FOR LIFE, NOT SCHOOL, WE LEARN

Plymouth High School for Girls

GCE Advanced Level Courses

Welcome
to Plymouth High School Sixth Form from the Headteacher

Plymouth High Sixth Form offers a diverse range of A level courses taught by our specialist teachers who are well qualified and enthusiastic. We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching, the positive relationships we forge with our students and the happy environment we create.

Lessons in the Sixth Form are challenging and interesting, giving each learner the opportunity to achieve the very best grades they can. Teachers give students detailed feedback to help them continue to improve throughout their time with us.

We have high expectations of ourselves and of our learners. We provide a thorough and comprehensive post Sixth Form support programme, whether that be for University application, moving onto an apprenticeship, employment or further afield, enabling students to have the best chance of being successful.

From the very first day in the Sixth Form to the A level results day, we support and guide our students so that they get the very best experience and outcomes.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

Very best wishes,
Simon Underdown,
Headteacher

Welcome
to Plymouth High School from the Head of Sixth Form

A Level options are an exciting prospect: you can pick the subjects that you enjoy and wish to explore further. Through studying your A Level courses at Plymouth High School for Girls, you will gain a deep understanding and life-long love for each of your academic subjects, guided by expert and passionate teachers.

You will be supported throughout the decision-making process to ensure you choose subjects that suit you and further your future ambitions. You will have a post-16 next steps one-to-one interview with one of the members of the senior leadership team, as well as the opportunity to attend A Level taster sessions.

Your current teachers and the Heads of Department are ready to give you information and advice. At Plymouth High Sixth Form, you can choose one of the following:

- Three A Level subjects and EPQ –
  This is an excellent option, particularly for those students looking to demonstrate academic independence to universities.

OR

- Three A Level subjects and core maths –
  This is great as it keeps your hand in with the study of maths, as a lot of subjects have a mathematics element including psychology and economics.

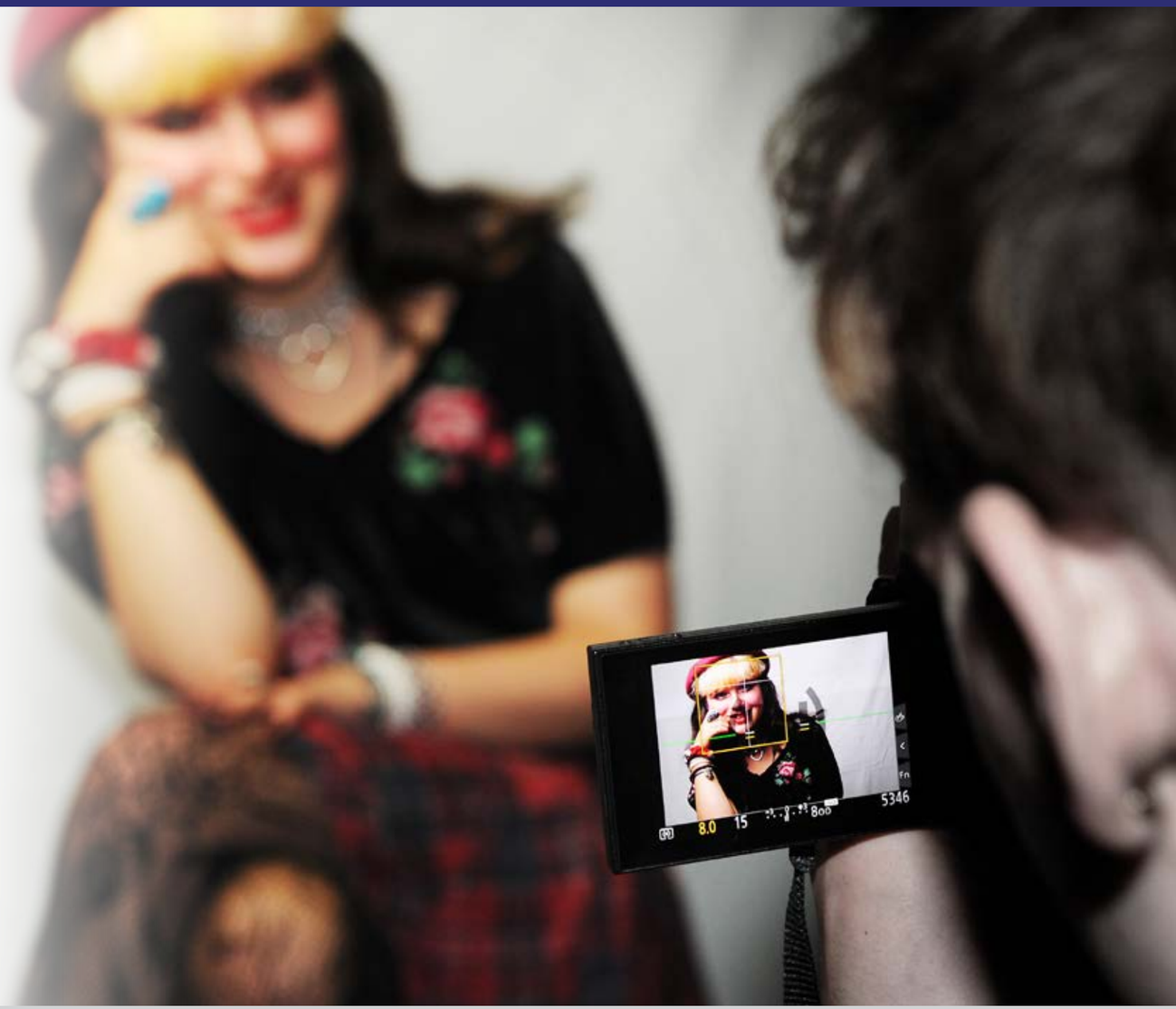
- Four A Level subjects –
  in rare cases we allow students to pick up four subjects. However, the vast majority of courses at most UK universities require three A Levels and universities make their offers based on three grades.

If you are choosing a new subject that you have not studied before – such as sociology, media studies, economics, politics, law or psychology – there will be considerable emphasis on you gaining an accurate impression of what it entails before starting your Year 12 studies. Whilst the school will provide as much information as possible, including taster lessons, it's important for you to conduct your own research which we hope will also include direct conversations with the teachers in question.

The whole Sixth Form team look forward to meeting you.

Alan Jenkins,
Head of Sixth Form

Contents



Art (Fine Art)

Examination Board: AQA

Contact: Mr Varrall (Tom.Varrall@phsg.tsat.org)

Overview

Most of the information we receive about the world is visual. Design and aesthetics are a crucial aspect to the world in which we live. A Level Fine Art provides students with many subject-specific skills, standing students in good stead to work in creative industries (these industries make up a third of the UK's economy and depend on visual literacy).

Fine Art creates students who have a strong sense of their own identity – by exploring and making individual decisions on areas of interest, students begin to understand themselves better, knowing what inspires, motivates and interests them.

Fine Art allows students to understand how they fit into the world around them, by engaging with artwork and ideas of others, both from the past and from today. Fine Art empowers students, showing them that they can be active participants in their world.

Fine Art gives students the confidence to manage their own projects – to make critical decisions in order to move forward. These skills transcend the subject, as they teach students that, through hard work, by taking informed risks and by making effective decisions, they can take their skills to very high standards that they have within themselves the ability to achieve excellence.

What will you study?

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of Fine art, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- Drawing and painting
- Mixed-media, including collage and assemblage
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Installation
- Printmaking (relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography)
- Moving image and photography

Students will be expected to demonstrate skills, in the context of their chosen area(s) of Fine art. In addition, students will be required to demonstrate skills in all of the following:

- Appreciation of different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination
- Awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of fine art
- Understanding of the conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres
- Appreciation of different ways of working, such as, using underpainting, glazing, wash and impasto; modelling, carving, casting, constructing, assembling and welding; etching, engraving, drypoint, mono printing, lino printing, screen printing, photo silkscreen and lithography
- Understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure
- Appreciation of colour, line, tone, texture, shape and form

Students must show knowledge and understanding of:

- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts in the chosen area(s) of study within fine art
- Historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres
- How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- Continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to fine art
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area(s) of fine art

Assessment

Unit 1 – Personal Investigation - (60%) - Individual project, title decided by student and a written component of 3000+ words related to individual practice.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Title Assignment (40%)- student-led project with teacher support. This includes an external exam: students will lead their own project and will develop their work, (students develop skills or areas of interest from the previous unit) to a final piece undertaken in exam conditions for 15 hours (3 school days).

Where could this A Level lead?

A Level Fine Art is necessary and relevant to many courses and careers including Advertising, the Media, Fashion & Textiles, Cultural Studies, Film, Game, Interior, Graphic Design, Architecture, History of Art, Museum Workand Teaching. Fine Art is also recognised in professional areas that require hand/eye co-ordination, e.g. Surgeon/Dentist. A full portfolio of work will be produced which can be tailored for entry into any Visual Arts course.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in Art at GCSE

Biology

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mr Waite (Adrian.Waite@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

A Level Biology continues the mastery of big scientific ideas explored in previous years, namely **Organisms, Ecosystems** and **Genes**. We welcome applications from enthusiastic, independently-minded students. Biology is a challenging subject at A Level and a serious commitment to study is required. Students should not underestimate the quantity of vocabulary and biological processes they will have to master. Self-regulation is key to your overall success at A Level and so you must arrive with, or be prepared to develop a disciplined and self-motivated approach to your studies.

Biological concepts at GCSE are often simplified to make them easier to understand for younger students. At A Level we will add fascinating new details and complexity to most of those ideas, introducing you to many new key phrases and processes. Just one example, the GCSE Biology course teaches students about 8 key structures found in plant cells. At A Level we reveal more than 14 structures and their functions, and how to recognise them from microscope images.

A Level biology brings together knowledge and understanding from the other natural sciences, including chemistry, mathematics and physics. It will give you a thorough understanding of the chemical oxidation and reduction reactions that keep living organisms alive. We will use statistical mathematics to analyse and compare data sets, including the Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient. We will apply physics knowledge about wavelength and diffraction to explain how microscopes work and how plants transfer energy between photons and electrons during photosynthesis.

What will you study?

The course comprises 6 units over the two years, reintroducing students to many of the Big Ideas studied previously between Years 7 and 11.

Module 1: Practical skills
Module 2: Foundations in Biology
Module 3: Exchange and transport
Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment

There are 3 exams at the end of two years;

- Biological Processes: covering modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2h 15min)
- Biological Diversity: covering modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2h 15min)
- Unified Biology: this covers all units (1h 30min)

Where could this A Level lead?

A level biology is a sound academic subject which will support applications to any higher education course. Science-related courses which students have progressed onto include anthropology, biochemistry, bioinformatics, dentistry, environmental science, marine biology, medicine, pharmacy, radiography, veterinary science, and zoology.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in both biology and chemistry at GCSE or a grade 6-6 or higher in combined science at GCSE.

Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mr Davies (Matthew.Davies@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Chemistry is the study of matter, what they are made of, how they react and what role they play in living things. Chemistry is a fundamental subject and bridges the gap between the physical and biological sciences. The big ideas covered in chemistry are Matter, Reactions and Earth. These build on the big ideas taught in Years 7-11. In order to successfully support your studies, it is strongly recommended that you study another A Level science subject alongside A Level chemistry.

A chemistry qualification opens wide the door to the future. Chemistry is named as an essential or acceptable A Level for more degree courses than virtually any other subject.

- It offers excitement – discovering a new life-saving drug.
- It is creative – inventing new compounds or new uses for existing ones.
- It is a challenge – solving the problems of the world, hunger, disease, pollution.
- It is satisfying – reducing suffering, improving living conditions.
- It is hard work – academically challenging but interesting as well.

What will you study?

In Year 12 you will study: Inorganic chemistry; the structure of the atom the periodic table and chemical bonding, physical chemistry; the energetics of a reaction pathway and organic chemistry; an introduction to the main organic functional groups with a detailed study of key homologous series. You will also complete practical skills related to those topics.

In Year 13 you will develop your studies: Inorganic chemistry; the transition metals and fuel cells, physical chemistry; the effect of entropy on reactions and organic chemistry; the study of benzene and amides including chemical synthesis, a key component of medicinal chemistry. You will also complete practical skills related to those topics.

Assessment

Chemistry is assessed with 100% examination at the end of Year 13, along with a practical endorsement.

Where could this A Level lead?

Chemists are in demand in many unrelated and diverse careers, not only medicine and veterinary science but forensic science, sports, art restoration, environment science, cosmetology, brewing and food, to name but a few. Many other professions recognise and reward the numeracy, problem-solving and logical thinking skills that A Level chemistry develops.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in both chemistry, one other science and maths at GCSE or a grade 6-6 or higher in combined science and maths at GCSE.

Economics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Contact: Mrs Carter (Victoria.Carter@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Economics helps you understand how we need to make the best possible use of the world's scarce resources. It plays a big part in politics and society and will help you understand the decisions made by individuals, businesses and governments. You study how the UK and international economies work and the implications of government decisions. You will also study the psychology behind individual decision making. Economics will improve your analytical, evaluative and critical thinking skills and is a subject which is well respected by universities.

What will you study?

Economics has two major components:

Microeconomics looks at decisions that affect individuals such as how much they earn and how they choose to spend it. We examine individual markets such as the labour market, the market for oil or the market for soft drinks; we look into how these markets sometimes fail and the reasons why governments intervene with policies such as taxes, subsidies and legislation.

Macroeconomics looks at what governments can do to help generate more money in the economy, to reduce the number of people unemployed and to encourage international trade and we will look at the policies and tools the government can use to support the economy such as fiscal policy and monetary policy. Some of the following topics are covered:

- Should Raheem Stirling be allowed to earn £200,000 per week whilst the poor in developing countries often live on less than $1 per day? And, why do pilots earn more than teachers?
- Should the high-speed link project go ahead or could the money be better spent on other things such as education and healthcare?
- Should the government raise the tax on petrol to help cut pollution and global warming?
- Is globalisation good for the UK?
- Why is child poverty on the increase in the UK and should the government increase or reduce taxes on the rich?
- How will the government keep the economy on track whilst paying off the debts it has accrued owing to Covid?

Assessment

All assessment are completed via examination at the end of the second year. There are three exams of two hours each. The format is a combination of multiple choice, data response and extended written question.

Where could this A Level lead?

Economics can lead to a variety of careers in: financial or management consultancy, investment banking, accounting, the legal profession, retail, distribution, politics and local government as well as journalism. Economics graduates are, on average amongst the highest income earners nationally.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in maths and an essay based subject at GCSE.

English Literature

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mrs Blunden-Currie (Siobhan.BlundenCurrie@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

English has much to offer in its development of skills in critical analysis and logical argument and its focus on written and oral expression. Students have the opportunity to extend their critical judgement through the close reading of texts, all of which are in their own way both intellectually exciting and demanding.

The study of literature encourages students to identify imaginatively with a variety of situations and characters and to consider issues beyond their immediate experience in an academic – yet congenial – atmosphere. In addition, theatre trips and visits to places of literary interest are a bonus and contribute greatly to the 'Eng Lit' experience.

What will you study?

The course consists of three components which will lead to an A Level. Components cover literature from different genres and time periods.

Assessment

Component 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900. Two and a half hour closed text examination; 40% A Level. Candidates will study and answer two questions on one Shakespeare play. Candidates will also study one drama and one poetry text published before 1900 and write one comparative essay chosen from a list.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study. Two and a half hour closed text examination; 40% A Level. Candidates study one topic area from a choice of five. They will answer one close reading question and one comparative and contextual question.

Component 3: Literature post-1900. 20% A Level. Candidates will produce a folder of coursework of a maximum of 3000 words with two tasks. At least one of the texts studied must have been published after 2000; one poetry text, one drama text and one novel must be covered in the coursework folder.

Where could this A Level lead?

English is recognised by universities as a demanding and academic course and by employers as a valued A Level subject. The challenge of the wide range of literature on offer at A Level coupled with the skills of argument, analysis and interpretation that students develop enable them to be highly successful in their chosen degree courses. Many students continue their English studies to degree level whilst some choose the subject as a way of developing their interest in the subject and exploring in more detail the wealth of inspiration that English Literature can offer. Not all students of English Literature become English teachers – the career paths available are many and varied, most jobs require you to write fluently.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English Language and English Literature.

Extended Project

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Contact: Mr Jenkins (Alan.Jenkins@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The Extended Project is an exciting qualification which provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate knowledge and skills by addressing a topic of their choice. It should be stressed that this is a high level qualification with learning outcomes of A Level (not AS) standard. It is looked on favourably by all universities in terms of its actual outcomes rather than just a UCAS point count.

What will you study?

The qualification will enable learners to:

- Have significant input into the choice and design of their project and take responsibility for an individual task or a defined task within a group project
- Develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners
- Develop and apply decision making and where appropriate problem solving skills
- Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Where appropriate, develop as e-confident learners and apply relevant technologies in their studies
- Develop and apply skills, creatively demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- Use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development

Assessment

Learners will be required to select, draft, plan and research a project in the form of one of the following;

- A Dissertation
- An Investigation/field study
- A Performance
- An Artefact

They will then manage the project through to its outcome in one of these forms and present the findings to an audience. Assessment will be by a tutor-assessor and will look at all aspects of the project management process not just the outcome. The qualification is at level 3 (AS).

Students taking this option will have two hours per fortnight timetabled but as the whole nature of the work is an 'independent' project this time will not necessarily all be spent in teacher contact.

French

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mrs Walsh (Heidi.Walsh@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The syllabus allows you to develop the practical skills of GCSE to a high level of competence and to understand the grammatical structures, pronunciation and intonation of French.

Learning about another society and culture is interesting in itself; to do so through studying what it says about itself in its media, music, films and literature and through direct contact with its people adds a new dimension to learning.

What will you study?

The French language is the first area of study, so that you develop your vocabulary and your knowledge of the rules that underlie French grammar. The skills and understanding you develop will also help in learning any other language now or later.

In the first year of study, you will study one theme from Social Issues and Trends, for example, the changing nature of family, the "cyber society" and the place of voluntary work. You will also study one theme from Political and Artistic Culture, for example, demonstrations and strikes, immigration, contemporary francophone music and the cinema. In addition to these two themes, you will study a French book or film.

In the second year of study, you will study a further theme from Social Issues and Trends, a further theme from Political and Artistic Culture as well as a second French book or film. In addition to this, you will carry out an individual research project for the speaking assessment only.

As you can see, you will study francophone culture and learn principally about France, but also about other countries where French is spoken. The syllabus covers a wide range of topics, relating to contemporary society and its problems, to art, music and literature. You will learn about these topics by reading articles or poems; or by listening to radio interviews or songs and by watching and listening to French news programmes.

Typical Activities

- Grammar exercises
- Discussions, arguments and debates
- Working with songs, films and video clips
- Reading factual and literary texts
- Listening work
- Translation work into English and French

Assessment

Throughout the course you will be assessed by your teachers on your oral and written skills in preparation for the end of year two exams.

Paper 1 is a mixed skill exam combining listening, reading and writing skills.

Paper 2 is a written exam which will assess the book and film (or two books) that you have studied.

Paper 3 is an oral exam during which you will discuss a sub theme on a stimulus card. You will then give a two minute presentation on your individual research project followed by a discussion with the teacher examiner.

Where could this A Level lead?

Whether you continue into higher education or not, your language skills will be an asset in your leisure and working life. French combines well with other subjects. Universities and employers value the discipline, learning skills and ability to communicate, necessarily developed by a good linguist. There is a very wide range of university courses combining language with everything from engineering to music. Most include one year spent in work placements or universities overseas.

Language skills are increasingly in demand by employers, as is the ability to empathise with other cultures, which is encouraged by the advanced study of languages. Industries that welcome language graduates are the media, PR, finance, banking, tourism, consulting or working internationally with a charity or as part of a business that trades internationally. The communication skills acquired during a languages degree are highly sought after by many employers and can be applied across many sectors.

Careers might include teaching, international law or business, any type of job with strong links to France.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in French at GCSE.

Geography

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Contact: Mr Graves (Leon.Graves@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Geography examines the questions, issues and problems that arise from the interaction of people with their varied environments using an enquiry-based learning approach. Fieldwork, research and individual study are integral parts of this course.

Studying geography helps to develop transferable geographical skills and many of the key skills that are relevant to the needs of employment and higher education.

What will you study?

- Dynamic landscapes- tectonic hazards, coastal landscapes
- Dynamic places- globalisation, regenerating places
- Physical systems and sustainability- water systems, energy, climate change
- Human systems and geopolitics- superpowers, globalisation and human rights (research and fieldwork based independent investigation)

Assessment

Exam paper one: 2hr 15min, 30%

Exam paper two: 2hr 15min, 30%

Exam paper three: 2hr 15 min, 20%

Non-Examination Assessment: Independent investigation, 20%

Where could this A Level lead?

Geography can be combined successfully with many other subjects. It is considered to be both a humanities subject and a science so does not narrow your choices for later. Careers might include environmental engineering, renewable energies, town planning, landscape, architecture, working with NGO's, working in the oil and gas industries, leisure and tourism – in other words a very wide variety of careers are open to you.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in geography and English at GCSE.

German

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mrs Walsh (Heidi.Walsh@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Studying German at A Level affords the opportunity not merely to gain a high degree of competence in the language, but it also allows for expansion of knowledge in areas such as culture, literature, society, history and current affairs. This is achieved through a number of media such as films, literature, poetry and music.

Classes are taught by two different teachers which allows for a variety of learning styles. Groups are also fairly intimate, which allows pupils to gain confidence quickly.

What will you study?

The German language, i.e. the acquisition of vocabulary and the expansion of grammar structures, is the first area of study. This is achieved through topic work via short articles, radio excerpts and video. You will also study German culture and touch upon other German speaking countries, though you will predominantly study issues relating to Germany itself.

The syllabus covers a wide variety of contemporary issues, looking at the place of the young person in society, the working world, the international scene, environment and citizenship. These things are viewed from the perspective of the German-speaking people. You will read a German novel and study a German film.

Typical Activities

- Discussion and debates
- Grammar activities
- Newspaper articles
- Essay writing
- Poetry
- Short stories
- Online and computer/based learning
- Visiting German websites
- Spoken presentations to the group, using ICT where appropriate
- Videos and songs
- Independent research of oral topics

Assessment

Throughout the course you will be assessed by your teachers on your oral and written skills in preparation for the end of year two exams.

Paper 1 is a mixed skill exam combining listening, reading and writing skills.

Paper 2 is a written exam which will assess the book and film (or two books) that you have studied.

Paper 3 is an oral exam during which you will discuss a sub theme on a stimulus card. You will then give a two minute presentation on your individual research project followed by a discussion with the teacher examiner.

Where could this A Level lead?

The knowledge of a foreign language is an asset regardless of whether you continue into higher education or not. German combines well with any other subject and especially with subjects where any sort of communication is at the forefront. There is a wide range of university courses combining languages and other subjects. Most of these can include time spent abroad either in work placements or at universities.

Careers might include teaching, international law or business, any type of job with strong links to Germany, such as pharmaceuticals, engineering, medical, political, just to name a few. Industries that welcome language graduates are the media, PR, finance, banking, tourism, consulting or working internationally with a charity or as part of a business that trades internationally. The communication skills acquired during a languages degree are highly sought after by many employers and can be applied across many sectors.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in German at GCSE.

History

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mr Mallard (Richard Mallard@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The A Level course is demanding but intellectually rewarding. The skills required are relevant for a range of careers. Students who choose the course are able to develop skills of communication, presentation, synthesis of ideas, critical evaluation of sources, as well as effective reading and writing. Ultimately though, we believe the course we have chosen is intrinsically interesting, building on the experiences of GCSE to allow for a smooth transition to the challenge of A Level study and beyond.

What will you study?

The Department has chosen topics with a proven track record of interest and success. These topics also reflect the academic specialisms and enthusiasm of the staff, helping the acquisition of excellent results.

Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964

A Non British period study:

- The Preservation of Autocracy- how the Tsar's attempted to maintain power in the late 19th Century
- The Beginning of the End- the 1905 Revolution and onset of World War One
- Causes of the 1917 Russian Revolutions
- Lenin's Dictatorship- establishing a Bolshevik legacy
- The Stalinisation of Russia- how the 'Great Turn' changed the world
- Stalin vs Hitler- the Great Patriotic War
- The Death of Stalin and the reaction to dictatorship under Khrushchev

Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

A British period study and enquiry:

- Society in change- Britain in the 1950s and 60s
- The changing face of Britain- impact of immigration and multiculturalism in Britain
- Britain's leaders- how effective were the governing elite in the 1950s and 60s
- The collapse of consensus and the rise of trade union militancy 1964-1979
- Thatcher's revolution- how far did she transform Britain in the 1980s?
- The Rise of New Labour- Britain in the new millennium and the 'end of the party'
- Britain's place in the world- the collapse of empire and rise of the Superpowers
- Post 9/11- Britain's role in the war on terror

Unit 3: Coursework:

Topic Based Essay Assessment of 3000-4000 words

The idea behind this is for students to develop their own study of an historical controversy which runs separate to the two modules studied. They have a range of possible topic areas to develop and study including:

- The Abolition of Slavery in Britain
- The Causes of the French Revolution
- The Causes of the American Revolution
- The Tudor Rebellions

The coursework must cover a period of 100 years and requires students to combine their skill of source analysis and using interpretation as well as focusing on issues of significance, causation continuity and change. The work is independently researched with the student developing their own question and conducting the subsequent enquiry. Students will be expected to find their own mix of contemporary sources and interpretations to help develop their arguments.

This is ultimately an excellent opportunity for students to really immerse themselves in the subject and produce a piece of work that will prepare them well for life at university.

Assessment

Unit 1, Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (55 marks) 40 % of final grade

Unit 2, Exam: 2 hours 30 minutess (55 marks) 40 % of final grade

Unit 3, Topic Based Essay Assessment of 3000-4000 words, 20% of final grade

Where could this A Level lead?

History A Level is highly respected by universities and employers. Skills acquired are applicable to a wide range of disciplines, opening the door to a variety of career options. An obvious link is with the legal profession as students practise their skills of evaluating evidence and argument. This also applies to business and management where coherent argument and selection of evidence is crucial to success. Other careers which see history as a relevant starting point include the civil service, politics and teaching. A major area, however, remains the media with many history graduates taking up careers in journalism and the broadcast media upon completion of their degree.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English at GCSE. You do not need to have studied history at GCSE to study it at A Level.

Law

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Ms Findlay (Lucinda.Findlay@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

If you can see both sides of an argument and enjoy problem-solving, law may be the perfect subject for you.

Law is an interesting, varied and challenging subject. Legal rules affect all aspects of our lives, from those that govern the creation of embryos to those that control the manner in which a person may die. Studying this subject gives a fresh perspective on why certain rules exist and, once you have studied the law behind the attention-grabbing news headlines, you will find that you will never passively receive information again without considering the implications.

A-Level Law is a valuable qualification which is recognised by all universities as being relevant to a number of different types of Higher Education courses, not just Law degrees, and is also a sound basis for a variety of careers. It illustrates to both universities and employers that you possess logical, analytical thought processes and have an understanding of a broad spectrum of issues. A good result also demonstrates that you have desirable skills such as the ability to research and construct arguments with clear expression of complex ideas.

What will you study?

There are six learning units over the two-year period. The first units are **'The Legal System'** and **'Law Making'** where we gain an understanding of the fundamental systems and processes involved in creating and applying the law. We then go on to study the exciting topic of '**Criminal Law'** which involves studying the elements necessary to convict someone of a criminal offence like robbery or grievous bodily harm and how defences such as intoxication and self-defence may be applied.

Following that, we study civil law. **'Tort Law'** involves looking at how the duties we owe to each other can result in claims and the defences that can be used. The **'Contract Law'** unit examines how a contract goes from being an agreement to becoming legally binding and the remedies available when there is breach of that contract, both for independent consumers and large businesses.

Finally, the **'Nature of Law'** unit brings together knowledge gained throughout the course and allows for research into the philosophy and theory behind law. We also explore how these principles will be reflected in how the law deals with novel issues to balance conflicting interests.

Assessment

There is no formal coursework. The A Level is assessed by three equally-weighted examinations, each lasting two hours. Substantive Law is generally assessed by application of law to an unseen exam scenario whereas the theory of law is assessed by written essays in response to exam questions. Throughout the course there is regular examination practice with feedback.

Where could this A Level lead?

A-Level Law is not just for those who wish to enter the legal profession, though it is common for students to enjoy it so much that they decide to take the subject further. By studying A-Level Law, you will gain many transferable skills that will be applicable to a wide range of career paths. These include:

- Legal careers
- Journalism
- Civil Service
- Human Resources
- Business Management
- Police
- Social work
- Politics

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English at GCSE.

Mathematics - Core Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mrs Freeman-Alford (Gina.FreemanAlford@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

"Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. At AQA, we design qualifications and support to enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy and succeed in maths. By putting students at the heart of everything we do, our aim is to support teachers to shape what success in maths looks like for every student. Our question papers are designed with students in mind. We're committed to ensuring that students are settled early in our exams and have the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of maths, to ensure they achieve the results they deserve." **(taken from the AQA website)**

What will you study?

The course should enable students to study a mathematics curriculum that is integrated with other areas of their study, work or interest leading to the application of mathematics in these areas. Students will develop mathematical modelling, evaluating and reasoning skills, solve problems some of which will not be well defined and may not have a unique solution.

Students will solve substantial and real life problems encountered by adults, use ICT as an exploratory tool for developing mathematical understanding and when solving problems, develop skills in the communication, selection, use and interpretation of their mathematics and enjoy mathematics and develop confidence in the subject.

Units:

3.2- Maths for personal finance
3.3- Estimation
3.4- Critical analysis of given data and models
3.5- The normal distribution
3.6- Probabilities and estimation
3.7- Correlation and regression

Assessment

This course is assessed in the form of two papers, both 1 hour 30 minutes in length.

Paper 1: written exam
What is assessed: units 3.1. 3.2 and 3.3

Paper 2: written exam
What is assessed: units 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7

Where could this A Level lead?

This course is ideal for those students studying subjects such as the sciences, Geography, Design and Technology and Psychology. The content of the course is designed to support the analytical aspect of mathematics that many other curriculum areas need.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in Mathematics at GCSE.

Mathematics - Further Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mrs Freeman-Alford (Gina.FreemanAlford@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

There is an opportunity for those students who have a natural interest in mathematics to study Further Mathematics at AS and A2 level.

Students must take the mandatory Core Pure paper, and at PHSG we will sit the Statistics Major papers. The optional minor paper will be in Modelling with Algorithms.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
The qualification comprises one mandatory Core Pure paper and then a combination of optional papers: Core Pure Content² Major options Statistics Major (Y422)² Minor options Modelling with Algorithmsm (Y433)²	Mandatory paper: Core Pure 144 raw marks (180 scaled) 2 hour 40m mins Written paper	**50% of total A Level**
	Major Option: Statistics 120 raw marks (120 scaled) 2 hour 15 mins Written paper	**33⅓% of total A Level**
	Minor option: Modelling with Algorithms 60 raw marks (60 scaled) 1 hour 15 mins Written paper (1 hour 45 mins Written paper for Y436)	**16⅔% of total A Level**

Entry requirements

Grade 8 or higher in Mathematics at GCSE.

For more details about Further Mathematics, please contact Mrs Freeman-Alford

Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mrs Freeman- Alford (Gina.FreemanAlford@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The main reason for studying mathematics to an Advanced Level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in the course. You will also become more aware of the wider importance of mathematics, and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics is about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction, calculation within these patterns and structures. When patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country. expression of complex ideas.

What will you study?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques. Students will learn to understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected, apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general and use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly

Students will learn to generalise mathematically and construct mathematical proofs, use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems which require them to decide on the solution strategy, recognise when mathematics can be used to analyse and solve a problem in context, represent situations mathematically and understand the relationship between problems in context and mathematical models that may be applied to solve them and interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation effectively in the context of the problem.

They will read and comprehend mathematical arguments, including justifications of methods and formulae, articles concerning applications of mathematics and communicate their understanding. Students will use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and recognise when such use may be inappropriate.

Assessment

Students must complete Components 01, 02 and 03 to be awarded OCR A Level in Mathematics B (MEI). Content is in three areas:

1. Pure Mathematics
2. Mechanics
3. Statistics

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	Assessment Overview
Component 01 assesses content from areas 1 and 2	Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (01) 100 marks 2 hours	36.4% of total A Level
Component 02 assesses content from areas 1 and 3	Pure Mathematics and Statistics (02) 100 marks 2 hours	36.4% of total A Level
Component 03 assesses content from areas 1 (areas 2 and 3 are assumed knowledge)	Pure Mathematics and Comprehension (03) 75 marks 2 hours	27.3% of total A Level

Where could this A Level lead?

Advanced GCE Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in higher education. There are also many areas of employment that see Mathematics A Level as an important qualification. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, physics, computing and information and communication technology. For those unsure where their future choices lie, Mathematics is an excellent way in which to keep one's options open.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 or higher in Mathematics at GCSE.

Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas

Subject Contact: Miss Cate Taylor (Cate.Taylor@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Media Studies concerns communication: a fascinating subject, this A Level affords you the opportunity to learn about a variety of forms including newspapers, magazines, television, advertising, marketing, film, online, music video, radio and video games. The course is varied and stimulating and considers these media through a theoretical lens.

What will you study?

There are four areas of theory you will cover:

- Media language
- Representation
- Media industries
- Audiences

The theorists you will explore include:

Media Language

Semiotics, including Roland Bathes
Narratology, including Tzvetan Todorov
Genre theory, including Steve Neale
Structuralism, including Claude Levi-Strauss
Postmodernism, including Jean Baudrillard

Representation

Theories of representation, including Stuart Hall
Theories of identitiy, including David Gauntlett
Feminist theory, including Leisbet van Zoonen
Feminist theory, including bell hooks
Theories of gender performativity, including Judith Butler
Theories around ethnicity and postcolonialtheory, including Paul Gilroy

Audiences

Media effects, including Albert Bandura
Cultivation theory, including George Gerbner
Reception theory, including Stuart Hall
Fandom, including Henry Jenkins
'End of audience' theories- Clay Shirky

Assessment

Assessment is divided into 3 components:

Assessment 1 (35% of qualification)	Assessment 2 (35% of qualification)	Assessment 3 (30% of qualification)
Media, industries and audiences	Media forms and products in depth	Cross-media production
Written examination 2 hours 30 minutes	Written examination 2 hours 15 minutes	Non Exam Assessment (coursework)

Where could this A Level lead?

With communications skills being at the foreground of this subject, Media Studies is a versatile option which lends itself to almost every possible career path. Typically, however, students of media often pursue careers in creative and broadcast industries such as marketing, television and film, digital media, and writing (whether as writers themselves or as key members of the publishing world).

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English Language at GCSE.

Physical Education

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Mrs Pickles (Alison.Pickles@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The course allows learners to study Physical Education (PE) in an academic setting, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. In the theory element you will gain a deep understanding into how the body works when exercising. You will delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and the influence that modern technology is having on sport. You will develop a wide range of skills such as communication, decision making, interpreting data and analysing performance along with many more.

What will you study?

The course covers:

Physiological factors affecting performance:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics

Psychological factors affecting performance:

- Skill acquisition
- Sports psychology

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity:

- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in sport

Performance in Physical Activity:

- Practical performance/coaching
- Evaluation and analysis for improvement

Assessment

There are 3 written papers and one practical performance (in one sport with an observation and spoken element).

Paper one: 2 hours, 30% of total mark

Paper two: 1 hour, 20% of total mark

Paper three: 1 hour, 20% of total mark

Practical performance: 30% of total mark

Where could this A Level lead?

PE goes extremely well with lots of other subjects such as biology and psychology and sociology so PE could add diversity and breadth to your course choices. It can lead onto further education or careers such as: sports science, coaching, sports development and management, leisure and recreation, exercise and health, dietician, physiotherapy or occupational therapy.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in PE or Biology at GCSE.

Physics

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mr Thackray (Matt.thackray@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

A Level Physics continues your mastery of big scientific ideas like Forces, Electromagnetism, Energy and Waves.

A level Physics gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to radioactivity and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

The study of Physics will help you to understand other subjects, like the earth, agricultural, chemical, biological, and environmental sciences.

It shows employers that you have an aptitude for logical reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking – and it helps you to stand out from the crowd.

In order to successfully support your studies, it is recommended that you study A Level Mathematics and/or another science subject alongside A Level Physics.

Want to find out more? Try:

- A short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson
- How to fossilize your hamster by New Scientist
- The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw
- Good websites for Physicists include www.iop.org and www.physicsworld.com

What will you study?

Core content

1 Measurements and their errors
2 Particles and radiation
3 Waves
4 Mechanics and materials
5 Electricity
6 Further mechanics and thermal physics
7 Fields and their consequences
8 Nuclear physics

Optional content taught at this school is:

9 Astrophysics

How assessed?

The course is assessed through theory exam papers and there is the requirement that all candidates will regularly demonstrate high levels of competence in practical skills.

Paper – length and marks	Content	Weighting
Paper 1: 2 hours **85 marks of which:** • **25 multiple choice answers** • **60 marks short/long answers**	**1. Measurement and their errors** **2. Particles and radiation** **3. Waves** **4. Mechanics and materials** **5. Electricity** **6. Periodic motion**	**34% of total A level**
Paper 2: 2 hours **85 marks of which:** • **25 multiple choice answers** • **60 marks short/long answers**	**1. Further mechanics and thermal physics** **2. Fields and their consequences** **3. Nuclear physics**	**34% of total A level**
Paper 3: 2 hours **80 marks of which:** • **45 marks on practical skills and data analysis** • **35 marks on optional topic**	**A. Practical skills and data analysis** **B. Astrophysics**	**32% of total A level**

Where could this A Level lead?

A Level Physics opens up a vast number of career opportunities – not only in science but also engineering or medicine too. A physics qualification also serves as an indication of a clear, logical and adaptable mind – much in demand today in business and industry. The ability to make decisions based on logical thought and to explain concepts clearly and precisely are qualities sought by employers.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 Grade 6-6 or higher in Combined Science or a grade 6 or higher in Physics and another science at GCSE. Additionally, you should have a minimum of a grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE.

Politics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Subject Contact: Mr Mallard (Richard.Mallard@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

The A Level course is both engaging and intellectually challenging and seeks to develop students' wider understanding of the world around them. The skills required are relevant for a range of careers and students who choose the course are able to develop skills of communication, analysis and evaluation, interpretation, presentation, synthesis of ideas, use of sources as well as effective reading and writing. Ultimately, this course looks to broaden understanding of how the modern political world operates allowing them to build on their own experiences whilst giving them the knowledge and skills to help them progress through their A Levels and beyond.

What will you study?

UK Politics and Core Political Idea

Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. It will also focus on the role of the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions as well as the role played by the media.

Furthermore, students will explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. The component also gives students a base of comparison to other political systems. It further introduces students to the specific roles and powers of the different major branches of the government – legislative, executive, and judiciary – as well as the relationships and balance of power between them, and considers where sovereignty now lies within this system. This section will also allow students to explore one of five additional political ideas such as nationalism, anarchism, feminism, multiculturalism and ecologism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

Global Politics

Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government. It will also focus on the role of the individual in the political process and their relationship with the state and their fellow citizens. Students will examine how electoral systems in the UK operate and how individuals and groups are influenced in their voting behaviour and political actions as well as the role played by the media.

Furthermore, students will explore the three traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Students will learn about the core ideas and principles and how they apply in practice to human nature, the state, society and the economy, the divisions within each idea and their key thinkers.

Assessment

This subject is assessed with 3 written examinations at the end of the course.

Paper 1: UK politics and the core political ideas – 2 hour exam

Paper 2: UK government and non-political ideas – 2 hour exam

Paper 3: Global politics – 2 hour exam

Where could this A Level lead?

Politics A Level is valued positively by universities which recognise the discipline as providing a sound intellectual base for further study at university in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Studying politics at A Level or university will aid students interested in a career in politics, the civil service, research, broadcasting, law and journalism.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English at GCSE.

Product Design - Design Technology

Examination Board: Eduqas

Subject Contact: Mrs Young (Gemma.Young@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

A Level Product Design will be of interest to a wide range of candidates including those intending to directly follow a higher education course or career in Design, Technology, Engineering, or an associated area of which there are many. Those with other interests and aspirations will also benefit from the many transferable skills inherent in this course of study. It is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject in which learners use creativity and imagination to develop their design ideas both independently and as part of a team; solving problems and making critical decisions that build their ability to learn and adapt.

It can be seen as an extension of your work at GCSE, developing your particular interests through gaining deeper knowledge and understanding of the materials area chosen to study. Real life skills will form part of the learning process, being both taught and through visits to exhibitions and industrial situations.

You will design and produce high quality products using your initiative, innovation and creativity and utilising CAD/CAM technology where appropriate. Ideas, research and manufacturing methods will be communicated via freehand sketches, 2D and 3D modelling and ICT generated images. Product analysis is also an important feature of this course as well as a continued analytical approach.

What will you study?

The specification allows students to work creatively when designing and making, and apply technical and practical expertise in order to develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems, gaining an insight into the creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries, take design risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering impact on daily life and the wider world as responsible designers and citizens.

Students will work collaboratively to develop and critically refine their ideas, responding to feedback and the needs of users, peers and expert practitioners and develop knowledge and experience of real world contexts for design and technological activity. They will develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use.

Students will be able to make informed design decisions through an in-depth understanding of the management and development of taking a design through to a prototype/product and be able to create and analyse a design concept and use a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including mathematics and science, to inform decisions in design and the application or development of technology. They will be able to work safely and skilfully to produce high-quality prototypes/products and have a critical understanding of the wider influences on design and technology, including cultural, economic, environmental, historical and social factors.

Assessment

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Written examination: 3 hours
- 50% of qualification

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of technical designing and making principles, along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology.

Component 2: Design and make project

- Non-exam assessment: approximately 80 hours
- 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate. This will demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities, design and make prototypes, analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes.

Where could this A Level lead?

A Level Product Design can lead to many creative courses in higher education including; architecture, all forms of engineering, interior design, fashion design, graphic design, advertising, industrial design, product design and manufacture, costume design, prop design, stage design. Product design is also recognised and welcomed in professional areas that require excellent hand/eye coordination, e.g. surgeon/dentist. The UK's creative industries contribute almost £90bn net to GDP and employment in this sector is growing faster than any other.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in Design Technology at GCSE is required but all students will be considered on individual merit. We welcome applications from enthusiastic students with a commitment to study.

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mr Baines (Edward.Baines@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Psychology: the scientific study of mind, behaviour and experience. Psychology has a very relevant role to play in the modern world. We are not all doctors, taxi-drivers or shop-assistants, but in a very real sense we are all psychologists because we try to understand behaviour in our world everyday. The psychology course allows for this understanding to become more rigorous and based on research methods from across the breadth of Psychology. This means you will develop skills in experimental psychology including the use of observational research to understand the many complexities of brain and behavior. If you want to explore explanations for why people behave the way they do, then Psychology could be the course for you.

What will you study?

In Year 1 you will study human memory, including eyewitness testimony; attachments in childhood; explanations for when people suffer from mental health disorders and social psychology, including some very controversial studies on obedience.

In Year 2, the choice is flexible but at the moment we study forensic psychology, relationships and schizophrenia. We look in more detail at approaches in psychology and also cover a section on issues and debates including ethics in psychological research. Feel free to look at our twitter feed @psychphsg for some of the types of research that we will be looking at.

Assessment

As well as regular assessments with both written and verbal feedback, the course is broken up into three papers which are examined individually. Two papers will be sat as a full mock exam at the end of Year 1 and all three papers will be sat at the end of year 2.

Where could this A Level lead?

A qualification in Psychology can lead to a wide range of careers including teaching, nursing, occupational therapy, clinical psychology (where you work alongside doctors and psychiatrists in a hospital setting), personnel management, social work, forensic science, to name but a few. It is also a respected qualification for any employer that wants an understanding of human behaviour, an analytical mind and a balanced view of the world itself.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English and Mathematics at GCSE.

Religious Studies - Eastern and Western Philosophy and Ethics

Examination Board: OCR

Subject Contact: Miss McAuliffe (Tanya.McAuliffe@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

You will enjoy this subject if you are interested in the type of issues it covers. You will be good at it if you can train yourself to think logically and accurately, to understand a range of theories and to evaluate them critically, to study primary source material carefully and to represent the ideas of others fairly, and to write clear, well-structured essays. It will keep you thinking!

- You want to be a critical thinker, not someone who just accepts what they are told
- You want to explore some of the most powerful challenges ever made to dominant modes of thought
- Some of the world's most successful professionals have backgrounds in Religion and Philosophy
- Success in this subject demonstrates that you have a broad mind and a willingness to listen to ideas other than your own – a key skill in the modern job market

What will you study?

Philosophy and Religion

- Arguments for the existence of God- inductive and deductive
- Challenges to religious belief- the problem of evil and suffering and religious belief as a product of the human mind
- Religious Experience
- Religious Language

Religion and Ethics

- Ethical Thought: Naturalism, Intuitionism, Emotivism
- Deontological Ethics: Natural Law
- Teleological Ethics: Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism
- Determinism and Free Will

Buddhist Philosophy

- Buddhist figures and sacred texts
- Buddhist concepts and religious life
- Significant social and historical developments in Buddhist thought
- Buddhist practices that shape religious identity

Assessment

This subject is assessed with 3 exams at the end of the course:

Where could this A Level lead?

Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhist Studies are fascinating subjects that will enable you to develop skills of analysis, logical thought, and literacy. These are essential skills- preparing you well for university and beyond. The course provides a foundation for further study of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology. The skills and challenges involved in studying Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhist Studies at A Level are highly relevant to a wide range of courses in the humanities, arts and social sciences.

This qualification is particularly relevant to people aiming for careers in law, medicine, politics, government and education.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in Religious Studies and English at GCSE.

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Subject Contact: Mrs Lee (Sophie.Lee@phsg.tsat.uk)

Overview

Sociology is the study of contemporary society. The study of Sociology can provide essential tools for understanding the world we live in. By opting to study Sociology, you choose to investigate how human societies are constructed, where many of our beliefs and daily routines come from, and to re-examine many taken-for-granted assumptions that influence how we think about ourselves, others and the society in which we live. Sociology is an organised way of answering BIG questions.

What will you study?

You will examine social trends, social structures and social processes. You will study the influence that society has on individuals and their resulting patterns of behaviour.

The A Level course includes a range of topics:

- **Families and Households**
  Including: Why are fewer people getting married? Do women still do more domestic labour than men? Is childhood disappearing?
- **Education**
  Including: How has the education system changed? Why do girls generally achieve better results than boys? Should private schools be abolished?
- **Beliefs in Society**
  Including: Why do women tend to be more religious than men? What is the difference between a cult and a sect? Why are traditional religions seemingly in decline?
- **Crime and Deviance**
  Including: Why are certain minority groups over-represented in prison? Why do men commit more crime than women? What is a moral panic?
- **Sociological Theory**
  Including: Marxism, Feminism, Post-Modernism
- **Research Methods**
  Including: using interviews, questionnaires and observations to find out about an individuals' beliefs and behaviours

Throughout the course you will be required to write extended answers and essays. Often in Sociology there is no right or wrong answer – you will be required to build an argument using evidence, outline and evaluate contrasting viewpoints and form a conclusion.

Assessment

Assessment is entirely exam based. There will be three two-hour written exams at the end of the second year. These will include some short answer questions but will be predominantly made up of questions requiring extended written answers.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in English Language.

FOR LIFE, NOT SCHOOL, WE LEARN

Plymouth High School for Girls
St Lawrence Road,
North Hill,
Plymouth,
PL4 6HT

0333 360 2230

www.phsg.org

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST