KINGSTHORPE COLLEGE

KS5 SUBJECT INFORMATION

KC16

Kingsthorpe College

ASPIRATION | RESPONSIBILITY | RESPECT | CARE

KS5 Subject Information Index

Page Contents

KC16

PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING)

- Exam Board: Edexcel
- Qualification type: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (A Level equivalent)
- Academic or vocational: Vocational
- Additional entry requirements: None
- Key Contact: Miss Townsend

lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Units: Four units, of which three are mandatory and one is external.

1. Investigating Practitioners Work

In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential performing arts practitioners. You will identify the contextual factors that influence their work and critically analyse key information, such as creative intentions, performance, production and repertoire in order to develop and communicate independent judgements. To complete the assessment tasks within this unit, you will need to draw on your learning from cross your programme.

2. Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

This unit serves as an induction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/ popular entertainment. You will participate in regular workshops, classes and exercises where you will acquire, practice and develop the necessary technical, practical and interpretative performance skills to help you succeed when performing live to an audience.

3. Group Performance Workshop

Working as part of a small performance company of 3 to 7 performers, you will create an original piece of performance work to present to an invited audience.

You must use the sent stimulus as a basis for developing the piece between 10 and 20 minutes long depending on the performance discipline and/or the number of performers in the group. Throughout the task you must complete a digital process log at four key milestone stages, under supervised conditions.

The digital process log will capture your contribution to the development and rehearsal process.

19. Acting Styles

Undertake a detailed investigation into the key features of three different acting styles and the work of relevant practitioners associated with each style. You will take part in a series of teacher led classes and workshops in which you will explore and develop vocal, physical and interpretive acting skills related to a chosen acting style and practitioner. You must track your progress during the assignment through an ongoing review of the rehearsal and character development process, by annotating your log/blog and collating recordings of your participation in workshops and rehearsals.

ART (FINE ART)

- Exam Board: Oxford, Cambridge & RSA Examinations
- Qualification type: GCE A level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: None
- Key Contact: Mr Griffiths

peter.griffiths@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This specification gives candidates a rounded exposure to different aspects of Fine Art, allowing them to display their abilities in a variety of artistic disciplines and demonstrate their understanding of these contexts.

Recommended subjects/grades

Students must obtain 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language, and at least a grade 6 in GCSE Art. Students with a grade 4 or 5 at GCSE are required to present an additional portfolio of independent studies, for consideration.

What will I learn?

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences involving a range of media, techniques and processes. You will explore images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of fine art, craft and design, from both the past and contemporary practice, including European and non-European examples.

You will explore drawing and painting using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. You can work in one or more area of Fine Art, such as painting, drawing, printmaking and mixed media or you may explore a combination of all these areas.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components to the course, **Component 1** is 60% of the total qualification grade and consists of a '**Personal Investigation**', internally set through negotiation with your teacher. The **Externally Set Task** is **Component 2** with 40% of the total marks. The EST paper is set by OCR, assessed internally and moderated by the exam board.

A foundation approach is adopted for the first 2 terms of Year 12 where you participate in a range of teacher-led workshops. This helps to build confidence in a range of techniques and processes. All students produce a portfolio of work from a given starting point, topic or theme determined by the subject teacher. This provides experiences that differ from GCSE and equips you to think independently about your own creative direction. The portfolio is focused on work that demonstrates exploration, research, the gaining of techniques and refinement of skills.

Following this period of workshops, you will receive individual tutorials and guidance from your teacher and agree to the theme and direction you want your work to take to develop your **Personal Investigation.**

You will create a portfolio of work, in sketchbooks, on large scale paper, canvas and digital presentations that demonstrates your personal ability to develop your own ideas, explore and refine your work, record your observations in a variety of different approaches and compete a personal realisation in conclusion.

Alongside the development of your practical work, you will also submit a **Related Study,** providing written evidence of your critical and contextual understanding of a theme directly related to your Personal Investigation.

Externally Set Task

If you have previously studied GCSE Art and Design, you will be familiar with the 'controlled' assessment process. You will select a theme from the EST paper and are given time to prepare for the 15 hour controlled assessment where you produce a final outcome.

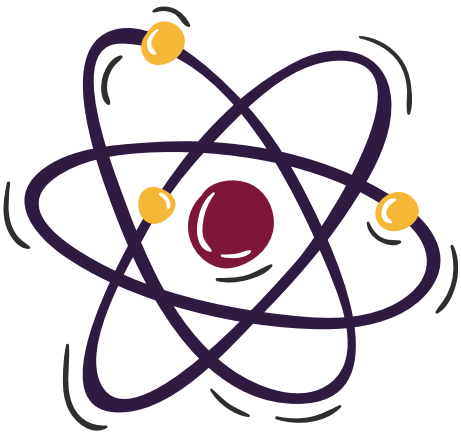
What could this course lead to?

A Level Fine Art is an accepted entry qualification to universities and colleges for a wide range of creative degree and diploma courses. BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design is also a recommended progression route. Careers in Fine Art can range from film making, Architecture or working in Fashion or Theatre to name just a few.

BIOLOGY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 GCSE Science/ Biology and grade 6 GCSE Mathematics
- Key contact: Mr Kent

robert.kent@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



What is biology?

Biology is the study of life and living matter. In simple terms, it explains how things live, survive, breed, breathe and die. This subject incorporates the wonder of life, and helps us to understand how we function, and how the planet functions as the basis for life.

All biological disciplines work on the basis that cells are the basic units of life and they make up all living things, while genetic information within the cells is responsible for determining the what each cell does.

If we look at the subject as a whole, we have many principles and disciplines within biology such as pathology (the study of disease), immunology (the study of our immune systems), anatomy and physiology, ecology (how the earth supports life) and for humans – how we can exploit what the planet has to offer, without harming it beyond repair.

Recommended subjects/grades

You need to have a good understanding of science, mathematics, as well as a good level of English in order to understand the context of the questions and explain your ideas clearly in writing.

Many biology questions involve applying your knowledge to unfamiliar contexts so being confident on the higher tier GCSE science papers will be essential. Some of the basis of understanding in biology comes from biochemistry of living organisms so be prepared to use your chemistry knowledge too.

What will I learn?

Year One

- **Biological molecules:** This unit covers the biochemistry of life, which underpins all living organisms and all topics studies in A'level biology. It covers digestion, enzymes, nucleic acids and protein structure amongst other topics.

- **Cells:** This section will build upon GCSE knowledge of cells, to give a deeper understanding of the processes of cell specialisation and division. It also covers the complexity of our immune systems. Parts of this this unit link closely with the first unit.

- **Exchange of substances:** This area of the course is mainly focused around whole organism biology and looks into the anatomy and physiology of organs such as the heart and lungs of different organisms, whilst also looking at organ systems and the organisms they come from (mammals, fish, insects and plants).

- **Genetic variation and relationships between organisms**: This is the most varied of the year one units and delves into everything from DNA and the synthesis of proteins to how we define what species something is for the purposes of maintaining biodiversity.

Year Two

- **Energy transfers in and between organisms:** You will learn the key biochemical processes of photosynthesis, respiration and the flow of energy. This will be linked with their role in ecosystems and the cycling of nutrients in an ecosystem, together with how and why humans manipulate these processes.

- **Responding to changes:** This covers the nervous and endocrine systems from GCSE in great detail. We study the processes of nervous transmission, muscle contraction, homeostasis, hormonal release and control which are based on the physiology of humans.

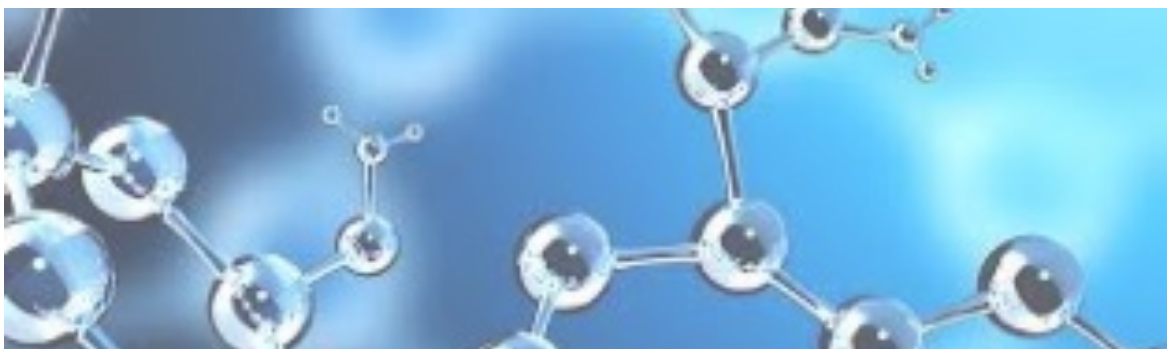
- **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems**: This area of the course uncovers how new species arise, how characteristics are inherited including looking into genetic disorders and calculating allele frequencies.

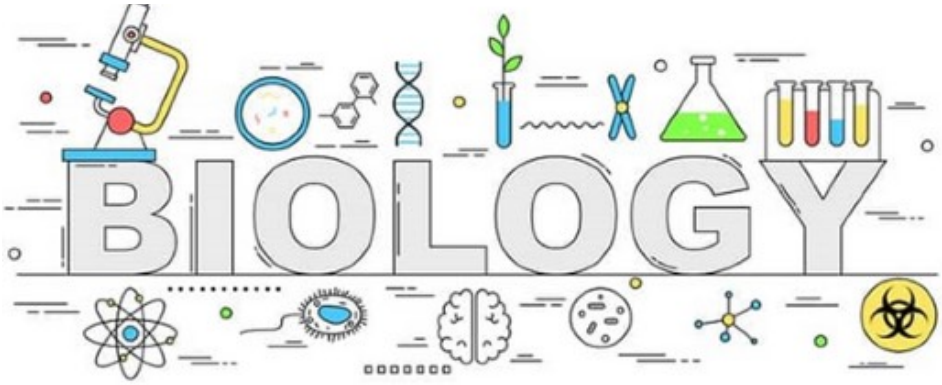
- **The control of gene expression:** This section breaks down how DNA mutations can result in the variety of effects they have including changing protein structures and cancer. You will also do some work looking at the latest in DNA technologies including PCR and gene markers

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers that students will sit at the end of year 13. There are short answer questions, some longer (5 or 6 mark) questions those based on comprehension of some scientific test. There is also an essay section where students are given a choice of two titles. Please see the extract from the AQA website below.

There is a separate endorsement of practical skills assessed by a series of twelve practical investigations which can also be tested in paper 3.





PAPER 1 - What's assessed? Any content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills
Assessed: written exam: 2 hours. 91 marks and 35% of A-level
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions, 15 marks: extended response questions
PAPER 2 - What's assessed? Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed: written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A-level
Questions: 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions, 15 marks: comprehension question
PAPER 3 - What's assessed? Any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills
Assessment: written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks, 30% of A-level
Questions: 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques, 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data, 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles

What could this course lead to?

Biology is a key subject for lots of scientific careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is pretty long and includes: nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, teaching, genetics and research.

It is also important to remember that biology is excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides – everything from analytical thinking to writing reports.

BUSINESS STUDIES

- Exam Board: Pearson
- Qualification type: BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business (Level 3)
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 5/Merit in Business if taken at GCSE/Level 2
- Key contact: Mrs Chukwudi

julie.chukwudi@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Description

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects.

During the two-year course you will need to be well organised as you will be keeping a portfolio of assignments as part of your coursework. You will also need good literacy skills for extended writing.The course is suitable for all students who can:

- Work to deadlines
- Show a high level of commitment to their studies
- Work independently and take responsibility for their own learning

What will I learn?

The BTEC Nationals in Business qualification is a 360GLH course which is equivalent in size to one A Level. You will cover 4 units of work, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. The mandatory units constitute of 83% of the course while the external units constitute 58%. The following are the range of topics covered over the 2-year duration of the course

How will I be assessed?

There are two main forms of assessment, external and internal. External assessment takes the form of examinations where all learners take the same assessment at the same time with a written outcome, or set tasks where learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task. Internal assessment is carried out by the responsible teacher and is subject to external standards verification.

TOPICS	GLH
Mandatory Units	
Exploring Business	90
Developing a Marketing Campaign	90
Personal and Business Finance	120
Optional Units	
Recruitment and Selection Process	60

Progression routes and Career Opportunities

Students completing their BTEC Nationals in Business will be aiming to go on to either a full-time apprenticeship, full-time employment or continue onto higher education at university. Studying Business at Post-16 opens up a verity of potential career pathways in Banking, HR, Digital Marketing, PR, Finance, Accountancy, Insurance Brokering, Product development, Business project management, Retail management, Customer Services, Sales and Entrepreneurship.

Further information

If you require any further information visit the Pearson Qualifications website for detailed information about the course: http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/business-2016.html

CHEMISTRY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 GCSE Science/ Biology and grade 6 GCSE Mathematics
- Key contact: Mr Kent

robert.kent@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Why study A-Level Chemistry?

A level Chemistry studies the material world, and through chemistry we can describe and explain questions such as: "what happens when sugar dissolves in tea?"; "why is mercury a liquid at room temperature?"; "how do we make plastics?"; "what can we do about global warming?"; "what is it hard to keep my room tidy and what does it have to do with entropy?".

From baking a cake to recharging a mobile phone, chemistry is involved in everything we do; and our lives are inextricably influenced by many aspects of chemistry. Chemistry will continue to be at the forefront of responding to the needs of society; with chemists central to making advances in designing new materials, efficient energy use, drug development, and technology, to name but a few.

An A level Chemistry course covers a wide variety of basic concepts such as the structure of the atom; the interaction of matter and energy; how to control reactions; patterns in the Periodic Table; understanding carbon-based molecules and their reactions in the world around us.

Recommended subjects/grades

You need to have a good understanding of science, mathematics, as well as a good level of English in order to understand the context of the questions and explain your ideas clearly in writing.

Many chemistry questions involve applying your knowledge to unfamiliar contexts so being confident on the higher tier GCSE science papers will be essential. A significant section of chemistry looks at quantifying various aspects of chemical reactions such as amounts of molecules involved, enthalpy, entropy and reaction rates which will require a good understanding of mathematics and manipulations of equations.

What will I learn?

Year One

- **Physical Chemistry:** This branch of chemistry covers topics that deal with the application of techniques and theories of physics in the study of chemical systems. The topics are; Atomic Structure, Amount of Substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical Equilibria and Redox reactions

- **Organic Chemistry:** This branch of chemistry deals with carbon compounds (organic compounds), their structures, properties and reactions. Organic topics in Year 1 are; Introduction to organic chemistry, Alkanes, Halogenoalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols and Organic analysis.

- **Inorganic Chemistry:** This area of the course is mainly focused around whole organism biology and looks into the anatomy and physiology of organs such as the heart and lungs of different organisms, whilst also looking at organ systems and the organisms they come from (mammals, fish, insects and plants).

Year Two

Like Year 1, Year 2 is split into the same three branches of chemistry and builds upon topics covered in Year 1.

- **Physical Chemistry:** Thermodynamics, Acids and Bases, Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, Rate equations and Equilibrium constants.

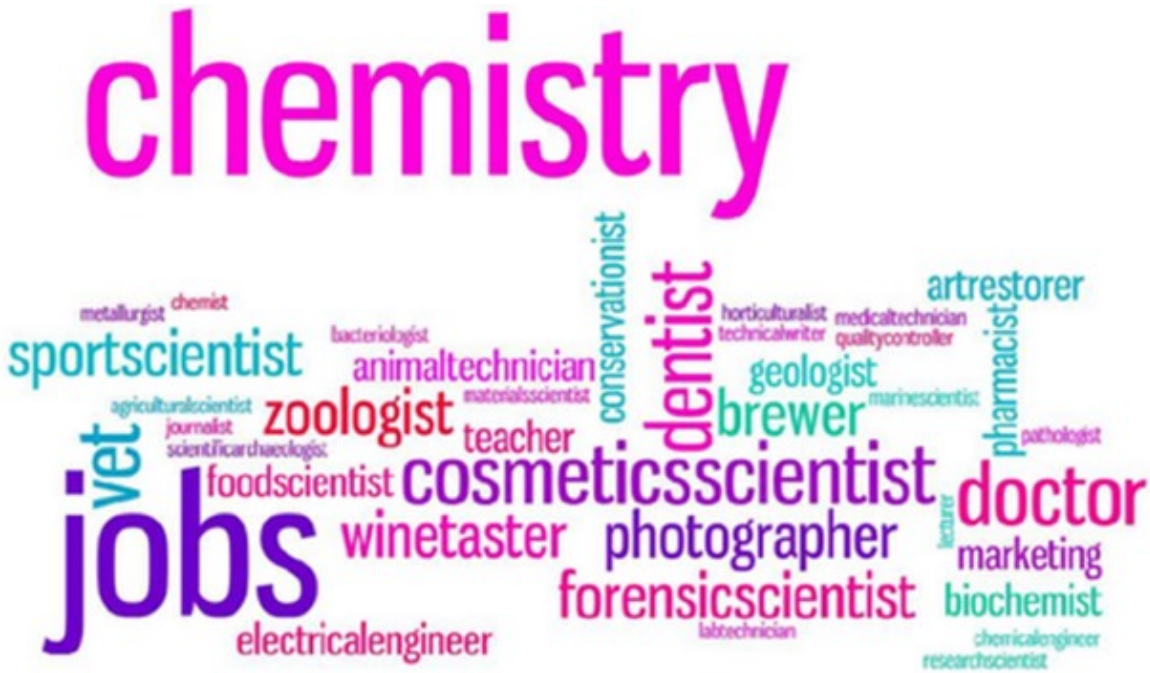
- **Organic Chemistry:** Optical isomerism, Aldehydes and Ketones, Carboxylic acids, Aromatic chemistry, Amines, Polymers, Amino acids, proteins and DNA, NMR Spectroscopy, Chromatography and organic synthesis.

- **Inorganic Chemistry**: Transition metals, Reactions of ions in aqueous solutions and Properties of Period 3.

How will I be assessed?

PAPER 1 - What's assessed? Any Physical and Inorganic chemistry topics
Assessed: written exam: 2 hours. 105 marks and 35% of A-level
Questions: 105 marks of short and long answer question
PAPER 2 - What's assessed? Any Physical and Organic chemistry topics
Assessed: written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level
Questions: 105 marks of short and long answer questions
PAPER 3 - What's assessed? Any content and practical skills
Assessment: written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 30% of A-level
Questions: 40 marks on practical techniques, 20 on any topic and 30 marks multiple choice

There is a separate endorsement of practical skills assessed by a series of twelve practical investigations which can also be tested in paper 3.



What could this course lead to?

Chemistry is a key subject for lots of scientific careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine, pharmacy, chemical engineering. The list is long and includes: nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, teaching, genetics and research.

It is also important to remember that chemistry is excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides – everything from analytical thinking, presenting to writing reports.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: ·A-Level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in Mathematics
- Key contact: Mr Rose

Neil.Rose@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

AQA A-level Computer Science (7517) builds on the knowledge and skills built up at GCSE level. It is a challenging course that offers routes into higher education or can provide the groundwork for technical training or courses.
You will need to:

- Have excellent logical thinking, problem solving and analysis skills
- The ability to work independently
- Meet deadlines

Recommended subjects/grades

A strong mathematical ability is required so a grade 6 or above in mathematics is critical. A grade 6 or above in Computer Science is preferable, but not essential, for the course.

What will I learn?

Students will learn more advanced programming techniques and look deeper into how computers and technology are used in a range of areas of the modern world.

- 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

How will I be assessed?

Assessment	Duration	Percentage of Final Grade
Paper 1 on screen exam	2hr 30m	40%
Paper 2 written exam	2hr 30m	40%
Non-exam assessment	Independent project	20%

Progression Routes and Career Options.

A-Level Computer Science is an excellent step if you would like to progress towards an IT or Computer Science-related degree. Since it has a strong programming element, it also suits going into more practical training where that skill is the focus. It also complements pathways with a strong mathematical element.

CRIMINOLOGY

- Exam Board: WJEC
- Qualification type: ·WJEC diploma (equivalent to one A-level)
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: None
- Key contact: Mr Murray

Paul.Murray@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This level 3 Diploma is offered to students who have a keen interest in crime. You need to be non-judgemental, be very interested in people, society and crime, be able to work under pressure, look to make contacts outside of college, be innovative and really motivated. Students may find some of the content disturbing given the nature of crime, although all topics are handled sensitively.

Recommended subjects/grades

Criminology is all about an understanding of people and the society that we live in, and therefore complements students studying psychology, sociology and health and social care very well.

What will I learn?

- Changing awareness of crime – Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? What kinds of crime exist about which we know very little, or which are simply not reported to the police and the media? How do we explain people's reluctance to come forward about crimes of which they have been the victim? Some crimes which seem inoffensive, such as counterfeiting of designer goods, have actually been linked to the funding of more serious crime such as terrorism and people trafficking; so why do people turn a 'blind eye' to these 'mild' crimes? What methods have governments and other agencies used to raise social awareness of these crimes?

- Criminological theories - How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What makes someone a serial killer, or abusive to their own families? Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime, but which is the most useful? Are these theories relevant to all types of crime? What can we learn from the strengths and weaknesses of each? How can these theories be applied to real life scenarios and real life crimes?

- Crime scene to courtroom - What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? What investigative techniques are available to investigators to help to identify the culprit? Do techniques differ depending on the type of crime being investigated? What happens to a suspect once charged by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)? What safeguards are in place to ensure a suspect has a fair trial?

- Crime and punishment - Why do most of us tend to obey the law even when to do so is against our own interests? What social institutions have we developed to ensure that people do obey laws? What happens to those who violate our legal system? Why do we punish people? How do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality or those who will not abide by the social rules that most of us follow? We spend a great deal of taxpayers' money on social control, so how effective are these organisations in dealing with criminality?

How will I be assessed?

There are four units, each worth 25% of the overall grade. Units 1 and 3 are assessed through controlled assessments, unit 2 and 4 are assessed through external exams assessed in the June of each year of study.

What could this course lead to?

The skills learned by studying criminology are transferable; these are highly valued in many occupations, and for entry to many further courses, even if you do not pursue a career in criminology. Careers directly linked to the study of criminology include working in the National Probation Services, the Courts and Tribunals Services or the National Offender Management Services

DANCE

- **Exam Board: Pearson**
- **Qualification type: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate**
- **Facilitating subject: No**
- **Academic or vocational: Vocational**
- **Additional entry requirements: None**
- **Key Contact: Mrs Townsend**

lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This is an excellent course if you want to further your dance studies. It is a broad course, covering all fundamental aspects of dance, and is part of a programme of study including other courses, e.g. BTEC Nationals or A levels.

The emphasis is on core knowledge and skills transferable across other sectors supporting progression to a range of higher education courses. As it's a Btec, it really prepares you for work in the industry and the professional dance world.

Recommended subjects/grades

Prior study of Dance is essential. That could be BTEC level 2 or GCSE Dance, or having had a significant training at a dance school. If you have enjoyed performing, choreographing and analysing professional works, this course further develops those skills in much more depth, particularly focussing on various styles, practitioners and performance.

What will I learn?

- **UNIT 1:** Investigating practitioners' work.
- **UNIT 2**: Developing skills and techniques for live performance workshop.
- **UNIT 3:** Group Performance
- **UNIT 22:** Movement in Performance

How will I be assessed?

- **UNIT 1:** external exam in year 12
- **UNIT 2:** internal exam in year 12
- **UNIT 3:** external exam in year 13
- **UNIT 22:** internal exam in year 13

All assessments are a combination of practical and research-based written work.

What could this course lead to?

This course is the equivalent to one A level, so alongside other courses, can assist you in achieving a place at university. However, if you wished to continue in the vocational route, it is also a nationally recognised qualification by well-established dance schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: A Grade 6 in English language and a 5 in English literature
- Key Contact: Mrs Wright

hayley.wright@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

English language A level is fascinating: it is an opportunity to explore how language has evolved, how language links to power, how children acquire and develop language.

Have you ever been accused of being rude when asking a question? Have you ever wondered why people speak English in different accents, or change the way they speak around their friends? In a constantly evolving world where technology has become a powerful force, how has language responded to adapt and develop? English Language is a method of identifying traits and patterns within a language from a linguistic perspective – the science behind the language! We will consider not only how people are using language in modern society but also the etymology (history) of words and the future of word. We will analyse a range of texts to consider how the context of a piece can transform our understanding of genre, purpose and audience.

Recommended subjects/grades

Students with an interest in English Language and Literature at GCSE should consider applying for the course. As an academic subject, students should be prepared with research skills, strong reading skills and a sound understanding of analytical writing as well as a desire to discuss a range of formats of writing and speech. Ideally, students should have received a 6 in English Language or in English Literature at GCSE.

What will I learn?

- **Language levels**

Learn a range of terminology to deconstruct the language used and the science of linguistics; move beyond simply the words and begin to consider how text producers craft their language structurally to manipulate, influence, persuade, advise, inform and entertain their audiences.

- **Regional variation**

Understand how where you are located in the United Kingdom can affect the language you use. This will consider accents and dialect alongside the examination of dialectology studies and theorists who consider language as a means of expressing identity. Compare the 'Brummies' and 'Geordies'; learn some Cockney rhyming slang; research where the most attractive accents are in the world and consider the phonology of speech.

- **Language and gender**

Consider how society depicts genders differently, how they are targeted as consumers and how this may have infiltrated the language used to discuss different gender in social encounters. Does it even impact on how free people feel to communicate? Do we temper our emotions based on society's beliefs regarding gender?

• **Social stratification within language**
Language is considered to be a means of enabling social mobility but to what extent do people still prejudice against those from a different social class? Are social classes still prevalent within today's society or has language allowed for more mobility between groups? With current changes to education and a focus on 'stronger literacy skills' for students, do establishments in the UK accept or reject the language of a local community?

- **Occupation language**

We all know that the roles we play in conversations change; we would phrase something very differently for a friend or a teacher. How do people use specific language or communication to express their opinions in a professional environment? How does the mentality of a profession impact on the language of an individual in their personal life?

• **Child Language Acquisition**
The primary method for learning a language is to copy the patterns which we hear from others. This unit focuses on how children gain the language by studying various theories and stages of developing communication. Where is a child 'expected' to be at a certain age? How can we decipher the writing of a child when they are learning to write?

• **Independent Language Investigation and Original Writing**
In this component, you show off your skills of crafting language. Having studied language diversity and variations, we will work with you to analyse data in an academic style on anything from football commentary to your favourite comedy sketches! You will complete an evaluation of your creative writing to justify why your writing is clever, crafted and creative.

How will I be assessed?

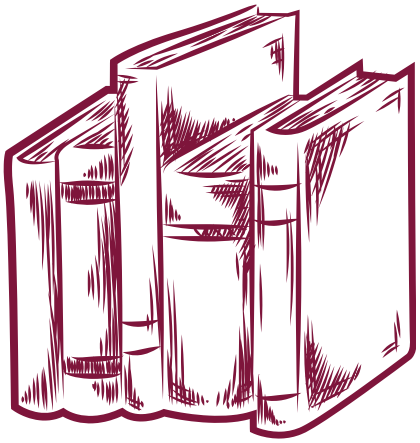
English Language is assessed in three components:

- Paper 1 – 2 hours 30 minutes – Language, the individual and society (40%)
- Paper 2 – 2 hours 30 minutes – Language diversity and change (40%)
- NEA – Original Writing with Commentary & Language Investigation (20%)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level (Spec A)
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in English literature and 5 in English language
- Key Contact: Mrs Wright

hayley.wright@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Overview of subject

The study of literature is the study of what it means to be human: love, conflict, passion, rebellion, discrimination. By studying great works of literature, we step closer to understanding what drives us. By studying the great works of the past, we simultaneously immerse ourselves in history and look towards the future. If you love to read, discuss, and write about books, poems and plays, this course is for you.

Over the course of your A level study, you will experience some of the greatest classic and contemporary texts ever written, from Shakespeare's Othello to McEwan's Atonement. Across the two-year course, you will analyse a range of prose, poetry and drama within the themes of Love Through the Ages and World War, building your analytical skills and broadening your knowledge of key literary periods and authors. You will also have the opportunity to complete an independent piece of coursework within your own area of interest. This course beautifully builds on the foundation of GCSE study. As a successful English literature student, you will be able to argue your own ideas confidently and critically – a vital skill for any further study or career.

Recommended subjects/grades

A Level English Literature requires a good level of academic achievement at GCSE as a foundation, so a minimum of 5 grade 5 passes (or better) would be helpful, in addition to a grade 6 in English literature

What will I learn?

- How to analyse, interpret, compare and understand texts
- How to construct an argument
- Elements of creative problem solving
- The ability to evaluate the influence of various contextual factors
- An understanding of different ways of reading and writing about texts
- The ability to deal with unseen texts

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is at A Level, taken in Year 13 and consisting of two papers:

Paper 1 – 3 hours, with open book for Section C (40% of the whole A Level)

Section A – Passage based question on "Othello"
Section B – Analysis of unseen prose
Section C – Comparison between two poems from the pre-1900 anthology, and "Atonement"

Paper 2 – 2 hours thirty minutes, open book (40% of the whole A Level)

Section A – Question on "Up to the Line of Death"
Section B – Analysis of unseen prose
Section C – Comparison of "Birdsong" and "The Wipers Times"

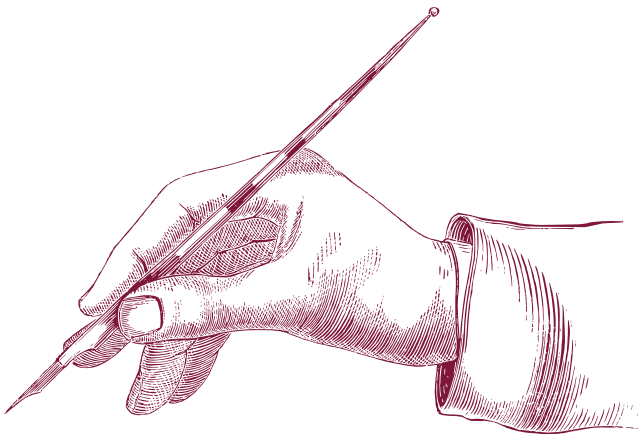
You will also need to complete one piece of Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) – this amounts for 20% of your overall grade and ask you to compare two texts of your choice.

What could this course lead to?

The skills learned by studying English Literature are highly transferable; these are highly valued in many occupations, and it is a facilitator subject for entry to many Higher Education courses.

There are many careers and opportunities open to those who study English literature at A level. These include but are not limited to:

- Media work – TV, radio, print media, digital media
- Publishing and editing
- Law
- Teaching and education, in the UK and overseas
- Advertising and Marketing
- Journalism



FRENCH

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: French GCSE
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in French GCSE
- Key Contact: Miss Sherred and Mrs Langlois

sarah.sherred@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
Vanessa.langlois@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

As well as developing the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing at A-level, students develop their knowledge of grammar and French culture considerably. The course is designed to develop awareness of contemporary issues affecting society globally and to enable students to confidently express their opinions in the target language. They build the richness and complexity of their knowledge and self-expression through academic and rigorous study of the language and culture.

Recommended subjects/grades

The course will require highly developed literary skills in English and previous successful French GCSE knowledge; a good understanding of both subjects is highly recommended. French A Level concentrates on four skills and the applicant needs to have the confidence to speak, read, listen, and write to a good standard in French, as well as being able to take an interest in cultural and global social issues.

What will I learn?

The A Level French syllabus is covered over the course of two years. The topic areas are:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films

How will I be assessed?

It is externally assessed at the end of year 13, and is made up of three units.

Unit 1 is the listening, reading and writing paper. It tests the candidates' response to authentic listening and reading material, as well as their translation skills. It represents 50% of the marks for A Level.

Unit 2 is a writing paper, where candidates have to complete one essay question on a film studied in class, and another on a piece of French-speaking literature, also covered in class. It represents 20% of the marks for A Level.

Unit 3 is the speaking exam, involving discussion of one of the sub-themes covered in class, followed by the presentation and discussion of the candidates' individual research project. It represents 30% of the marks for A Level.

Spoken and written sources will include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of France, or a French-speaking country.

Currently, the language topics covered in the first year of the course are:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends - the changing nature of family; the cyber-society; the place of voluntary work
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world - a culture proud of its heritage; contemporary francophone music; cinema: the 7th art form

The second year of the course will cover:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: topical issues - Positive features of a diverse society; life for the marginalised; crime and the justice system
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world - Teenagers, their political engagement; the French tradition of direct action; politics and immigration

You will also study one French literary text and one French film during the 2-year course.

What could this course lead to?

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Language skills are in high demand in an extremely competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. Research has shown that studying a language will also provide you with invaluable communications skills as well as improving your decisiveness, problem-solving ability and negotiation skills. It can lead to translating, interpreting or teaching, but there are many other jobs which involve languages.

https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/top-5-jobs-language-graduates-not-translation

GERMAN

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: German GCSE
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 in German GCSE
- Key Contact: Miss Sherred and Mrs Barr

sarah.sherred@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
caroline.barr@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

As well as developing the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing at A-level, students develop their knowledge of grammar and German culture considerably. The course is designed to develop awareness of contemporary issues affecting society globally and to enable students to confidently express their opinions in the target language. They build the richness and complexity of their knowledge and self-expression through academic and rigorous study of the language and culture.

Recommended subjects/grades

The course will require highly developed literary skills in English and previous successful German GCSE knowledge; a good understanding of both subjects is highly recommended. German A Level concentrates on four skills and the applicant needs to have the confidence to speak, read, listen, and write to a good standard in German, as well as being able to take an interest in cultural and global social issues.

What will I learn?

The A Level German syllabus is covered over the course of two years. The topic areas are:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts and films

How will I be assessed?

It is externally assessed at the end of year 13, and is made up of three units.

Unit 1 is the listening, reading and writing paper. It tests the candidates' response to authentic listening and reading material, as well as their translation skills. It represents 50% of the marks for A Level.

Unit 2 is a writing paper, where candidates have to complete one essay question on a film studied in class, and another on a piece of German-speaking literature, also covered in class. It represents 20% of the marks for A Level.

Unit 3 is the speaking exam, involving discussion of one of the sub-themes covered in class, followed by the presentation and discussion of the candidates' individual research project. It represents 30% of the marks for A Level.

Spoken and written sources will include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Germany.

Currently, the language topics covered in the first year of the course are:

- Aspects of German-speaking society: current trends - the changing state of the family; the digital world; and youth culture in the German-speaking world – fashion, contemporary music and the role of the media.

- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world – festivals and traditions, architecture and cultural life in Berlin.

The second year of the course will cover:

- Multiculturalism in German speaking society – immigration, integration and racism.

- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world – Germany and the EU, politics and youth and reunification and its consequences.

- You will also study one German literary text and one German film during the 2-year course.

What could this course lead to?

The skills learned by studying German are transferable; these are highly valued for many Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Language skills are in high demand in an extremely competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. Research has shown that studying a language will also provide you with invaluable communications skills as well as improving your decisiveness, problem-solving ability and negotiation skills. It can lead to translating, interpreting or teaching, but there are many other jobs which involve languages.

https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/top-5-jobs-language-graduates-not-translation

GEOGRAPHY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6 or above in Geography GCSE
- Key Contact: Mrs Sheriff

fiona.old@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

Geography equips you with knowledge and skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. Studying Geography at A-Level enables students to develop their literacy, numeracy, analytic and evaluative skill sets by applying a depth of spatial and conceptual knowledge within the human and physical domains. In addition, students are required to create and plan their own research project through the non-examined assessment element. This is excellent preparation for both further study at university and future employment. The study of Geography enables you to think critically, within a temporal and spatial context considering local, regional, national and international scales. Our aim is to create independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make students stand out as they progress to higher education or the workplace.

Recommended subjects/grades

The A Level Geography course builds upon the skills and content of the GCSE course so you must have gained a good pass at Geography GCSE – we recommend a grade 5 or higher. In addition, a significant portion of the Geography course assesses literacy and numeracy-based skills, so a good understanding of and attainment in English Literature and Maths GCSE is also recommended.

What will I learn?

In Geography, students follow the AQA specification (7037), which we choose as it allows us to deliver a thorough course where students broach a broad range of Geographical skills and concepts that prepares students for higher education. The non-examined assessment element allows students to really stretch their geographical understanding and delve into their creative talents that offers both significant challenge and in-depth learning.

Component 1: Physical Geography

Topics covered for this component:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

This is assessed as a written exam (2 hours 30 minutes) at the end of the two year course. The exam amounts to 120 marks, which credit 40% of the A-level.

Component 2: Human Geography

Topics covered for this component:

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary Urban Environments

As with component 1, this is assessed as a written exam (2 hours 30 minutes) at the end of the two year course. The exam amounts to 120 marks, which credit 40% of the A-level.

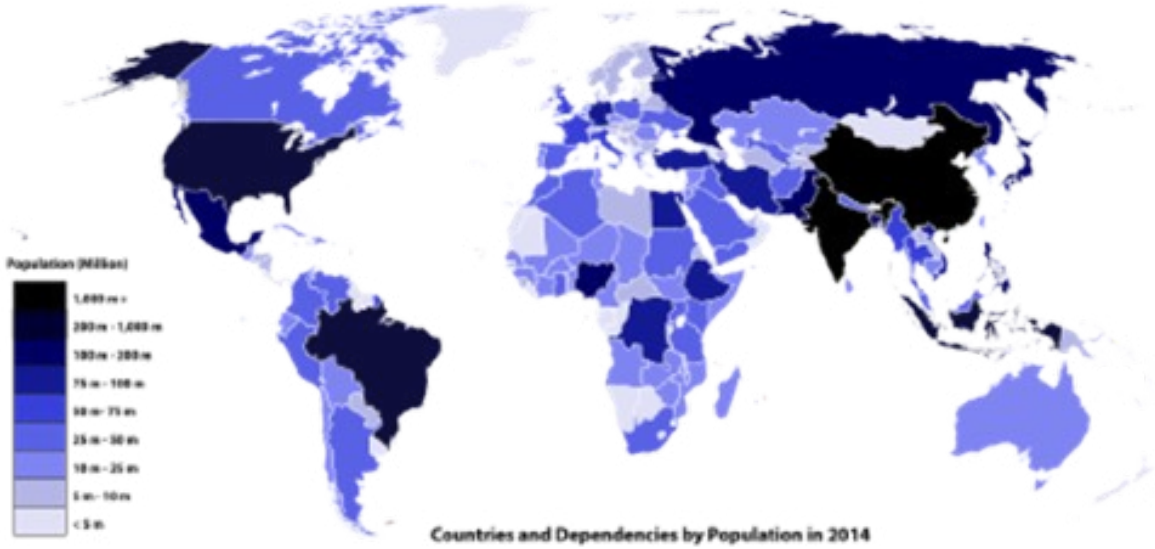
Component 3: Fieldwork Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

The investigation when completed will be 3000 to 4000 words in length and will account for the remaining 20% of the A-Level. It is marked out of 60 marks by teachers in the college and then sent to AQA to be moderated.

What could this course lead to?

Geography is a highly respected subject at degree level. A Level Geography is also an important entry requirement for many Higher Education degree courses, such as Engineering, Earth and Life Sciences, and Archaeology as well as other choices. Geography also leads to a very wide range of career options, including Academia, Journalism, Media, Politics, Civil Service, Chartered Surveying, Conservation, Education, Archaeology, Police, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Management and Business.



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 or above in English GCSE
- Key Contact: Mrs Paice
  gail.paice@kingsthoprecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

Politics is the study of conflict, consensus, decision making and the impact of those decisions on all of us. Politics matters to all of us whether we are aware of it or not. This course will cover three distinct areas but there will be synoptic and comparative links throughout. Students of A Level Politics will develop critical and evaluative skills and develop their skills in constructing accurate, reasoned and logical arguments. These skills will provide a platform for many areas of study at university or in post A level careers. Other subjects that benefit directly from A level Politics include Law, History, English, Media and Communication, Business and Economics and many more

Recommended subjects/grades

All students with a strong performance at GCSE are welcome. We would need students who have achieved a Grade 5 in English and a Humanities subject if they have taken one.

What will I learn?

Unit One – Government and Politics of the UK
This unit will include an overarching examination of the UK Constitution, Parliament, The Prime Minister and Cabinet, Democracy and Elections, Pressure Groups, Devolution, The European Community, Civil Rights and Political Parties

Unit Two – The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics
This unit will be very similar to the UK unit but from a US perspective. Students will be expected to answer comparative questions with the UK and study theoretical approaches to all the topics. Comparative units include Government, the Legislature (Congress), Pressure Groups, Political Parties, Democracy and Elections and Civil Rights

Unit Three – Political ideas
The students will examine three core ideologies – Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism and an optional unit: either Nationalism or Feminism. For each of these we will study the development of these ideas since their inception and different strands and interpretations of each ideology

How will I be assessed?

There will be a two-hour exam for each of the three units that will be taken at the end of Year 13. These will include three short answer questions, one source analysis and one extended essay question

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- Exam Board: OCR
- Qualification type: Cambridge Advanced
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Vocational
- Additional entry requirements: If Studied at KS4, Merit 2
- Key Contact: Mrs Lloyd-Jones

Ella.Lloyd-Jones@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This qualification looks at the role the sector plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals. It introduces students to knowledge and skills required to work in various care settings.

You will learn by applying skills, knowledge and understanding to tasks or activities that are relevant to what happens in health, social care and child care workplaces. Having an appreciation of what happens in the workplace will also help to prepare you for continuing your education in this sector.

Recommended subjects/grades

One of the large units in this course is anatomy and physiology therefore taking A Level Biology alongside this will be of benefit particularly if you are looking to progress into nursing, midwifery or medicine.

Approximately 50% of the course is made up of coursework so you need to have good literacy skills and enjoy extended writing.

What will I learn?

The mandatory units for the single award qualification are:

- Building positive relationships in health and social care
- Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- Health, safety and security in health and social care
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
- Infection control

This is the internally assessed element of the course and provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest through independently researched coursework.

These mandatory units are also mixed with a combination of optional units such as:

- Personalisation and a person-centred approach to care
- Creativity and activity for children and young people
- Supporting people with learning disabilities
- Nutrition for health
- Career planning for health and social care
- Promote positive behaviour
- Sexual health, reproduction and early development stages
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Supporting people with dementia
- Supporting people with mental health conditions
- Caring for older people
- Creativity and activity for adults
- Principles of youth work practice
- Looked after children and young people
- Psychology for health and social care
- Sociology for health and social care
- Public health
- Research methods in health, social care and childcare

How will I be assessed?

Health and social care as a single award is assessed through 3 exams taken over the course of year 12 and 13 and 3 units of coursework which are internally marked and externally moderated. As a double award you will take 5 exams over the course of two years and submit 5 units of coursework.

What could this course lead to?

As a vocational course Health and Social care is designed to lead you into a career in this sector for example social work, nursing, midwifery, teaching, counselling, youth work, child care and many other opportunities.

Health and Social care also teaches you a number of transferable skills such as group work, presentation skills, and communication skills which can be applied to any career field.

HISTORY

- Exam Board: OCR
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 6+ in History GCSE
- Key Contact: Mrs Paice

gail.paice@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

History equips you with knowledge and skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. The ability to study History shows that you are capable of analysis, clear presentation, discussion, group work, individual study and research from books, databases and the Internet. The study of History enables you to think critically and question both the past and the world around you. Our aim is to create independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make students stand out as they progress to higher education or the workplace

Recommended subjects/grades

The A Level History course builds upon the skills and content of the GCSE course so you must have gained a Grade 6 at GCSE History. In addition, a significant portion of the History course assesses literacy-based skills, so a good understanding of and attainment in English Literature GCSE is highly recommended. History is an essay based subject, so you must enjoy reading and extended writing – a successful History student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

What will I learn?

In History, students follow the OCR History A specification (H505), which we choose as it allows us to deliver a diverse course where we study the history of more than one country. The personal study coursework element also allows students to explore a topic in history that they have an interest in.

Unit 1: England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558) (Y107)

This unit has 2 elements - a British period study and enquiry. The document enquiry is focused on Mid-Tudor Crises in Edward VI and Mary I's reigns 1547-1558 and includes the stability of the monarchy; religious changes; rebellion and unrest. Assessment involves the critical use of evidence. The essay-based period study is focused on Elizabeth I's reign 1558-1603 and includes religion; the nature of government and parliament; economic and social affairs; Elizabethan later years 1588-1603.

Unit 2: The Cold War in Asia 1945–1993 (Y222)

This unit is a non-British period study that includes western policies in post-war Asia 1945-79; the Korean War 1950-53 and its impact to 1977; Indochina 1945-67; Wars in Vietnam and Cambodia 1968-93. It is assessed by essay questions and shorter questions on the significance of events.

Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992 (Y319)

This unit has 2 elements - a thematic study and historical interpretations depth study. The essay-based thematic study covers an extended period of over 100 years; the depth study involves evaluating historians' interpretations of events within this period. The study includes the position of African Americans, Native Americans, women and Trade Union and Labour rights.

Unit 4: Topic based essay (Y100)

This is the internally assessed element of the course and provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of personal interest through independently researched coursework.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: England 1547-1603 the Later Tudors (Y107) is worth 25% of the course.
Assessed by a 1 hour 30 minutes written exam paper. One period study essay from a choice of two; one document-based enquiry question.

Unit 2: The Cold War in Asia 1945-1993 (Y222) is worth 15% of the course.
Assessed by a 1 hour written exam paper. Students answer both parts from one of the two questions set: One 'mini-essay'; one period study essay

Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 (Y319) is worth 40% of the course.
Assessed by a 2 hour 30 minute written exam paper. Two theme questions from a choice of three, all covering 100 years; one interpretations question.

Unit 4: Topic based essay (Y100) is worth 20% of the A Level.
A 3,000-4,000 word personal study essay. A personal and independently researched investigation of the student's choice.

What could this course lead to?

History is a very highly respected subject at degree level. A Level History is also an important entry requirement for many Higher Education degree courses, such as Law, Journalism, and Archaeology. History also leads to a very wide range of career options, including Law, Journalism, Media, Politics, Civil Service, American Studies, Heritage, Education, Archaeology, Police, Forensics, Management and Business.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Exam Board: Pearson
- Qualification type: BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology (Level 3)
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 4/Merit in ICT if taken at GCSE/Level 2
- Key contact: Mr Rose

Neil.Rose@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Description

The BTEC Nationals Information Technology Extended Certificate is an A level equivalent qualification which offers progression into both Higher Education and employment in an IT or computing related field.

During the two-year course you will need to be well organised as you will be keeping a portfolio of assignments as part of your coursework. You will also need good literacy skills for extended writing.The course is suitable for all students who can:

- Work to deadlines
- Show a high level of commitment to their studies
- Work independently and take responsibility for their own learning

What will I learn?

The The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology qualification is a 360GLH course which is equivalent in size to one A Level. You will cover 4 units of work, 3 of which are mandatory. Two units are externally accessed through written and practical examination and accounts for 58% of the course. The following are the range of topics covered over the 2-year duration of the course

How will I be assessed?

There are two main forms of assessment, external and internal. External assessment takes the form of examinations where all learners take the same assessment at the same time with a written outcome, or set tasks where learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task. Internal assessment is carried out by the responsible teacher and is subject to external standards verification.

TOPICS	GLH
Mandatory Units	
Information Technology Systems	120
Creating Systems to Manage Information	90
Using Social Media in Business	90
Optional Units	
Data Modelling	60

Progression routes and Career Opportunities

Students completing their BTEC BTEC Nationals in IT will be aiming to go on to employment, often via the steppingstone of higher education including university. Examples of career opportunities include: Network Engineer, Cyber Security Expert, Software Developer, Web designer, Games designer and a Programmer.

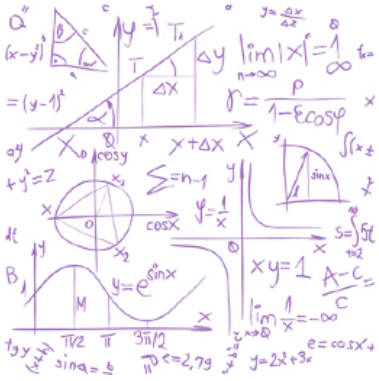
Further information

If you require any further information visit the Pearson Qualifications website for detailed information about the course: http://qualifications.pearson.com

MATHEMATICS

- Exam Board: Edexcel
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 7 or above at GCSE Maths
- Key Contact: Mr Rushton

Matthew.Rushton@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Overview of subject

Mathematics at Advanced GCE is a course worth studying not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences, but in its own right. It is challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas produced by some of the greatest minds of the last millennium.

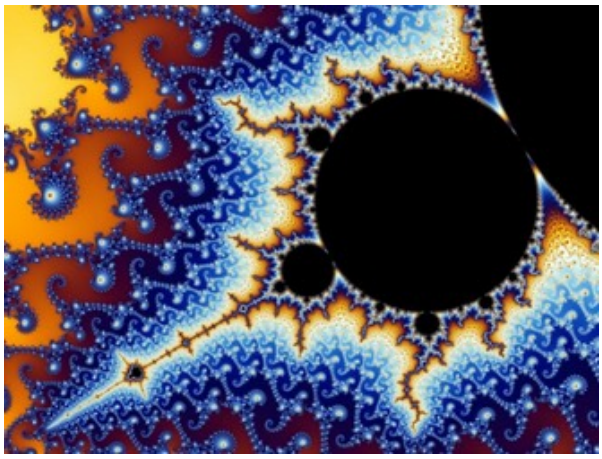
Recommended subjects/grades

Competence in algebraic manipulation is essential for success in this subject. A good command of Physics and statistics would also be desirable.

What will I learn?

Pure content:Proof

- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors



Statistics and Mechanics:

Section A: Statistics

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

Section B: Mechanics

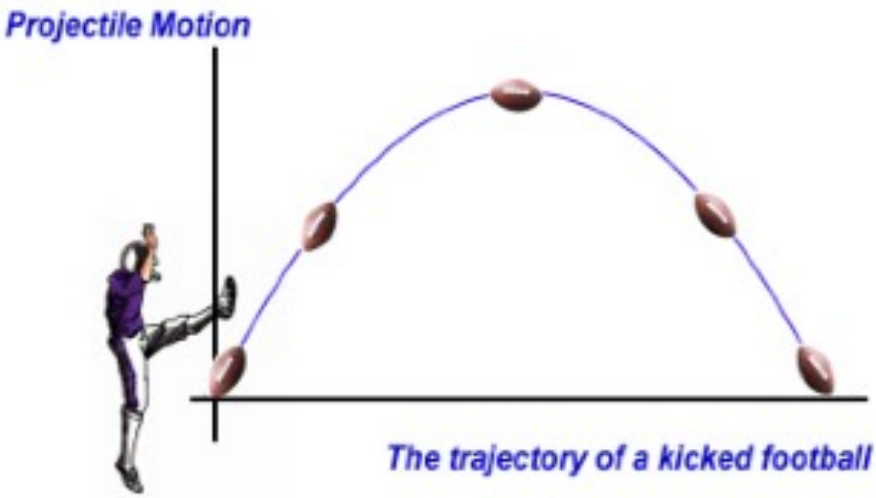
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

How will I be assessed?

Mathematics is assessed at the end of Year 13. This is made up of 3 papers. Two core papers and one applied paper. Each paper has an equal weighting and are 2 hours long worth 100 marks each.

What could this course lead to?

Anything that you wish to do. Any student that has achieved an A level in maths is a desirable commodity. Courses that this would be beneficial for are: Physics, architecture, geography, geology, psychology, engineering, medicine, computing and many more.



MATHEMATICS (CORE)

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: Level 3 - same UCAS points as AS-Level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 or above at GCSE Maths
- Key Contact: Mr Rushton

Matthew.Rushton@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

Core Maths is designed for students who want to take the subject further, but may not be successful on the A Level Mathematics course. It uses real life scenarios and has a less academic approach to help appreciate the value of everyday maths and problem-solving skills. It will also support them through further and higher education and learned skills will be useful in future employment.

Recommended subjects/grades

Competence in basic mathematical content will be beneficial as it will build upon and strengthen existing skills

What will I learn?

Paper 1:

Compulsory content:

- Analysis of Data
- Maths for Personal Finance
- Sequences and series
- Estimation

Paper 2:

Optional content – students take one paper only from the following:

A:
- Critical analysis of given data and models including spreadsheets and tabular data
- Statistical techniques

B:
- Critical analysis of given data and models including spreadsheets and tabular data
- Critical path and risk analysis

C:
- Critical analysis of given data and models including spreadsheets and tabular data
- Graphical techniques

How will I be assessed?

Core Maths is assessed at the end of Year 12. This is made up of 2 papers. One compulsory paper and one paper from a choice of three options. Each paper has an equal weighting and are 90 minutes long worth 60 marks each.

What could this course lead to?

The course is designed to help students better prepare for the mathematical demands of work, study and life. Students wishing to go in to higher education subjects with some mathematical content such as Sports Science, Geography, Biology, Computing, Accounting and many others will be of benefit from this course and is highly recommended by Universities.

MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)

- Exam Board: Edexcel
- Qualification type: A-Level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 8 or above at GCSE Maths
- Key Contact: Mr Rushton

Matthew.Rushton@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This Further Mathematics course builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the whole GCSE subject content for mathematics and the subject content for Advanced.

Level Mathematics qualifications. Problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling will be assessed in further mathematics in the context of the wider knowledge which students taking A level further mathematics will have studied.

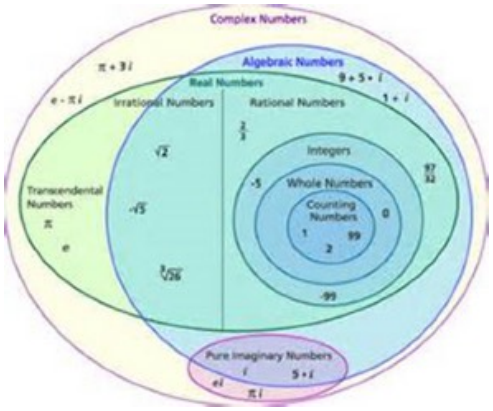
Recommended subjects/grades

Competence in algebraic manipulation is essential for success in this subject. A good command of Physics and statistics would also be extremely beneficial.

What will I learn?

Core Pure compulsory content:

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations



The additional unit is made up of 2 of the following:

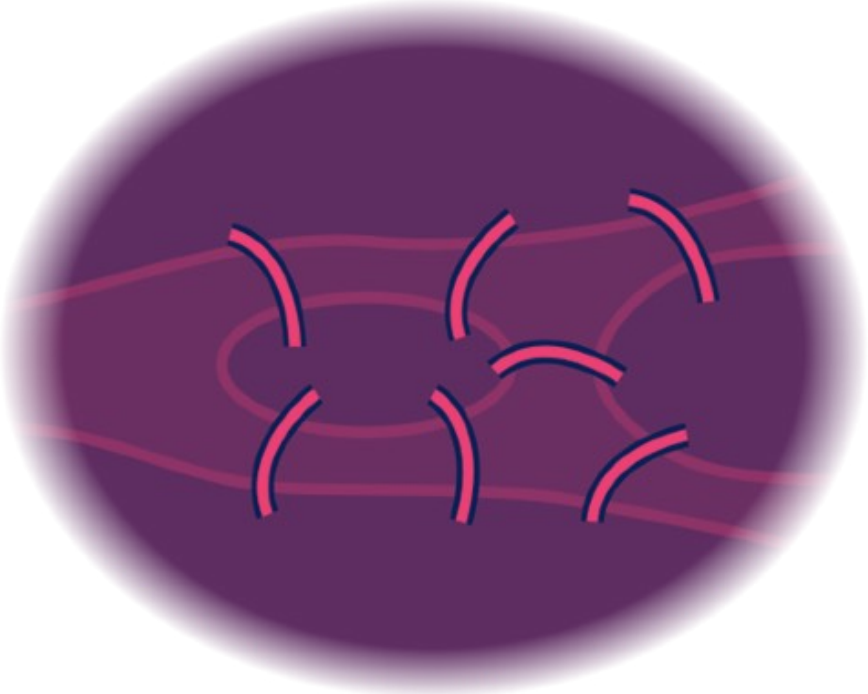
A: Further Pure Mathematics 1
B: Further Statistics 1
C: Further Mechanics 1
D: Decision Mathematics 1
E: Further Pure Mathematics 2
F: Further Statistics 2
G: Further Mechanics 2
H: Decision Mathematics

How will I be assessed?

Further Mathematics is assessed at the end of Year 13. This is made up of 4 papers. Two core pure papers and two option applied papers. Each paper has an equal weighting of 25% each and are 1.5 hours long worth 75 marks each.

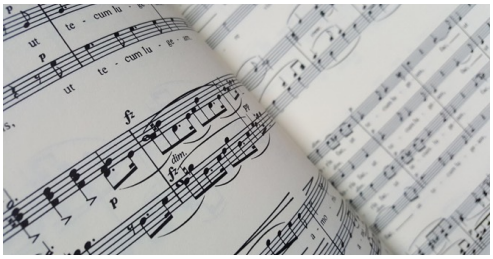
What could this course lead to?

Anything that you wish to do. Any student that has achieved an A level in maths is a desirable commodity. Courses that this would be beneficial for are: Physics, architecture, geography, geology, psychology, engineering, medicine, computing and many more.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A Level
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: None
- Key Contact: Miss Bevan Miss Townsend
  Laura.Bevan@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk
  lucy.townsend@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Overview of the subject

Music is constantly evolving , inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. This is a relevant and contemporary A-level qualification that offers you the chance to study a wide range of musical genres. A-level music brings listening, performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways, and links to the world around us.

Areas of Study

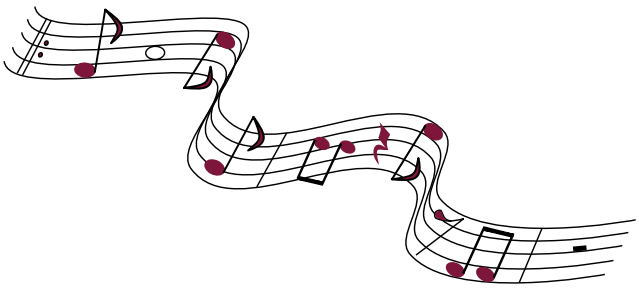
There are three main areas of study which students will learn about over the course of the two year course.

Component 1: Appraising Music

What's Assessed:
Listening
Analysis
Contextual understanding

How it's Assessed
Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music.

Questions:
Section A: Listening (56 marks)
Section B: Analysis (34 marks)
Section C: Essay (30 marks)
This component is 40% of A-level marks (120 marks).



Component 2: Performance

What's Assessed:
Music performance

How it's Assessed:
Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).

Requirement:
A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required .
This component is 35% of A-level marks (50 marks).
Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed between 1 March and the specified date given at aqa.org.uk/keydates
Work must be sent by post/uploaded to AQA by the specified date given at aqa.org.uk/keydates

Component 3: Composition

What's Assessed:
Composition

How it's Assessed:
- Composition 1: Composition to a brief (25 marks)
- Composition 2: Free composition (25 marks)

Requirement:
A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required.
This component is worth 25% of A-level marks (50 marks).
NEA will be externally marked by AQA examiners. Work must be completed and sent by post/uploaded to AQA by the specified date given at aqa.org.uk/keydates.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Exam Board: OCR
- Qualification type: Cambridge Technical Level 3
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Vocational
- Additional entry requirements: None
- Key Contact: Miss Newell

victoria.newell@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

This qualification will give learners an understanding of sport within the wider contexts of coaching and leadership, anatomy and physiology and the body's short and long term responses to physical activity. The course will also help you to develop transferable skills such as planning, communication, adaptability and leadership which will help you in whatever career you choose to move into. This course is ideal if you are interested in going on to study sport further in higher education or if you aspire to a career in sport.

Recommended subjects/grades

A previous knowledge of PE content is preferable, although not essential (such as completing GCSE PE, Cambridge Nationals or BTEC sport courses). A good understanding of the anatomy content in science is also recommended. This course combines both exams and essays/coursework. Therefore, you must be able to engage in extended writing for the coursework part of the course, where good literacy skills are required.

What will I learn?

You will study 5 units over the course of 2 years. There are 3 mandatory units (listed below) and 2 optional units which are chosen based on the needs and interests of the group. Unit 1 and 3 are externally examined units.

Unit 1: Body Systems:

- The skeletal system (including: the structure, the function, types of bones, structure of joints, joint movements)
- The muscular system (including: the structure, types of muscles, the function, muscles fibres, the impact of physical activity on the muscular system)
- The cardiovascular system (including: the structure of the heart, the structure of the blood vessels, the components and functions of blood, the impact of physical activity and lifestyle of the cardiovascular system)
- The respiratory system: (including: the structure, the function, the mechanisms of breathing, the impact of physical activity and lifestyle on the respiratory system)
- Energy systems: (including: how the intensity and duration of exercise determines which energy system is used)

Unit 2: Sports Coaching:

- The roles and responsibilities of sports coaches: (including: how the role and responsibilities involved in teaching and delivering sport differ)
- The principles which underpin coaching and leading (including: principles of leadership, group dynamics)
- The methods used to improve skills (including: identifying strengths and weaknesses, classification of skills, types of practice, methods for measuring improvement)
- How to plan sports sessions (including: SMART goal setting, assessing risks, safeguarding, structure of sessions.

Unit 3: Sports Organisation and Development:

- Sports organisations (including: roles and responsibilities)
- Sports development (including: purpose, target groups, methods for measuring the impact of sports development, advantages and disadvantages of sports development initiatives, benefits of sports development)

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are assessed by two external exams, one in year 12 and one in year 13. The other units of the course are assessed through coursework and a series of extended writing reports.

What could this course lead to?

The course is designed to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a sport-related programme such as Sport and Physical Education, Sport Science, Sport Coaching and Development or Sport and Leisure Management and further training.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

- Exam Board: OCR
- Qualification type: A-level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 5+ in Philosophy & Ethics or / and History GCSE
- Key contact: Miss Ackumey

mabel.ackumey@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

A Level Philosophy and Ethics encourages students to adopt an enquiring critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. It can also provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints.

Recommended subjects/grades

The A Level Philosophy and Ethics course builds upon the skills and content of the GCSE course, but a GCSE in Philosophy and Ethics is not essential to the A Level studies. In addition, a significant portion of the Philosophy and Ethics course assesses literacy-based skills and interpretations, so a good understanding of and attainment in English Literature and History GCSEs is highly recommended.

What will I learn?

In Philosophy and Ethics, students follow the OCR Philosophy and Ethics specification (H573), which provides a thought-provoking programme of study. Students develop their understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and the philosophy of religion.

Component 01: Philosophy of Religion

Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

Component 02: Religion and Ethics

- Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:
- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Component 03: Developments in Religious Thought

Students select one religion to study and through it explore:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

How will I be assessed?

•**Component 1: Philosophy of religion** is worth 33.3% of the course.
Assessed by a 2 hour written exam paper.

•**Component 2: Religion and ethics** is worth 33.3% of the course.
Assessed by a 2 hour written exam paper.

•**Component 3: Developments in religious thought** is worth 33.3% of the A Level.
Assessed by a 2 hour written exam paper.

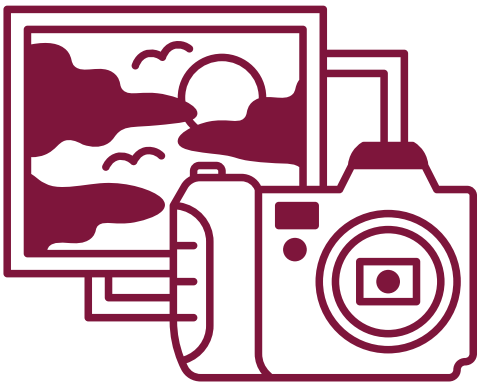
What could this course lead to?

A Level Philosophy and Ethics gives you the knowledge of other cultures and religious beliefs that can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These include counselling, health and social care, marketing, customer services, project management and education.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- ·Exam Board: Oxford, Cambridge & RSA Examinations
- ·Qualification type: GCE A level
- ·Facilitating subject: No
- ·Academic or vocational: Academic
- ·Additional entry requirements: None
- ·Key Contact: Mr Griffiths

Peter.Griffiths@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Overview of subject

This specification gives candidates a rounded exposure to different aspects of Photography, allowing them to display their abilities in a variety of photographic disciplines, including recording imagery appropriately and digital editing.

Recommended subjects/grades

Students Students must obtain 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language.

What will I learn?

The course involves practical photographic work covering topics such as portraiture, landscape, still-life, documentary, and experimental imagery. The course usually focusses on digital recording of photographs and the necessity to understand and employ the use of formal photographic elements prior to digital manipulation through the use of Adobe Photoshop. The appreciation and study of the work of photographers and artists is an essential aspect of developing photographic ideas and runs parallel to your own creative development. You will learn how to make effective use of a camera according to circumstances and intentions and how to compose and refine photographic images. Whilst modern mobile phones are an acceptable means of recording you will be expected to learn how to and use a DSLR. The ability to undertake photographic assignments regularly out of College teaching hours is essential as this forms the basis of the Personal Investigation.

How will I be assessed?

There are two components to the course, **Component 1** is 60% of the total qualification grade and consists of a '**Personal Investigation'**, internally set through negotiation with your teacher.

The **Externally Set Task is Component 2** with 40% of the total marks.
The EST paper is externally set by OCR, assessed internally and moderated by the exam board.

Year 12:

A foundation approach is adopted here at Kingsthorpe College to the first 2 terms of the **Personal Investigation**. All students produce a portfolio of work from starting points, topics or themes determined by Art staff. This provides you with experiences that differ from GCSE and equips you to think independently about your own creative direction. The focus is on including work that shows exploration, research, and the acquisition of advanced photographic techniques and skills.

Year 13:

Following this period you will, during individual tutorials with your Photography teacher, agree to the theme and direction of your work in the development of your **Personal Investigation.**

You will create a series of work usually in digital format that demonstrates your personal ability to develop your own ideas, explore and refine your work, record your observations in a variety of different approaches and compete a personal realisation in conclusion.

Alongside the development of your practical work you will also submit a **Related Study,** providing written evidence of your critical and contextual understanding of a theme directly related to your Personal Investigation.

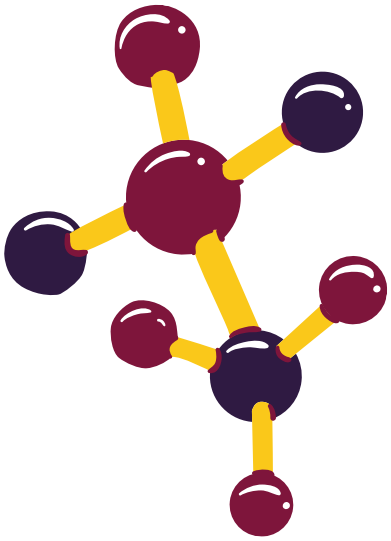
Externally Set Task

If you have previously studied GCSE Photography you will be familiar with the 'controlled' assignment process. You will select a theme from the EST question paper and are permitted a minimum of three weeks in which to plan and create your preparatory studies. The EST is conducted over 15 hours of controlled time during which you will complete a series of photographic conclusions

What could this course lead to?

Photography is a valid choice in combination with any other A level for nearly all university degree courses. A level Photography is particularly useful if you wish to study Photography, Film Video Production, Art & Design or Media at HND/Degree or for those wishing to do an Art Foundation course. It is possible to go directly into employment following this course as a photography or editorial assistant on a magazine. This could also lead into may other career options, Graphic Design, Fashion, Architecture, Advertising and Journalism to to name a few.

PHYSICS



- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-level
- Facilitating subject: Yes
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 7 GCSE physics/ Combined Science and Mathematics.
- Key contact: Mr Kent

robert.kent@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science.

Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives—from healing joints, to curing cancer, to developing sustainable energy solutions.

Physics encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles.

It's the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy.

Photograph shows an electron and positron (anti matter version of an electron) being created by a gamma ray which came in from the right the picture.

Recommended subjects/grades

You need to have a good understanding of science and mathematics. Many Physics questions are answered using mathematics, so you need to be confident with rearranging equations, trigonometry and standard form.Taking A-level Maths will help considerably with the Physics course. If not, you will need to follow a separate Core Maths course to support your Physics work.

What will I learn?

Year One

- **Measurements and their Errors:** once you understand these fundamental skills you will appreciate why they are vital to so many areas of life.

- **Particles and Radiation**: an introduction to the weird and wonderful world of particle physics and quantum physics. Find out how particles can be created from energy, discover that anti-matter isn't just science fiction and calculate your own wavelength.

- **Waves**: this section of the course provides insight into many aspects of music and light. You'll find out how Polaroid sunglasses work, why bubbles look coloured and how glass fibres can be used to see inside the body.

- **Mechanics and Materials**: this is the "classical" physics that Newton himself would recognise. It covers everything you'd expect about forces, motion and energy and yes, actually, it is rocket science.

- **Electricity**: here you'll develop your understanding of how and why electrons move around a circuit and find out how cleverly designed circuits can be used for sense and control.

Year Two

- **Further Mechanics**: an in-depth look at circular motion including the orbits of satellites and planets. The physics of things that bounce up and down is also studied and you'll find out how resonance can cause bridges to collapse spectacularly.

- **Thermal Physics**: a look at heat and gases. This topic explains why you definitely need a space suit when on a space-walk in the vacuum of space.

- **Fields and their Consequences**: this large area of study looks at gravitational fields, electric fields and magnetic fields. Mastering this gives a powerful and deep insight into how our world works.

- **Astrophysics**: the study of the stars. After learning how telescopes work, you'll discover what we have learnt about stars so far, how black holes are formed and calculate the age of the universe.

How will I be assessed?

There are three, two-hour exams at the end of year 13. There are short answer questions, some longer (6 mark) questions and multiple choice questions. Your developing practical skills will be assessed both in the laboratory (we will do over 20 different practical investigations) and in one of the exams.

What could this course lead to?

Physics keeps your options open. Because they are such good problem solvers, physicists are very highly sought after and they can command high salaries, often in careers not directly related to physics.

Physics A level (alongside maths A level) is essential for a physics degree and desired for many others including engineering, computing, chemistry, medicine.

PSYCHOLOGY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: ·A-Level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: ·: Grade 5 in English Language, Maths and Science (preferably Biology)
- Key contact: Mr Murray

paul.murray@kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Overview of subject

Why do some people seem to have amazing memories, and others just can't seem to remember what they did yesterday? What does it mean to be mentally ill, and what causes depression, schizophrenia, and phobias? Ever wondered why some people grow up to be violent murderers, or why the person in class next to you is just so disobedient and won't do what they are told? Psychology is the study of people, the mind and behaviour. If you are interested in finding out why people behave the way they do or how the brain works, then Psychology could be for you. Psychology will develop your knowledge, understanding and skills of analysis and evaluation in relation to each of the topics below.

Recommended subjects/grades

A significant portion of the Psychology courses assesses maths and science skills, so a good understanding of both subjects is highly recommended. Psychology is an essay-based subject, so you must enjoy extended writing – a successful Psychology student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

What will I learn?

• Social influence (including why people tend to do what they are told by certain teachers, but ignore others)

• Memory (including why our memories are pretty useless when we witness a crime, and how revising underwater may lead to better memory)

• Attachment (including why everything good – or bad – that happens to you may be the fault of your mum and dad)

• Psychopathology (including why some people suffer from OCD and feel the need to turn a light switch on and off several times before they can contemplate getting on with their day, and others feel physically sick at the thought of seeing clowns)

• Approaches in Psychology (including theories such as why girls suffer from penis envy and boys are in love with their mum's)

• Biopsychology (including why teenagers have every right to be late for school and not be punished)

• Research Methods (including discussions on whether it is ok to give puppies electric shocks)

• Issues and Debates in Psychology (including discussions on whether some people are born to be criminal – and thus perhaps we shouldn't blame them for the murder/crimes they commit)

• Forensic Psychology (including explanations of causes of criminal behaviour and theories of treatment for criminals)

• Schizophrenia (including why it happens and the many very strange – and often misunderstood - symptoms)

• Gender (including explanations for Gender identities within society)

How will I be assessed?

Psychology is assessed by three exams at the end of year 13, all of which are two hours and involve a mix of long essay questions and shorter application and knowledge questions.

What could this course lead to?

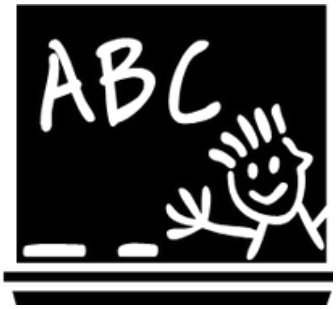
The skills learned by studying Psychology are transferable; these are highly valued in many occupations, and for entry to many further courses, even if you do not pursue a career in Psychology.

Psychology can be used in a wide variety of career areas, including educational psychology, clinical psychology, occupational psychology, police work, marketing/ advertising, nursing, teaching, social work, counselling, human resource management and speech therapy. Specialist careers in Psychology require a degree in Psychology and further training.

SOCIOLOGY

- Exam Board: AQA
- Qualification type: A-level
- Facilitating subject: No
- Academic or vocational: Academic
- Additional entry requirements: Grade 5 English Language
- Key contact: Mr Murray

Paul.Murray@Kingsthorpecollege.org.uk



Overview of subject

Sociology is all about the study of social behaviour – how people behave in groups, why people behave the way they do, what factors in society affect their behaviour. In looking at human behaviour, sociologists go far beyond the "common sense", investigating all of the important areas of social life and the major issues and problems facing modern society.

Do you take an interest in people? Take notice of what is going on around you? Enjoy a good discussion? Listen to the opinions and theories of others? Question things you read in the newspapers or see on TV? Enjoy reading abstract theories and writing essays? Have the capacity for a lot of hard and challenging work? Then sociology could be for you!

Recommended subjects/grades

Sociology is an essay based subject, so you must enjoy extended writing. A successful Sociology student is a student with highly developed literacy skills. A grade 5 in English language is therefore a requirement.

What will I learn?

Education

- The role of education in society
- Why certain groups underachieve
  i.e. males, ethnic minorities, working class.
- The development of education system in the UK

Families & Households

- The structure of families
- The role and changes to childhood in UK society
- Demographic changes
- Changes in family patterns and the diversification of society
- Social policy and the impact on families

Beliefs in Society

- The role of religion in society
- The changes of religion and secularisation within UK society
- Individualism within religion
- Globalisation of religion
- The relationship between religion and science

Crime and deviance

- Explanations of why people are criminal
- Limitations of statistics on crime
- Explanations on the lack of female crime
- Racism in the judicial system

Research Methods and Theory

- How to conduct sociological research
- Strengths & weaknesses of different methods
- The factors that influence choice of method
- Key sociological theories, e.g. Marxism, feminism.

How will I be assessed?

Sociology is assessed by three exams at the end of year 13, all of which are two hours and involve a mix of long essay questions and shorter application and knowledge questions.

What could this course lead to?

The skills learned by studying Sociology are transferable; these are highly valued in many occupations, and for entry to many further courses, even if you do not pursue a career in Sociology.

Sociology is useful in almost all walks of life, especially those involving people. Careers to which Sociology is directly relevant include:-

Journalism, general management, teaching, business, advertising, human resources, marketing, police force, social work, retailing, nursing/health service, civil service, law.

Kingsthorpe College

ASPIRATION | RESPONSIBILITY | RESPECT | CARE

Kingsthorpe College, Boughton Green Road,
Northampton, NN2 7HR

01604 716106

www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Orbis Education Trust
A world of possibilities