many traditional A-Level subjects in the style of learning. Emphasis is placed upon the student as an independent learner, carrying out research and developing a wide range of skills including assessed essays, reports and class presentations. All students will be researching, investigating and analysing a wide range of topical, global issues. In many ways this course does not follow an overly prescriptive specification, rather students follow their own interests.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students considering opting for Global Perspectives will be completing extended written work, particularly in the form of internal coursework activities, and must possess well developed written skills. A-Level requirements now insist upon increased numeracy so confidence in handling numerical data is essential. Perhaps the most important requirement is commitment to the course in terms of:

- Attendance at all lessons
- Completion of all work in line with deadlines
- A genuine interest in global issues.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Throughout the course, students will complete a wide range of both informal and formal assessments including:

Assessed class presentations.

These are videoed and submitted to the exam board.

Essays and reports.

These form part of the formal assessment and are submitted to the exam board, culminating in a 5000 word report.

1 hour 30 minutes examination.

For students who are interested in:

How wider global issues affect society

Leading to a career in:

- Research
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Law
- Development



Course: Health & Social Care
Exam Board: Pearson
Qualification: BTEC Level 3

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

No prior study of the sector is needed but you should normally have a range of achievement at Level 2 in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

What does the course involve?

This is a vocational course that prepares learners for the world of work and for caring in the health and social care sector. Learners will become familiar with different roles in the field and will have to show their understanding through internal and external assessment. The main focus will be to demonstrate an understanding of how service users should be treated by professionals. You will also have an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding through practical activities such as group presentations and group tasks such as role-plays. Another key emphasis of this course is how effective you are as an independent learner with the ability to stick to deadlines. It will also give you a good feel for what it is like to be an employee in any sector as the course will help you develop skills in IT, time management, teamwork and communication and research skills.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course is particularly suitable for those with an interest in progression to employment via higher education. It also supports students choosing to progress directly to employment as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage in applying for a range of entry-level roles, industry training programmes and Higher Apprenticeships.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The full Level 3 Award is a two-year course and is equivalent to one A-Level

Year 1			
Unit Title	Assessment method	Number of guided learning hours	Date to be completed
Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development	External Exam	90 approx.	Exam January 2024
Unit 5 – Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs	Internal coursework	90 approx.	April 2024
Year 2			
Unit 2 – Working in Health and Social Care	External Exam	120 approx.	Exam January 2024
Unit 14 Physiological Disorders and their Care	Internal Coursework	60 approx.	April 2024

Please note this is subject to change



<u>Course:</u>	History
<u>Exam Board:</u>	OCR
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of History at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in learning about a wide variety of historical events and concepts from different political, economic and social perspectives. They will need to be prepared to engage their critical thinking and to learn to analyse ideas, sources and information in-depth.

Grade C or above at History GCSE is recommended but not mandatory. Please feel free to discuss the course with a member of the History team for a better understanding of whether it would suit you.

What does the course involve?

The aim of this course is to provide students with the following knowledge and skills:

- The events of a range of historical periods, events and topics
- Understanding, explaining and analysing historical documents and sources
- Developing the ability to clearly and precisely express complex concepts and explanations
- The process of historical research, including the critical analysis of historical materials, interpretations and contemporary accounts

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A-Level History provides an excellent foundation for a variety of careers including law and journalism and any work that requires you to understand and analyse information and express ideas clearly. Our teaching sessions often take the form of seminars and lectures and we expect our students to be prepared to take part in discussions. All our teachers have a keen interest in their subject areas and use a variety of methods to bring the subject to life.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of 4 units of assessment. All are assessed at the end of Year 13, with examinations (Units 1-3) and coursework (Unit 4).

Unit 1: British History 1930 – 1997. This unit examines the career of Winston Churchill, including his role in WW2, and goes on to look at British political history from 1951 – 1997. (25%)

Unit 2: French Revolution & the Rule of Napoleon 1774 -1815. This covers the last years of Ancient Regime France, the Revolution and the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte. (15%)

Unit 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855 - 1964. This module covers various political, economic and social systems including the impact of war & revolution. (40%)

Unit 4: The Cold War – c1945 – c1992 or The development of rights for women 1867 to 1918.

This module requires students to research and write a c4000-word essay. (20%)

For students who are interested in:

- The study of history and gaining a better understanding of the context of current affairs
- Learning to analyse and precisely express ideas.

Leading to a career in:

Anything that requires the understanding, processing and expressing of information. Particularly useful for careers in law or journalism, others might include communication, marketing, media, curator and research roles.



Course: Information Technology
Exam Board: Cambridge
Qualification: A-Level

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

Having a background of ICT skills and knowledge is essential to this course. It is recommended students have a Level 2 qualification in ICT or Computing.

What does the course involve?

The A-Level IT course aims to encourage candidates to develop broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the IT sector. Topics to be covered include:

AS-Level	Additional A2 Content
1. Data, information, knowledge and processing	12. IT in society
2. Hardware and software	13. New and emerging technologies
3. Monitoring and control	14. Communications Technology
4. Algorithms and flowcharts	15. Project management
5. eSecurity	16. System life cycle
6. The digital divide	17. Mail merge
7. Expert systems	18. Graphics creation
8. Spreadsheets	19. Animation
9. Modelling	20. Programming for the web
10. Database and file concepts	
11. Sound and video editing	

Students who take IT often also take Business Studies, Design & Technology or Arts courses.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course is suitable for students who are already competent in the use of various applications and wish to apply them practically, as well as developing their understanding of their application in a wide range of organisations and how technology affects the workplace. Information Technology provides a suitable foundation for the study of IT or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in IT, or as part of a course of general education. Scientists, architects and animators are all careers that benefit from having a grounding in Computer Science.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

AS-Level exams will be taken in the summer of Year 12.
 Additional A-Level exams will be taken in the summer of Year 13.

Exam	AS-Level	A-Level
Paper 1 – Theory (1hr 45 mins)	50%	25%
Paper 2 – Practical (2hrs 30 mins)	50%	25%
Paper 3 – Theory (1 hr 45 mins)		25%
Paper 4 – Practical (2hrs 30 mins)		25%

For students who are interested in:
 How computers work, using industrial standard software.

Leading to a career in:

- IT industry
- Data Management
- Web Development
- Graphic Design
- IT Technician



Course:	Mathematics
Exam Board:	WJEC
Qualification:	A-Level

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

For this course students will need to have attained at least a B grade at GCSE Mathematics and sat the Higher course. Students will also need to demonstrate:

- Logic and reasoning
- Ability to generalise mathematically
- Multi-step problem-solving
- Excellent numeracy and algebraic manipulation

What does the course involve?

The course consists of:

- Pure topics make up two-thirds of the qualification and provide the techniques in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus that form the fundamental building blocks of the subject.
- Mathematical applications make up the remaining third of the qualification: Statistics – probability and data handling; Mechanics – kinematics and forces.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A-Level Mathematics is quite different from Mathematics at GCSE. There is a much stronger emphasis on algebraic manipulation and many students find the course demanding. Mathematics is not about learning facts. You will not be successful by simply reading a textbook or revising from notes - you will actually need to 'do' the mathematics. You must be prepared to adopt a heavy and consistent workload. You will take responsibility for your own learning and mathematical development and become an independent learner.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Examinations are held in Year 12 for AS Mathematics

AS Unit 1: **Pure Mathematics A**

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 25% of qualification, 120 marks

AS Unit 2: **Applied Mathematics A**

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes, 15% of qualification, 75 marks

The paper will comprise two sections:

Section A: Statistics (40 marks) Section B: Mechanics (35 marks)

AND

Year 13 for A2 Mathematics.

A2 Unit 3: **Pure Mathematics B**

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 35% of qualification, 120 marks

A2 Unit 4: **Applied Mathematics B**

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes, 25% of qualification, 80 marks.

The paper will comprise two sections:

Section A: Statistics (40 marks) Section B: Differential Equations and Mechanics (40 marks)



Course:	Further Maths
Exam Board:	WJEC
Qualification:	A-Level

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

For this course students will need to have attained at least an A/A* grade at GCSE Mathematics. Further Mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen the mathematical knowledge and skills developed when studying A-level Mathematics. It provides a stimulating experience for those who enjoy the subject. Students will gain an understanding of the Mathematics, both practical and theoretical, that underpin nearly all aspects of our lives.

What does the course involve?

To be considered for A-level Further Mathematics students need to also be studying A-Level Mathematics in tandem. At Ramsey Grammar School we follow the WJEC Specification for Further Mathematics. Topics covered include; Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Vectors, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Differential Equations, Numerical Methods and Trigonometry.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

- Students taking Further Mathematics find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience
- For someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts
- Students who take Further Mathematics find that the additional time spent studying mathematics boosts their marks in single A-Level Mathematics
- It makes the transition from Sixth Form to university courses which are mathematically rich that much easier as more of the first year course content will be familiar
- It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in their applications for university and future employment

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Options

In Year 12 there are three examinations:-

Further Pure Maths A

Statistics A

Mechanics A

In Year 13 there are two examinations:-

Further Pure Maths B and either

Statistics B or Mechanics B

All students must study this content.

OT1: Mathematical argument, language and proof

OT2: Mathematical problem solving

OT3: Mathematical modelling

Compulsory content

Leading to a career in:

A-Level Mathematics is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science or maths-based course, ranging from Biochemical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medical Science and Psychology to Philosophy, Economics, Accountancy, Management and Actuarial Science.

Career opportunities for students who study A-level Mathematics include:

Industry, Accountancy, Finance, Economics, Healthcare, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Engineering. It is also a Russell Group facilitating subject.



<u>Course:</u>	Music
<u>Exam Board:</u>	WJEC
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

A-Level Music students are expected to be creative yet academic in their approach to work. They must maintain their performance skills both in and outside of school – taking regular practical instrumental or vocal lessons - and must have a solid foundation of music theory to succeed on the course. Grade 5 ABRSM Theory is strongly recommended although not essential.

What does the course involve?

The aim of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding of the following:

- Performance skills – demonstrating technical prowess on at least one instrument or voice as either a soloist OR in an ensemble
- An understanding of the core techniques of the Western Classical Tradition of composition, along with a creative approach to ‘free’ composition tasks
- A clear understanding of melody, harmony, rhythm, structure, tonality and timbre, with a focus on the development of ideas in a cohesive manner
- Analysis of different genres and styles of music within both historical and musical contexts

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Due to the diverse nature of skills displayed by musicians on completion of the course, A-Level music is highly valued by employers and university tutors alike.

The course we offer will enable to you develop and evidence skills in the following areas: communication, teamwork, self-management, performing under pressure, analysis, planning, technical skills and critical reflection – not to mention having a varied understanding of a variety of historical, sociological and economic events from 1750 to the present day within the context of the impact they have had on the development of music.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

This course has examinations at the end of Year 12 (AS) and again at the end of Year 13 (A2).

The AS Course consists of:

- Performance Exam (35%)– as a soloist and/or ensemble (6-8 mins with visiting examiner)
- Composing coursework (25%) – two compositions (4-6 mins)
- Listening exam (40%) – Focus on Western Classical Tradition and Musical Theatre (1920-1960)

The A2 Course consists of:

- Performance exam (optional weighting of either 25% or 35%)
- Composition coursework (optional weighting of either 25% or 35% dependent on performing option)
- Listening exam (40%) – focus on Western Classical Tradition and music from either 20th or 21st century



Leading to a career in:

Music Specific:

Performance, composition, arrangement, education, sound engineering, music publishing, ethnomusicology

Non-music specific:

Anything you dream of! The transferable skills linked to music are desirable for all employers.



Course:	Photography
Exam Board:	OCR
Qualification:	A-Level

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

The successful study of Photography at A-Level will require students to demonstrate a high level of creativity. Students should have the ability to generate ideas consistently and transfer them into practice. Resilience is a key part of the course as students will often revisit the same idea multiple times to improve the quality and complexity of the outcome. A GCSE in Art is certainly not required but can be beneficial. An interest in IT and creative technology is also useful.

What does the course involve?

Within the first year, students will learn the basic physics of photography, along with the technical aspects of a DSLR camera. In addition, students will cover editing software such as Photoshop; lighting and studio techniques; idea generation and project planning; contextual image analysis; image storage and sharing; and basic website design. Within the second year, students build on what they have learnt and generate higher-quality images and more complex concepts. This is achieved through deeper self and peer analysis, informed and influenced by contemporary practitioners and techniques. During this year students will record their deeper understanding in writing as well as image.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course requires good time management and an ability to transfer ideas into images in a short space of time. An ability to be self-motivated is key as a substantial section of the marking criteria is concerned with producing a “personal response”. Students who already have a GCSE in a creative subject tend to apply themselves well, as do those with a recreational interest in photography. Although owning your own camera is not essential many students find that their own equipment and software allows them more freedom and control over what they can produce.

For students who are interested in:

Photography can complement any other subject and we have many students from the sciences as well as other analytical and creative fields.

Leading to a career in:

- The Creative Industries
- Photography
- Fashion
- Contemporary Design
- Project management
- IT
- Architecture
- Journalism/ Photo Journalism
- Web Design
- Magazine /Photo Editorial Management

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Year 2: Component 1 - Personal investigation

Students are required to conduct a practical, independently generated investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. It will be a coherent, in-depth study that



demonstrates the student's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of the contemporary or past practice of artists and photographers.

Year 2: Component 2 - Externally set assignment

Preparatory period - 1st February

Following receipt of the exam paper students select one of 8 starting points and develop a set of ideas and images over the following months, showcasing their skills.

Supervised time – 15 hours Following the preparatory period students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time realising a conclusion to their project.



<u>Course:</u>	Physical Education
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Pearson
<u>Qualification:</u>	BTEC

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

BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the signature vocational qualification at Level 3. They provide progression to the workplace either directly or via study at a higher level. 62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications. BTEC Nationals are accepted by over 150 UK universities

What does the course involve?

We currently offer A-Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport which is the equivalent to 1 x A-Level as well as a double award, the Diploma in Sport, equivalent to 2 x A-Levels.

The course will involve students studying a range of different modules over 2 years:-

- Anatomy & Physiology (Exam)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (Coursework)
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport & Well Being (Exam)
- Practical Sports Performance (Coursework)

Double award students will also study:-

- Investigating Business in the Sport & Active Leisure Industry (Exam)
- Skill Acquisition (Coursework)
- Sports Leadership (Coursework)
- Sports Event Organisation (Coursework)
- Sports Psychology (Coursework)

The course will see students establish greater links with the IOM sports industry, giving students practical experience of careers in sport.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Ideally someone who has completed the GCSE PE course, but this is not essential.

You will need to be hardworking, organised, be able to meet deadlines and have an interest in sporting issues. This course is heavily coursework based.

Practical ICT skills would also be an advantage.

For students who are interested in:

PE, Sport, Biology, Sports Leadership and Coaching, Analysis of performance,

Leading to a career in:

- Sports Coaching,
- Physiotherapy
- Teaching
- Personal Training,
- Sports Development



Course:	Physics
Exam Board:	Cambridge (Syllabus Code 9702)
Qualification:	A-Level

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

Physics is a demanding and rewarding subject in which you will be expected to use and develop analytical thinking skills. Although it is not a requirement it is an advantage to also study Mathematics at A-level. It is an expectation that you have completed the Higher paper in GCSE Maths and achieved the minimum of a B grade. You will have a textbook for the duration of the course which you are expected to use for self-study and to enhance your own notes. Homework will be set on a regular basis and meeting deadlines for completion is a high priority; this enables you to receive important feedback on your work.

What does the course involve?

The A-level Physics course aims to encourage candidates to:

1. Develop a knowledge and understanding of Physics and the ability to apply skills in a variety of situations.
2. Appreciate how Physics has developed and how it is used in society.
3. Show the importance of Physics as a human endeavour.
4. Understand how different branches of Physics relate to each other.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A broad range of topics are covered in the A-Level Physics course. The concepts are considered to be core knowledge required in Physics and will equip you to go on to university to study a wide range of courses. The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK Universities classes Physics as a 'facilitating subject'. By choosing facilitating subjects at A-level you will have a wider range of choices of university courses available to you, so if you are unsure what you would like to do beyond A-Levels, it will keep your options open. For more information, visit <https://www.iop.org/careers-physics/your-future-with-physics>.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course is examined by 5 examination papers. The first three may be taken during October/November of Year 13.

Paper 1 Multiple Choice (1 hour 15 min)

40 multiple choice questions with four options based on the AS-Level syllabus content.

Paper 2 AS-Level Structured Questions (1 hour 15 min)

Structured questions which require written answers.

All questions will be based on the AS-Level syllabus content.

Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills (2 hours)

Candidates carry out two practical experiments in timed conditions.

Paper 4 A-Level Structured Questions (2 hours)

This paper is similar in style to Paper 2 above.

All questions will be based on the full A-Level syllabus.

Paper 5 Planning, Analysis and Evaluation (1 hour 15 mins)

Two questions based on the practical skills of planning, analysis and evaluation.



For students who are interested in:

Studying Physics as a key scientific discipline and using a knowledge of its principles to form a sound foundation for many other branches of Science.

Leading to a career in:

Engineering, Medicine, IT, Physics research posts, Technology, Accountancy, Education to name but a few.



<u>Course:</u>	Politics
<u>Exam Board:</u>	Edexcel
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

The successful study of Politics at A-Level will require students to demonstrate an interest in learning about the wider political issues affecting society. Students should be numerate and able to apply theory in real-life situations, as well as critical and analytical thinkers who can reference a wide range of complex UK and global political issues.

What does the course involve?

The aim of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding of the following:

- The development of UK and global political structures
- The changing nature of UK and global political issues
- The ability to discuss and debate political arguments and make judgements

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students considering opting for Politics will be completing extended written work and must possess well-developed written skills. Students will also be involved in discussing and debating contemporary political issues. A-level requirements now insist upon increased numeracy so confidence in handling numerical data is essential. Perhaps the most important requirement is a commitment to the course in terms of:

- Attendance at all lessons
- Completion of all work
- A genuine interest in political issues.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Throughout the course, students will complete a wide range of both informal and formal assessments.

In line with RGS policy, all external assessments will take place at the end of Year 13 in the form of three 2 hour written examinations based upon case study material.

There is no coursework in this subject, all formal assessment is via examination.

For students who are interested in:
How wider political issues affect society

Leading to a career in:
Research, Politics, Human Resources,
Financial Services, Law, Development,
Local and National Government



Course: Psychology
Exam Board: AQA
Qualification: A-Level

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

Students do not require prior knowledge of Psychology to take this course. However it is highly recommended that students have achieved good grades in GCSE Biology, Maths and English.

What does the course involve?

Psychology is a science concerned with the study of the mind and human behaviour. The course involves researching human behaviour from a number of different perspectives. Students will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology including how other people shape our behaviour, how our memory works and how we can understand and treat mental illness. The emphasis of this qualification is on applying knowledge and understanding; students will learn to analyse and evaluate evidence and to use a range of research methods during practical lessons.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students must be ready to learn extensive new terminology and be keen to read around the subject. This is a content heavy subject which requires students to invest a considerable amount of time in independent study. An ideal student would be one who is excited to gain a greater understanding of human behaviour and be willing to work hard to acquire that knowledge.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

Three written exam papers: Each exam paper is 2 hours and contributes 33.3% to the A-level grade. The exam comprises multiple-choice, short-answer and extended writing questions.

Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

1. Social Influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

1. Approaches in Psychology
2. Biopsychology
3. Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

1. Issues and Debates in Psychology
2. Forensic Psychology
3. Schizophrenia
4. Cognition and Development

For students who are interested in:

- Understanding human behaviour

Leading to a career in:

- Clinical, Educational, Sports or Forensic Psychology
- Counselling
- Primary or secondary teaching
- Human Resources
- Marketing



Want to know more?

Use the QR code to access a free, 1-hour online introduction to the AQA Psychology course and assessment requirements



<u>Course:</u>	Religious Studies
<u>Exam Board:</u>	WJEC
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

To be a successful candidate in RS students must be able to think outside the box, explore complex concepts and ideas with an open mind and show critical curiosity. Students should be able to plan and write in detail and construct balanced and effective evaluations. In addition they must enjoy a good old-fashioned debate!

What does the course involve?

We cover three topics:

- **Philosophy of Religion** – dissect complex arguments for and against the existence of God including Freud’s argument that religion is a neurosis and the problem of whether an all-loving God can allow evil to exist in the world.
- **Religion and Ethics** – look at ethical theories and how they can be applied to current world issues, including abortion, immigration and nuclear weapons.
- **Christianity** – explore controversial questions about Christian morality and the nature of God; Is Britain a Christian country? Is God male?

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students must be able to pick apart complex arguments, empathise with the beliefs and views of others and make fair and valid evaluations. The course is ideal for candidates looking to develop their skills in strategic thinking, research, negotiation, problem solving, leadership and empathy, all of which are transferrable to a wide range of employment and further education. Ideally students need to be confident in expressing their opinions and taking an active role in debates. An ability to conduct independent reading and research is essential to success in this course.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

You will take two AS examinations at the end of Y12 and three A-Level examinations at the end of Y13. There is no coursework requirement.

You will be assessed on your ability to communicate your knowledge and understanding firstly, followed by your ability to plan and build a structured and detailed argument.

Examination questions in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics require essay length answers and the skills required to succeed in these will be practised and developed over the course of the two years.

Leading to a career in:

- Education
- Medicine
- Law
- Politics
- Business
- Social Work
- Police Force
- Armed Forces
- Journalism
- Charity Work
- Counselling



<u>Course:</u>	Sociology
<u>Exam Board:</u>	AQA
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

A-Level Entry Requirements are 5 x grade B or above GCSEs

What sort of student is the course suitable for?

Students should have an interest in contemporary social issues and debates about society in the UK and further afield. They should:

- Be able and willing to read a large amount of information critically
- Have an enquiring mind and be happy to research deeply into literature and media-based resources
- Be methodical and well-organised
- Be an independent and reflective learner
- Have a good level of literacy

What will I learn on this A-Level Course?

Sociology is the study of society and of people and their behaviour. Sociologists explore such topics as Education, Families and Households, the power of the Media, and Crime and Deviance.

Sociologists create theories to explain the patterns we find in the workings of society and human behaviour. Sociology is evidence-based. Opinions and theories must be backed up with facts about society. Sociologists carry out research to establish the validity of their theories.

- **Education:** We will examine why some pupils achieve more than others. Sociologists have examined the role of education in society and who benefits from it. How do government policies affect schools? What is the experience of education for individual students?
- **Family and Households:** We will explore: Are husbands and wives equal today? How far has the position of children and our attitudes towards childhood changed? What are the changes in family size, marriage, cohabitation, divorce and parenthood, and the increasing diversity of family types today? How do Government policies and laws impact on families?
- **Beliefs in Society:** We will explore ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. The relationship between social change, social stability and religious beliefs. Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice. The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements. The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context and globalisation and the spread of religions.
- **Crime and Deviance:** What are the different theories connected to social order and control? What is the experience of victims? What is the role of the criminal justice system and other government agencies? What is green crime? Is there a link between state crime and human rights?



What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of three, two hour written examinations taken at the end of Year 13. The examination questions require essay style answers and the skills required to succeed in these will be practised and developed over the course of the two years. There is no coursework in this subject.

- **Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods**
Written exam: 2 hours. 33.3% of A-level. Short essay answer and extended writing.
- **Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (a) Families and Households and (b) Beliefs in Society**
Written exam: 2 hours. 33.3% of A-level. Short essay answer and extended writing.
- **Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**
Written exam: 2 hours. 33.3% of A-level. Short essay answer and extended writing.

Leading to a career in:

- Education
- Law
- Politics
- Business
- Social Work
- Police Force
- Journalism
- Charity Work
- Counselling
- Human Resources



<u>Course:</u>	Spanish
<u>Exam Board:</u>	WJEC
<u>Qualification:</u>	A-Level

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

Students must have obtained a grade A* - B in GCSE Spanish and should have a good knowledge of Spanish grammar and feel comfortable in making the effort to speak Spanish.

What does the course involve?

This five unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in Spanish with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken Spanish in a variety of contexts and genres. Students study the following themes

- Social issues and trends
- Political, Intellectual and Artistic Culture in the Spanish World
- Diversity and Difference
- The Two Spains 1936 onwards.
- Immigration and Racism

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students wishing to develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish and develop a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language in the world and as such it is a highly practical A-Level to have. It often combines well with subjects like Business Studies, Economics and Travel & Tourism and is extremely useful in the world of business.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The course consists of five exams;-

- **AS Paper 1** – Speaking, 12% of the qualification
- **AS Paper 2** – Listening, Reading, Translation and Critical response in writing (on a film) , 28% of the qualification
- **A2 Paper 3** – Speaking, 18% of the qualification
- **A2 Paper 4** – Listening, reading and translation, 30% of the qualification
- **A2 Paper 5** – Critical and Analytical response in writing on a play, 12% of the qualification

For students who are interested in languages
Leading to a career in:

- Interpreter
- Broadcast Journalist
- Tour Manager
- Sales Executive
- Logistics & Distributions Manager

