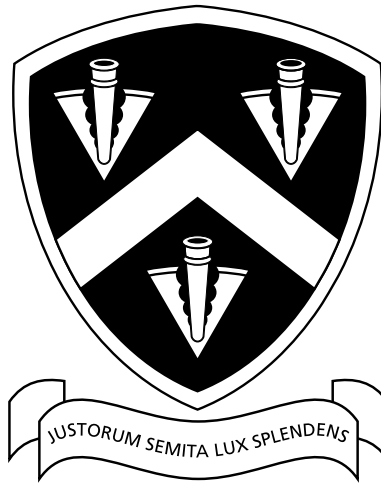


Bloxham School



Choice of Sixth Form Courses

2010

The decision about the A Levels to be studied is one of the most important that confronts a boy or girl. Bloxham has always believed that every pupil should aim to achieve his or her personal best intellectual level, and I am sure that this is a view that parents will share. The increasing numbers in Higher Education have made it possible to secure places on a degree course with comparatively modest A level grades, but many courses and many careers remain highly competitive. While there is a great deal more to education than the gaining of academic qualifications, there is still every incentive to aim for the best ones possible.

The process leading up to the A Level decision is therefore a very important one, and I hope that you will have the chance to read, digest and discuss with your son or daughter the information and advice in this booklet. The national Sixth Form curriculum came into force in September 2000, and this has made the decision process even more important than before.

The baseline qualification for the Sixth Form at Bloxham is three B grade and three C grade GCSEs. However, virtually all of our Sixth Formers achieve 8 - 10 GCSEs with at least a B grade in the subjects they wish to study at AS Level. It is normally expected that Sixth Form entrants have GCSE passes in English and Mathematics. In exceptional circumstances a pupil who does not have these grades in English and Mathematics may be accepted, but it is a condition of entry that they must re-take these subjects to obtain the necessary grades.

For present members of the School, the purposes of the Lent Term Parents' Meeting are:

1. to enable parents to meet those who teach the pupils, and to discuss with them, and the Heads of Department as appropriate, their academic capabilities, their progress towards GCSE and their potential for A Level.
2. to discuss with the Housemaster/Housemistress, probably by means of a later appointment, the possible options open to pupils in the future.

It is important to emphasise that these meetings are essentially to provide and exchange information. A final decision on the choice of AS level subjects will need to be made by the end of February. Some changes to options may be possible after this date, but it must be understood that curricular decisions will be made on the basis of choices submitted and that not all combinations of subjects will subsequently be possible.

As far as prospective entrants at Sixth Form level are concerned:

1. A Level courses have changed significantly, and there may have been alterations or new information since any meeting parents have already had with us, so please study the booklet carefully.
2. Parents or pupils may wish to discuss the courses further by appointment, and we will be very happy to do this. A final decision on AS choices needs to be made by the end of February or, for late entrants, by discussion with the Director of Studies. Some changes to options may be possible after this date, but it must be understood that curricular decisions will be made on the basis of choices submitted and that not all combinations of subjects will subsequently be possible.

M. E. Allbrook

foreword
by the headmaster

The normal pattern is four AS Levels, one of which is then usually eliminated after examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth to provide three A2 Levels for examination at the end of the Upper Sixth. An A Level is made up of both AS and A2 with equal weighting. Three is the normal requirement for university entrance at degree level, two for HNDs which can provide a different route through university.

All timetables are arranged in blocks, and so all the subjects in a block run at the same time. This means that only one subject per block may be chosen. We aim to provide the widest possible range of options by keeping popular subjects apart, and in some cases offering subjects in more than one block.

No university subject is precluded by our A Level options. Schools cannot provide the range of courses available at university, but we make sure that the blocking system allows pupils to be eligible for every university course.

TIMETABLE BLOCKS

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Art	Business Studies	Chemistry	Art
Geography	German	Design Technology	Biology
Mathematics	History	English	Business Studies
Politics	Music	French	Economics
Psychology	Physics	Geography	English
Theatre Studies	Spanish	Music Technology	I.C.T.
	Textiles	P.E.	Religious Studies

Choose four subjects. You may only choose one subject per block.

All pupils will undertake a course in preparation for Higher Education/Careers.

University Entrance

Universities will make offers either in the form of grades or as a points score which may combine AS and A Levels. The relationship between grades and points is as follows:

A Level		AS Level	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A*	140		
A	120	A	60
B	100	B	50
C	80	C	40
D	60	D	30
E	40	E	20

From 2010 a grade A* will be available for the very best candidates for the whole of the A Level qualification only, i.e. it is not available for individual units or at AS Level.

the choices available

Some pupils will have a clear idea of the three subjects which they will take through to A Level; others will want to delay this choice until they have seen enough of their four AS Levels to know which three appeal most. In either case the criteria outlined below still apply. Not many university subjects require a specific combination of A Levels; the obvious exceptions are Medicine (Chemistry definitely, and at least 1 and probably 2 other sciences) and Engineering (Maths and Physics); and in subjects such as French and English where there is an A Level, universities will expect it to be part of the combination. Otherwise, there are obvious advantages in studying certain A Levels in order to pursue new subjects at university (e.g. Art for Architecture). If there is a need to check please consult the Director of Sixth Form Studies.

Interest in a subject is the obvious place to start the process of choice. This should be taken to mean interest in a particular form of study, not an idea that a particular subject is 'a good bet for a job afterwards'. Remember that A Level courses in some subjects are markedly different from those for GCSE Level, even though they bear the same name, and that one or two subjects are studied beyond GCSE Level for the first time. Discussion with the relevant Head of Department is obviously sensible.

Relevance to a possible career is another starting point. Some subjects relate directly to a career, most to a Course in Higher Education which leads on to one. The selection of a career is a lengthy business involving frequent changes of decision and even direction for most people. Most students at this stage will not have narrowed their choice to a specific career but will have an idea of the general direction in which they are likely to go. This may exclude some subjects and indicate a set of three or four others to be studied.

Ability should be carefully weighed against interest and career-potential. You will often find that interest starts high but can reduce if the frontiers of your ability are reached. It may be sensible to consider the level of achievement eventually required: will you need only a pass in a particular A Level, or do you require an A grade?

Coherence versus contrast is a final consideration. Subjects complement each other most obviously when they appear in the same category, either Arts, Sciences or Social Sciences. Subjects within these categories share a tradition, methodology or subject matter and so study in one is often of use to another. This may affect the choice of the first three subjects. But you can usefully choose a fourth subject in a different area, for contrast and breadth.

Information about careers will also be available at the Parents' Meeting. Aim to gather as much information as possible from teachers, Heads of Department, tutors, Housemasters, Careers Advisers and the Director of Sixth Form Studies. Then weigh up the pros and cons. Remember that this is only the first stage in a decision-making process.

Finally, with so much talk of careers, it is easy to focus attention on education as a means to an end. Remember that education is an end in itself and that end is never reached. The point, therefore, is to travel as far and see as much as you can.

Pupils are prepared for university entrance by the Director of Sixth Form Studies in the Lower Sixth year. Careers advice has already started.

how to choose
A and AS level subjects

Teaching staff: M. Pye (Head of Department), R. Lehmann, R. E. Browning
Examination Board: AQA

Why choose this subject?

To develop creative analysis. To enhance personal expression, aesthetic pleasure, imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, practical skills, analytical ability, historical and cultural awareness etc.

To show evidence of sustained effort through sketch books, preparatory sheets and the production of completed pieces of work.

With which subjects might it be combined?

The study of Art can be successfully combined with all subjects to enhance creativity.

The nature of the course and what is required.

All students on the course will be expected to participate fully in studio observational life-drawing exercises to enhance visual analysis. The photographing and sketching from life is essential. It will be expected that students research, record and produce practical work and written investigations for the course.

AS/A2 A Level: A combination of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art, Craft and Design• Fine Art• Three-Dimensional Design• Textiles Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphics• Photography• Media Based
Unit 1 AS 50% of AS, 25% of total A Level	Portfolio Candidates produce a collection of two and/or three-dimensional work which includes at least one extended project and may include other examples of practice aimed at developing particular skills or extending their knowledge of other artists, designers, craftspeople and photographers.
Unit 2 AS 50% of AS, 25% of total A Level	Controlled Assignment (5 hrs) An externally-set assignment in which candidates respond to one of five starting points. Work is undertaken in May. Candidates undertake 5 hours supervised time to develop initial ideas following an initial period of research.
Unit 3 A2 25% of total A Level	Personal Investigation Candidates produce practical work and a written investigation of 1000 to 3000 words linked to the practical work. Their work should be linked in some way to contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, craftspeople or photographers.
Unit 4 A2 25% of total A Level	Controlled assignment (15 hrs) An externally-set assignment in which candidates respond to one of eight starting points. Work is undertaken in May and culminates in 15 hours of supervised time in which they are expected to fully realise their ideas.

Higher Education and careers

The range of options open to Art students can be very wide and they are readily employed in professions such as the Design industry, Fashion, Advertising, Film & Television, Education, Entertainment, Architecture or to enhance general creative thinking in Sciences, Law and all business enterprises.

Those who wish to apply for Art Foundation courses and Art degree Courses at Art School should compile a portfolio of work as part of their course.

art

Teaching Staff: M.G. Noone (Head of Department), J.L. Ekers & N.C. Lister
Examination Board: OCR

Why choose this subject?

Possibly to get into higher education or to pursue a particular career, but above all because you are interested in studying this challenging, innovative, practical science and because you enjoy it. Pupils who have previously studied Biology as part of a co-ordinated, integrated or combined science course or as a separate science at GCSE are equally acceptable as A level candidates but they should be aware that they are likely to find the course difficult unless they have achieved a B grade (BB) or above at GCSE.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Biology is most frequently combined with one or more of the following: Chemistry, Physical Education, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology and Geography. However, other combinations are possible, although some candidates will find parts of the course very taxing when studied without the support of at least one other science. Candidates hoping to take a degree in biological sciences would normally be expected to have studied Chemistry at A Level, and Mathematics is often helpful too.

What do we expect from candidates?

Enthusiasm, hard work, determination, initiative and willingness to complete work set and submit it on time. Wider reading around the subject and participation in related extracurricular activities are essential for all those who are biologists at heart!

The nature of the course

The new syllabus being followed is that of the OCR Exam Board. The AS course in the Lower Sixth year consists of two theory units which are assessed by two written exams taking 1 hour and 1 hour 45 mins (worth 30% and 50% respectively). There is also one internally marked and externally moderated practical assessment (20%). As in previous years, great emphasis is placed on Biology being a practical subject, and the relevant practical work is carried out as the course progresses. Since the A2 work is more demanding, it is envisaged that at least a C grade in the AS course would be expected if a candidate is to cope with and pass the A2 modules.

At the end of the L6th year all AS Biology pupils will go on a three-day field course for which there will be an all-inclusive charge of around £200.

The A2 course, which is followed in the Upper Sixth consists of two theory units and one practical unit which are assessed in the same manner as the AS units. In common with most modular courses, it is possible to resit a unit exam, and the highest mark obtained counts towards the relevant award at AS or A level. Resit papers may be taken in January or June. However, it should be noted that the most competitive universities look increasingly favourably on candidates who get a high mark first time.

Higher Education and Careers

While it is accepted that many students will not yet have made firm decisions about their future careers, the following list shows the variety of job opportunities for which A Level Biology is strongly recommended: Medicine, Biomedical Science, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Horticulture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Scientific Civil Service, Conservation, Environmental Health, the Pharmaceutical, Food, Drink, Agrochemical and Fertiliser Industries, Technical and Medical Sales and Marketing. In addition, there are exciting new opportunities in the expanding fields of Food Science, Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. There will always be a requirement for good biologists. What is needed in today's biologists is a flexibility of approach coupled with the basic skills which will allow them to adapt to changing situations. However, it is also hoped that many pupils will appreciate the wider benefits of their biological education in employment not directly related to their studies.

biology

Teaching Staff: A. L. Cooper (Head of Department), C. D. Stewart, R. J. Thompson
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

Business activity affects us all, whether as consumers, employees, shareholders, savers, borrowers or entrepreneurs. The importance of its influence on our lives is ever-growing and changing. All students, whatever career they choose to pursue, will be affected by what is studied in Business Studies. The subject prepares students for the world of work in general and for a variety of business-related careers or higher education courses. Students are given the opportunity to develop creative and analytical thinking through investigating businesses and markets, analysing business systems, proposing improvements to business activities, investigating the importance of financial forecasting, investigating the external environment and its effects on business and investigating the growing importance of international trading.

With which subjects might it be combined?

The subject could be studied alongside a wide range of other A Level choices. It most naturally complements Geography, Politics and D.T., but would offer variety and work-related skills to any student.

What do we expect from candidates?

This is a demanding and yet accessible A Level subject. It requires a genuine interest in business and the economy, an enquiring mind and the ability to develop analytical arguments based on theory and real world examples. A good standard of written English is of benefit and a sound level of numeracy is highly desirable. These abilities are more important than previous study of business at GCSE Level.

The nature of the course, its content and the method of examination

During the first year two exams are taken, together comprising the AS Level, assessing the study of:

- Developing new business ideas

- Managing the business (finance, people, operations, marketing)

Each exam lasts one-and-a-quarter hours and is based upon stimulus-response and supported multiple choice questions.

In the second year, two more exams are undertaken in order to achieve the full A Level. Each exam lasts one-and-a-half hours and is composed of case study and report writing questions.

The units studied in the second year are:

- International business

- Making business decisions

Higher Education and Careers

The subject offers access to a wide range of higher education courses in business, finance or management and for many courses that have a business or vocational element.

business studies

Teaching Staff: N. E. C. Evans (Head of Department), D. A. Cooper & L.J. Lane
Examination Board: OCR

Why choose this subject?

Chemistry is a core science, a fascinating and diverse subject which stimulates students having a wide range of talents and interests. Chemistry is central to civilized life as we know it. The products of the chemicals industry clothe us, warm us, transport us, restore our health when we are ill, and provide us with the thousands of materials which we use at work and at play. It is a service subject to those hoping to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology and many Biology-based subjects. It is necessary also for those interested in research in Chemistry itself, Molecular Science and in Chemical Engineering. It is valued as an intellectual training for some other groups such as accountants.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Chemistry is most frequently combined with Maths and/or Biology and/or Physics.

What do we expect from candidates?

Whilst it is expected that a pupil starting AS level chemistry will have passed GCSE maths, the maths content of the course is minimal and not overly demanding. Ideally pupils will have studied separate sciences at GCSE and have gained grade A in chemistry. Those offering science and additional science at GCSE would be expected to have A grades and would be disadvantaged with B grades.

The nature of the course

Chemistry OCR (specification A) is followed.

The aims of the course are to encourage students to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Chemistry, and the skills needed for the use of these in new and changing situations;
- develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment;
- be aware of how advances in information technology and instrumentation are used in chemistry;
- appreciate the contributions of chemistry to society and the responsible use of scientific;
- knowledge and evidence;
- sustain and develop their enjoyment of, and interest in, Chemistry.

AS Level

There are three units.

Atoms, Bonds and Groups; Chains; Energy and Resources; Practical Skills in Chemistry 1.

A2 Level

There are three units.

Rings, Polymers and Analysis; Equilibria; Energetics and Elements; Practical Skills in Chemistry 2.

Higher Education and Careers

Most universities offer chemistry both as a main and a joint subject of study. Increasingly, a chemistry degree is in demand in its own right in the medical, dental and veterinary fields, especially for Forensic Science, Pathology, Occupational Science and medical research.

For pupils intending to become doctors, dentists, pharmacists or vets, A Level chemistry is an essential requirement. For Engineering of various types, for Mining and Mineral Science courses and for many Agricultural and related courses, it is advantageous to have studied chemistry at A Level.

chemistry

Teaching Staff T.M. Skevington (Head of Department)
Examination board Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

DT should be chosen if you studied and enjoyed Design & Technology at GCSE (Resistant Materials, Graphic Products or Textile Technology) and are good at practical problem solving, or if you are interested in design or want to follow a career in any form of design. If you will get a good grade and/or it will support your other subjects and help you gain entry to a higher education course, then this subject would be an ideal choice for you.

With which subjects might it be combined?

The majority of students combine Design and Technology with three of the following subjects: Maths, Physics, Art, ICT, Theatre Studies or Business Studies. Other successful combinations have included Biology and Geography.

What do we expect from candidates?

Pupils should have studied a design-based course before. The D&T subjects mentioned above would be ideal. Those choosing to do this subject must be prepared to work hard on the various coursework units that start in the first term and which incorporate a significant amount of ICT including CAD.

The nature of the course

Unit	Term	% AS Weighting	% A2 Weighting
AS			
Portfolio of Creative Skills - Students demonstrate their flair in three sections 1. Investigation, 2. Designing and 3. Making. The work is contained within a single portfolio	Term 1 & 2	60	30
Design and Technology in Practice – 1hr 30min exam covering materials, processes and industrial practices	Term 3	40	20
A2			
Design for the Future - 2hr exam covering modern design and manufacturing practices	Term 3, 4 & 5		20
Commercial Design – Students design and make a solution to a problem they have identified. A final solution is manufactured which is supported by a design folder	Term 6		30

Higher Education and Careers

DT is suitable and recommended in combination with the subjects mentioned above for careers in Design and Engineering. It also suits Agriculture, Architecture, Business Media and Surveying. These are just some of the more obvious broad areas that give a hint of the range of opportunities available. It is also a suitable qualification for many other careers.

design & technology

Teaching Staff: C. V. Atkinson (Head of Department) & E. F. Bradley
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

This is an appropriate course for anyone with an enthusiasm for the practical aspects of drama. It aims to promote an enjoyment of - and interest in - drama and theatre, both for a participant and for an informed audience member. It will extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through drama and theatre, encouraging life-long learning and providing access to drama, theatre and related careers. The subject will provide a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study that broadens experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

With which subjects might it be combined?

This subject can profitably and successfully be combined with English but will fit happily with any subject, provided that the student has some aptitude for drama.

What do we expect from candidates?

In addition to an aptitude for drama it requires a willingness to work as a member of a group and the ability to develop teamwork skills.

The nature of the course

AS units are taken at the end of the first year of study.

Unit 1	Exploration of Drama and Theatre This internally assessed unit requires students to explore two contrasting play texts, chosen by the centre, in a practical and active way. Students are also required to attend a theatre performance and produce a written review of the production.	45% Internally Assessed Unit
Unit 2	Text in Performance This is a practical examination of acting or design skills in a directed performance of a play.	55% Externally Assessed Unit
Unit 3	Exploration of Dramatic Performance This internally assessed unit requires students to create an original piece of theatre	45% Internally Assessed Unit
Unit 4	Theatre text in content This is a written examination (2 hours 30 minutes) in which one play is studied from a director's viewpoint and in which another play is reviewed after a live performance.	55% Externally Assessed Unit

Higher Education and Careers

The course is valuable for those who wish to read Drama and/or English, or any subject in which presentational skills are significant. In addition, its study helps to develop teamwork, confidence and self-expression, all of which are important in many careers.

drama & theatre studies

Teaching Staff: A. L. Cooper (Head of Department) & C. D. Stewart
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

The subject helps to develop a logical, analytical approach to the complex problems arising from economic activity at a personal, business and national level. It encourages an interest in and understanding of current economic issues and institutions.

With which subjects might it be combined?

As a genuine social science, Economics is compatible with both humanities and science A Levels. The most closely related subjects are Maths, History, Politics and Geography.

What do we expect from candidates?

A readiness to keep abreast of economic issues is expected, through reading newspapers and watching news and current affairs programmes. An ability to handle simple calculation, and to express oneself simply but accurately on paper, are vital skills for success in Economics.

The nature of the course,

The AS Level provides a broad overview of both micro and macro economics, covering areas such as:

- how markets work
- why markets fail and the possible policy remedies
- the key measures of economic performance
- the main objectives and instruments of government policy

These topics will be assessed through two papers of 1 hour 30 minutes that includes both data response and multiple choice questions.

The second year of the course, leading to the full A Level, is more specialised and requires more searching analysis and evaluation. Topics for study include:

- the nature of competition and pricing in markets
- the role of international trade and exchange rates
- poverty and inequality in developing countries
- promoting growth and development

Assessment is through two exams: one which last 1 hr 30 minutes and the final unit is 2 hours.

Higher Education and Careers

Economics is without doubt a valued qualification for Higher Education. It is recognised as an 'academic' A Level, indicating skills that combine scientific analysis and the ability to express oneself fluently and effectively on paper. It is particularly relevant to careers in business, finance and the public services.

Can I study both Economics and Business Studies?

This is not really advisable as it narrows your options – some universities are not keen on this combination. In exceptional circumstances it may be allowed.

economics

Teaching Staff: E.E. Moyle (Head of Department), H. J. Alexander, C. V. Atkinson,
E. F. Bradley, E. C. Trigg & R. W. F. Hastings

Examination Board: WJEC

Why choose this subject?

As C. S. Lewis said, 'we read to know we're not alone.' The study of literature allows us to see the world differently and also allows us to connect with the experiences with others, characters perhaps far-removed from our every-day lives. In a more practical sense, the subject offers the opportunity to form and shape arguments, provides us with excellent grounding in our written work and demands that we think carefully about the way language is used to shape meaning and a reader's response.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Subjects which might be found to be particularly compatible with English are History, which can inform our awareness of the context in which texts were written, Modern Languages, which often benefit from the training which we provide in literary criticism, and Theatre Studies, which reminds students that plays are texts for performance.

What do we expect from candidates?

English is not an easy option; it requires a great deal of reading and the painstaking preparation of essays. It is an appropriate choice for anyone who is not lazy and has the sense to question the world around them.

The nature of the course

We cover a wide range of texts, from Chaucer's poetry of the 14th Century to Diane Samuel's *Kindertransport* or Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* (both written in 1993). The course takes in poetry, drama and prose texts, often placing the material in its social, literary and historical contexts. Creative Writing is also a key part of the course, forming part of the AS coursework folder.

The AS and A2 courses are taught though eight periods a week, shared between two teachers. You will be required to write essays, prepare presentations and discuss your ideas in class. We supplement the classroom study of texts, wherever possible, with theatre productions, student conferences, and library sessions.

AS - 2 UNITS	
Unit 1: Poetry and Drama (Post-1900)	Exam (60%)
Unit 2: Prose Study (1800-1945) and Creative Reading	Coursework (40%)
A2 - 2 UNITS	
Unit 3: Period and Genre Study	Coursework (40%)
Unit 4: Poetry and Drama (Shakespeare and Related Drama)	Exam (60%)

Higher Education and careers

It should be made clear that English is not to be discarded, either at A Level or as a degree subject, on the mistaken assumption that it will not qualify you for a job. Approximately half of the graduates of Britain's universities have Arts degrees, and such people are readily employed in all walks of business and professional life. A Level Literature is suitable for many professions: Teaching, Creative Writing, Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations and Marketing

english literature

Teaching Staff: N. St. J. D. Pigott (Head of Department), Dr C. E. Evans, E. C. Hicks & N. R. A. Patrick
Examination Board: AQA

Why choose the subject?

Whether you are walking the dog, watching the television or lying on an exotic foreign beach, Geography is always around you and it addresses some of the major issues of the day, from global warming to planning for additional housing.

The considerable range of topics covered, encompassing both the Humanities and the Sciences, is one reason for the popularity of the subject. A whole range of resources is used: slides, census data, satellite images, etc. Pupils are encouraged to find out for themselves and a particular emphasis is placed on fieldwork.

Geography also teaches a wide variety of essential skills. Candidates learn to solve problems, present arguments and write reports. They research issues, analyse data, and use a wide range of ICT skills.

With which subjects might it be combined?

There is some advantage as far as content is concerned in combining A Level Geography with Biology, Business Studies or Economics. Such subjects as History and English also develop similar skills.

What do we expect from candidates?

The most important requirement is an enthusiasm for the subject. Willingness to enter into discussion is immensely helpful whilst commitment to conscientious reading and written work is clearly essential. Candidates attend a five-day field course in South Wales in October in the Lower Sixth, a stimulating and enjoyable experience, as previous participants will confirm.

The nature of the course

In the Lower Sixth the candidates prepare for three AS modules. Each is tested with short answers to structured questions based on a resource such as a map or graph. The Physical Geography module covers such topics as rivers and coasts while the Human Geography module considers population and food issues. The third module targets graphical skills from data collection techniques to computerised map drawing.

In the Upper Sixth a more analytical approach is taken to the subject. It is largely tested by extended essays, and so coaching in essay-writing skills forms an important part of the A2 courses. The topics covered embrace both Human and Physical Geography and specifically target the interaction between the two. Thus the Urban Issues include pollution and Hazards covers planning for earthquakes. A project of 2,500 words on a subject entirely of the candidate's choice is also produced in the Upper Sixth, largely in lesson time.

Higher Education and Careers

A Geography A Level is, of course, highly desirable for candidates seeking to study Geography at University. It will also be advantageous for such courses as Environmental Science, Agriculture and Leisure Management.

There are a remarkable number of careers which involve Geography: town planning, environmental agencies, marketing and leisure management and the production of computerised maps of many kinds. Most of those who study Geography, however, will choose careers in finance, management or some other unrelated area. The wide range of skills acquired in the subject, together with the overall 'roundedness' of the student, will always be an attraction to a potential employer.

geography

Teaching Staff: T. W. Tuthill (Head of Department)
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live, about who should get what and about who should make decisions.

The main reason for taking the AS and A Level courses in Government and Politics is likely to be a genuine interest in modern day politics. The subject will appeal to those who enjoy discussing and debating current affairs and will both broaden and deepen pupils' understanding of political events, issues and institutions. The course will also serve to develop the skills required to communicate effectively and to argue a case with relevance, clarity and coherence. Above all, Government and Politics makes an excellent choice of subject because it is challenging and absorbing, whilst at the same time relevant and accessible.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Government and Politics goes well with any combination of subjects, serving as it does to broaden and enrich the curriculum. It has clear links with subjects such as History and Economics, whilst demanding similar skills of self-expression and analysis to a subject such as English. At the same time, adding Government and Politics to a choice of science or modern language subjects adds valuable diversity.

What do we expect from candidates?

It is important that candidates have lively and enquiring minds, an interest in politics and current affairs, a desire to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate their ideas effectively.

The nature of the course

The AS Level provides broad coverage of the politics of the United Kingdom, including its local, national and European dimensions. It considers:

- the central ideas of citizenship, democracy and participation
- the role of elections, parties and pressure groups in the UK
- the major institutions of UK government and their effectiveness
- the key issues affecting the development of the UK political system and the desirability of constitutional change.

From September 2008, candidates will be prepared for two AS papers. Those wishing to continue the subject in the Upper Sixth will sit an additional two papers.

The second year of the course develops a deeper understanding of aspects of the subject, broadening out to a comparative study of the politics and government of the USA. It examines:

- the adequacy of US elections, parties and pressure groups in terms of popular participation and full democracy
- the institutions of US government and the interrelationship between its legislative, executive and judicial processes.
- the similarities and contrasts between the UK and US political systems, drawing together the understanding developed in the rest of the course.

The two A2 units are assessed through a combination of short-answer and essay questions, providing the second 50% of the full A Level qualification.

Higher Education and Careers

Government and Politics is a recognised and valued qualification for Higher Education, indicating an ability to analyse, evaluate and communicate effectively. It is a valuable foundation for a career in law, business or public service.

government & politics

Teaching Staff: T. I. Hatton (Head of Department) & S. J. Batten
Examination Board: AQA

Why choose this subject?

There are three main reasons. History is an appropriate subject for anyone who is interested in studying the past for its own sake or in finding out what influence the past has had on the present. It is a useful training in the skills of argument, critical judgement, assessment and summary. It is an accessible area of study because it is jargon-free.

With which subjects might it be combined?

History is both an Arts/Humanity and a Social Science subject, and so it combines well with Languages, Politics, Economics and Geography. But its methodology involves the sort of logical and objective analysis (aka the scientific method) which characterises most subjects, and so it would not be out of place in any combination.

What do we expect from candidates?

Sensitivity to language, an interest in ideas and the ability to argue sensibly are the main requirements. There is no major difference between GCSE History and AS or A2 in terms of the necessary skills, and so anyone who can cope with GCSE History can manage the A Level. But it can also be started without a GCSE background.

The nature of the course

We study C17th - 18th European History and Tudor (English) History. The Examination tests factual knowledge, historiographical interpretation and the assessment of original sources/documents mainly through short- or paragraph-answers and, later, essays.

AS Level (taken at the end of the Lower Sixth)

Unit 1	Britain 1483 - 1529	Examination 1 hour 15 minutes
Unit 2	Russia 1682 - 1725	Examination 1 hour 30 minutes

A Level (taken at the end of the Upper Sixth)

Unit 3	France 1743 - 1789	Examination 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 4	Tudor Rebellions	Coursework Essay

Higher Education and Careers

History is a popular degree course. A Level History is also a useful preparation for Law, History of Art, Politics, Philosophy and Psychology. Employment rates are very good for History graduates in all areas of commerce, administration and education.

history

Teaching Staff: P. Schonken (Head of Department)
Examination Board: OCR

Why choose this subject?

Computers are transforming the way in which we learn, communicate, do business, enjoy our leisure and live our everyday lives. Whatever career you pursue, knowledge of computer skills and concepts is likely to be beneficial or even essential.

What do we expect from candidates?

The syllabus requires both personal commitment and the ability to solve, often quite complex, problems. The coursework will require pupils to spend a good deal of their time using the School's computer network and their laptops whilst they are not being directly supervised. There are no prior academic requirements and the subject would be of use to all pupils. There is an aspect of programming involved in the coursework element, but this is taught with the assumption all pupils are new to the course.

The nature of the course

The syllabus is modular, with two of the four modules being examined solely through coursework while the other two involve written theory papers.

AS Level Modules

At AS, the two units are concerned with applying ICT to solve problems and the study of the opportunities for and affects of using ICT in the world today. Pupils will have the opportunity to put into practice a wide range of software and hardware to create solutions to solve problems.

Unit 1: Information, Systems and Applications

Unit 2: Structured ICT Tasks

The approach to the teaching and learning for Units 1 and 2 is aimed to produce developers of ICT solutions rather than just users of ICT. Pupils learn how a given ICT solution achieves a given end result and why the solution is the most appropriate. Knowledge is at an operational level rather than managerial or strategic.

A2 Level Modules

At A2, pupils will study the concepts associated with the use of ICT in the 21st century. They will also have opportunities for acquiring skills needed in the IT profession such as co-operative working and project management. These practical skills can be developed in areas of ICT that are of interest to them. Pupils can also use these newly acquired skills as a springboard into other qualifications and working environments.

Unit 3: ICT Systems, Applications and Implications

Unit 4: ICT Project

The approach to the teaching and learning for Units 3 and 4 is aimed to create understanding similar with a competent user of ICT or manager rather than a programmer or technician. Much of the work on communications and networks is based initially on experience of the school network and codes of practice.

Higher Education and Careers

Information and Communications Technology skills are very valuable in the job marketplace. As an ICT specialist, graduates could be involved in applications in, for example, business, finance, manufacturing or the media. With the explosion of interest in the Internet and multimedia techniques supplementing the existing high demand for people with skills in software design, networking and client/server technology, the future for graduates with the appropriate qualifications is extremely bright.

Teaching Staff: J. F. Berry (Head of Department), D. R. Best, M. J. M. Moir & A. M. Goldsmith
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

The mental powers which the study of mathematics is intended to promote, such as abstract logical reasoning, analysis and synthesis, and above all, clarity of thought and expression, make Mathematics a suitable subject for the student who wishes to take a broad rather than specialised A Level course, whatever the other subjects chosen may be.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Traditionally, Mathematics as an A Level subject has been most often combined with Physics and Chemistry, but now most students choose to combine it with any subject.

What do we expect from candidates?

Mathematics is a popular Sixth Form subject, both nationally and at Bloxham. However, it is not advisable for the student who finds the subject difficult, to embark on the A2 or AS Level course. Although determination and hard work can play a large part in achieving success, a measure of mathematical ability is essential. As a rule, a pupil should have achieved an A grade or better at GCSE.

The nature of the course

The course develops and extends the methods introduced at GCSE Higher Level. After starting with a thorough revision and extension of the basic algebraic techniques, the Edexcel Specification is followed. This is both versatile and flexible. Each unit represents one sixth of an A Level and is examined by a written paper (90 minutes). There are various possibilities:

- The successful completion of three units at the end of the Lower Sixth year leads to an AS Level.
- In order to gain A Level Mathematics, six units must be taken: four in Pure Mathematics and two in Applied Mathematics, either mechanics or statistics. Three units are taken at the end of the Lower Sixth year and three at the end of the Upper Sixth year.
- Pupils in the top set take twelve units in total and this leads to A Levels in both *Mathematics* and *Further Mathematics* at the end of the Upper Sixth year.

Higher Education and Careers

A Mathematics A or AS Level is a very useful and, in many cases, an essential qualification in a wide variety of careers and degrees. For the scientist, the study of Mathematics beyond GCSE Level remains highly desirable, and the undergraduate scientist who does not have an understanding of the Mathematics specification finds this a considerable disadvantage when embarking on a university course.

mathematics

Teaching Staff: French D. F. McLellan (Head of Department), G. P. Cruden & C. M. McCaffrey
German B. M. Whitehead
Spanish M. P. Chaparro-Rincon

Examination Board: AQA

Why choose to study a Modern Language?

If pupils are considering continuing their language studies they should in the first instance enjoy communicating with people and feel the need to improve their competence from the purely functional language of GCSE to the more interesting and challenging language of opinion, argument and explanation.

With which subjects might it be combined?

The study of French, French and German or French and Spanish can be usefully combined with any subject at A Level.

What do we expect from candidates?

The courses are designed to lead pupils to a greater competence without allowing them to feel overwhelmed or lost in the first few weeks. However, they must be prepared to work hard, to be enthusiastic and to make use of the varied opportunities which are offered to them during the course, whether it be a trip to Paris for four days for a series of lectures and seminars in French, a French/Spanish/German exchange, acting in a play in the target language, or watching the news on the department's satellite system during the lunch hour. Almost all business within the department is conducted in the target language and they must be willing at least to try to speak the foreign language at all times in the classroom.

The nature of the course

The AS comprises two units of assessment. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification, or it may be the first half of a full A Level qualification.

AS Level

Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing	(2 hours)	70% of AS	35% of A Level
Unit 2: Speaking Test	(15 minutes)	30% of AS	15% of A Level

The A Level comprises a further two A2 units of assessment. Taken together with the two AS units, it leads to a full A Level qualification (AS equals 50% of the total marks).

Unit 3: Listening, Reading, Writing	(2 hours 30 minutes)	35% of A Level
Unit 4: Speaking Test	(15 minutes)	15% of A Level

Higher Education and Careers

With unemployment rates among language graduates the third lowest of any discipline (only Law and Teacher Training have a better record), it is obvious that language skills are regarded increasingly by employers as useful, not to say essential, in many fields.

modern languages
french, german & spanish

Teaching Staff: R. J. Longman (Head of Department), D. K. Jordan and visiting instrumental specialists
Examination Board: OCR

Why choose this subject?

Students should choose this subject because they have a love of music. It is an obvious choice for young musicians who wish to develop performing, composing and appraising skills and is an active course which employs a healthy combination of coursework and examination. Students learn in a wide variety of styles: with performance classes, workshops, seminars alongside more traditional teaching methods. The wider educational benefits of studying music are well documented.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Music sits comfortably with Arts, Sciences and Humanities and is a qualification which remains highly respected by universities and employers.

What do we expect of candidates

Students must have an overwhelming enthusiasm and passion for music. This is a course which involves daily listening to, performing and composing music and the best students will find this is as much about lifestyle as it is academic study. A performance standard of at least Grade V (or equivalent) on a first instrument is desirable and a similar level of musical theory would be appropriate.

The nature of the course

This course extends the core GCSE Music skills of performing, composing and appraising in ways which emphasise their interdependence. There are no limits on the instruments (or voices) and types of repertoire which may be presented in performance and the study of the widest possible range of music, including folk, popular and classical traditions of non-Western origin as well as those of jazz and Western classical and popular traditions, is encouraged.

PERFORMING is assessed in a recital given to a visiting examiner at both AS and A2 levels. The candidate's involvement in all aspects of their performance is assessed through a viva voce at A2.

COMPOSING is assessed by a portfolio submission at both AS and A2 levels. A choice of compositional tasks are available.

LISTENING and ANALYSING is assessed by an examination which includes structured questions on aural and written extracts and two further essay questions.

Higher Education and Careers

Students are well-prepared to read Music at university and pursue music-based careers. The essential skills developed in the study of this subject provide a solid base for the study of both academically rigorous and creative degree courses.

music

Teaching Staff: J. Seagroatt
Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this subject?

Technology plays a key role in music across the world. This course is designed to allow pupils to study music through technology. It recognises technology in music as a way of music making in its own right that requires a high level of skills acquisition and application, as well as a high level of knowledge and understanding. Students will also develop an in-depth, contextual understanding of the impact of technology on a range of music in the 20th century.

Music technology involves much practical work and encourages the cultivation of a wide range of skills. Success in music technology depends upon the development and application of high-level sequential reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as the ability to make creative judgements within a fast-changing matrix of options.

During the course pupils will learn to record live instruments and voices, and they will use a range of professional level equipment including microphones, mixing desks, computer-based recording and audio processing systems and synthesis, sampling and sequencer programs.

What do we expect from candidates?

Primarily: enthusiasm, commitment and a lively, enquiring attitude to all aspects of the digital world. Though there are no formal entry requirements for music technology A level, it would be useful if pupils have either passed GCSE music and / or have the ability to perform on an instrument or voice. Turntablists and DJs are welcome on the course, but they would benefit from also having the conventional musical skills outlined above.

Students who have performing ability may wish to take this course alongside AS Music or other performance related subjects. It is a useful course too if combined with IT / Computer Studies. Keen performers and composers, who want to develop their recording and arranging skills, can also benefit from following this course.

The nature of the course

The course comprises 4 units (2 at AS Level and 2 A2 Level) each of which is underpinned by three Areas of Study: the principles and practice of music technology; popular music style since 1910; and, the development of technology-based music.

AS students will produce an audio CD called 'Music Technology Portfolio 1', containing three tracks of work. They will also present a logbook of their work. The tracks will be a sequenced realised performance; a multi-track recording with at least eight live tracks and between two and four minutes long; and, a creative sequenced arrangement (based on a stimulus supplied by Edexcel.) There is also a listening examination, which will assess knowledge of Areas of Study 1 and 2.

A2 students will also produce an audio CD called 'Music Technology Portfolio 2', again containing three tracks of work. They will also present a logbook of their work. The tracks will be a sequenced integrated performance, requiring the integration of MIDI and live audio tracks; a multi-track recording which has between 12 and 24 live tracks and include both close-mic and direct-inject capture of sound (the student will be expected to spend half of their task time mixing the tracks properly using an appropriate range of signal processors and extensive mix automation); and a composition using music technology, based on a prescribed brief set by Edexcel. Finally, an examination will test students' musical understanding, their ability to manipulate and correct recorded music and their ability to write commentaries on technological processes, and also includes a practical test involving the production of a balanced stereo mix from a series of supplied music files.

Higher Education and Careers

A level music technology is accepted for full credit for entrance to higher education, and there are many career possibilities for those proficient in handling music technology. As the music industry continues to expand across the globe, both physically and digitally, it creates many employment opportunities in areas such as film, advertising & commercial music commissions, DJ, producer & studio work, library & production music, sound-reinforcement management, teaching, publishing and web & game content development.

music technology

Teaching Staff: C. Newbould (Head of Department), G. A. Stindt & G. T. Barbour
Examination Board: OCR Advancing Physics B

Why choose this subject?

The AS course will provide a satisfying experience for the student who chooses to take it as part of a broad post 16 curriculum. At the same time it will provide a sound foundation for the second year A Level examinations. There will be opportunities to: develop practical skills; practice data-handling skills; increase understanding of the part that mathematics plays in physics; use imagination; place physics in a social or historical context and argue about issues that arise; be rewarded for initiative and interest in learning; use information and communication technology.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Physics is often and successfully combined with Maths, DT and other sciences.

What do we expect from candidates?

The course will be best suited to those who have a grade B or higher in GCSE (Core and Additional Science) or (Physics) and GCSE Maths. A willingness to work independently, together with a healthy curiosity will be essential attributes.

The nature of the course

The AS course in the Lower Sixth forms 50% of the assessment weighting of the full A Level course, and is in two parts, each part being further divided into two sections. The internally assessed coursework is carried out as an integral part of this work.

Physics in Action provides a graduated path from GCSE into AS Level, showing a wide variety of ways in which physics is currently being put to use through communication and designer materials.

Understanding Processes is organised around different ways of understanding processes of change, the focus is on 'curiosity-driven' physics. 'Waves and Quanta' is mainly about superposition phenomena of waves with a brief account of the quantum behaviour of photons. Space and time develops classical mechanics, including vectors and introduces some modern cosmology.

Physics in Practice is the assessed component. This involves an experimental measurement task and a presentation task based on a specific material.

The first two parts of the A2 course are again each in two sections, and they deliver the new physics in the second year. The two internally assessed coursework elements are less closely tied to the content of the course, allowing students to choose their own context for further study.

Rise and fall of the Clockwork Universe develops the grand conception of the world as a mathematical machine, which transformed western culture. But we will show some of its limits too. It deals with models, rules and the extreme states of matter.

Field and particle pictures introduce the modern picture of fields and particle interactions as fundamental mechanisms of nature.

Researching Physics is the assessed component of the A2 course and allows students to apply their acquired skills to wide areas of interest. It involves a practical investigation and a research brief.

Higher Education and Careers

The full A Level qualification will enable the student to go on to degree level studies at University, particularly in physics and engineering. It also provides a stimulating experience and sound background for the student who wishes to pursue other career avenues but need to demonstrate an ability to cope with the range of skills and academic rigour demanded by the subject.

physics

Teaching Staff: D.A. Dales (Head of Department), J. P. Horton, J. H. White, R. S. Pyper
Examination Board: OCR

Why choose the subject?

This challenging course provides opportunities for the student to study a wide range of aspects of Physical Education, from the science of human movement to the impact of politics on sport. The course combines a good balance of practical and theoretical work. The scientific element of the course is physiology and so candidates should possess a sound background in Biology at GCSE. Principally students should have a genuine interest in physical activity.

It will appeal to those who have a keen interest in sport and recreation and those who want to develop their understanding through rigorous academic learning and practical involvement.

With what subjects might it be combined?

Physical Education is a particularly diverse subject and therefore it sits well with many other subjects. Business Studies, Politics and Biology are the more obvious choices, but Music and Art require similar levels of self-expression.

What do we expect from candidates?

- A lively and enquiring mind and the ability to communicate ideas effectively both verbally and on paper.
- An interest in physical education and sport.
- A willingness to explore new ideas.

The nature of the course

The course covers a wide and diverse range of topics over the 2-year period and students are assessed orally, via examinations and through practical performance.

The AS course consists of two units which cover 4 major areas:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Acquiring Movement Skills
- Socio-Cultural Studies relating to participation in physical activity
- Acquiring, developing and evaluating practical skills in Physical Education

For the full Advanced GCE award candidates must also take two further units which cover the following areas:

- Historical Studies
- Comparative Studies
- Exercise and Sport Physiology
- The Improvement of effective performance and the critical evaluation of practical activities in Physical Education.

Higher Education and Careers

The study of Physical Education is good preparation for higher education courses and careers in PE, Teaching, Recreation/Sport and Leisure Management, Marketing, Sports Development, Coaching, Sports Science, Journalism, Sports Product Design, Physiotherapy and Sports Therapy.

physical education

Teaching Staff: D. A. Cooper (Head of Department), T. I. Hatton and M. G. Noone
Examination Board: AQA Specification A

Why choose this subject?

Have you ever wondered whether you were born with your personality? Whether aggressive behaviour can be eliminated in society? Why we soon forget facts we have memorised for a test? These, and many other questions about all aspects of human behaviour and experience, are studied by psychologists. Sometimes the answers are obvious, sometimes not and psychologists often disagree as to the correct explanation for a type of behaviour. If you choose this course then you will find out a great deal about yourself – about the ways you think, feel and behave, and about your interactions with other people. It is not always comfortable looking at human behaviour but it is interesting, stimulating and a great deal of fun.

With which subjects might it be combined?

Psychology can be successfully combined with any combination of other subjects – it sits equally well with arts or science subjects.

What do we expect from candidates?

It is important that the demands of this course are not underestimated – indeed B grades in GCSE Maths, English and Science are a minimum entrance requirement. A consistently high level of effort is required to complete the AS and A2 Psychology qualifications successfully.

The nature of the course

The main aim of this course is to provide a general introduction to theory, research and applications in psychology. Topic areas within the syllabus are tackled in a variety of ways and students will experience a variety of teaching and learning styles. These will include discussion work, computer activities, experimental and observation work, class teaching and individual support. Pupils will also be encouraged to research and present their own ideas on particular issues, discuss the role of psychology in understanding controversial areas such as racism, and critically evaluate published research papers.

The AS qualification consists of two units:

Unit 1: Cognitive Psychology, including memory and eyewitness testimony;

Developmental psychology, including early social development, attachment and the effects of day care;

Research methods, in the context of the topic areas.

Unit 2: Biological psychology, including stress, factors affecting stress, coping with stress and

managing stress; Social psychology, including majority and minority influence, obedience and independent behaviour;

Individual differences, including definitions of abnormality, approaches and therapies.

The A2 qualification consists of two additional units:

Unit 3: Topics in Psychology including Perception, Relationships, Eating behaviour, Intelligence and learning, and Cognition and development.

Unit 4: Psychopathology, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder; Psychology in Action, the psychology of addictive behaviour and anomalous psychology;

Research Methods including inferential statistics and issues in research.

Higher Education and Careers

Psychology is recognised as a valuable qualification in its own right and for University entrance in all subjects. This is because there is hardly a walk of life in which psychology is not useful. The emphasis on normal behaviour gives valuable insights for those working with other people, while the study of abnormal behaviour allows us to be more sensitive to the difficulties which can arise in our own and others' lives. The study of psychology is particularly valued in the caring professions, personnel work, management, the media, law, marketing, teaching and the police force: indeed any 'people' orientated career.

psychology

Teaching Staff: Dr. D.M.M. Herring (Head of Department) and Revd M. G. Price
Examination Board: AQA

Why choose this subject?

This A level course in Religious Studies is a valuable course to undertake in its own right, offering a highly respected, academic discipline relevant to a broad range of career options. It encourages students directly to engage with the biggest questions in life within a religious and philosophical framework. It is a subject whose breadth and fascination are likely to stimulate a real enjoyment in intellectual pursuits, whilst developing critical and analytical skills.

With what subjects might it be combined?

This is a useful subject for students to combine with any others.

What do we expect from candidates?

The course demands an interest in, though not necessarily a personal faith commitment to, the impact of the religion upon human culture and experience, and a desire to explore contemporary as well as historical theological issues. The course will demand a readiness to think clearly and critically, and to analyse and evaluate arguments carefully. It will involve open discussion, research, essay writing and background reading. It will draw on some of the work covered in GCSE Short and Full courses, though can be approached without previous examination in the subject.

The nature of the course, its content and the method of examination.

The Specification was completely revised in 2008, and the new specification is now being taught by all schools. At Bloxham we are prepared to discuss the possible modules with students before the course begins with a view to shaping the course to meet the interests of the pupils. What follows is what we anticipate being the most likely choice of modules:

The AS half of the course has two modules examined in the summer term of the Lower Sixth:

1. AS Unit E: Religion, Art and Media: Study will focus on 3 main areas of study, namely: (i) the nature and purpose of religious art, (ii) Religion, art and popular culture (humour & religion; fiction & religion), (iii) Cyber religion and TV religion. Pupils will engage in critical dialogue with aspects of historical and contemporary culture and religion. They will need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topics under discussion, and to assess the function, value and nature of different media in relation to religion.
2. AS Unit G: New Testament. Study will focus on 4 main areas, namely (i) the Synoptic problem, (ii) parables & miracles (iii) Arrest, trial and death of Jesus (iv) The resurrection of Jesus. Students will study critical approaches to the texts, including form, source, redactional and narrative criticisms. Pupils will need to be able to display knowledge of the topics under discussion, and to assess different biblical interpretations.

The A2 half of the course has two modules examined in the summer term of the Upper Sixth:

3. A2 Unit 3C Religion and Art. Study will focus on four main areas, namely, (i) Iconography in the Orthodox Church, (ii) Protestant art of the Reformation, (iii) Catholic art of the Counter-Reformation, (iv) Pre-Raphaelite religious art. Pupils will need to be able to display knowledge of history, art, culture and religious significance for each topic covered and an ability to assess and evaluate various interpretations of those issues.
4. A2 Unit 4B Topic 2: Religion and Contemporary Society. This module is a synoptic one which will draw upon material from the previous modules, as well as additional new material, to enable candidates to formulate an in-depth study of the nature and role of religion in contemporary society from a number of different perspectives. To broaden this study further we also explore the place of Islam in contemporary British society, alongside an in-depth study of the structure, nature and role of the Church of England.

Higher Education and Careers.

RE offers preparation for a wide range of further studies. Universities welcome both the content and the intellectual rigour that this course offers, and that fact that RE is strongly multi-disciplinary makes it especially valuable to those students planning to study humanities, social sciences, arts or politics.

religious studies

Teaching staff: A. Hickling (Head of Department)
Examination Board: AQA

Why choose this subject?

This would be an ideal subject for anyone who has a keen interest in exploring fabric and fibres within a functional or decorative context. It provides the opportunity to develop a range of artistic skills with a more specialist approach, where success is not dependent on previous Fine Art ability or background. It could include surface pattern, printing and construction of a wide range of products. The course will extend creative development by experiencing a range of ideas, skills, and materials essential to broadening the knowledge and understanding required for textile related careers.

With which subject might it be combined?

This subject blends particularly well with Design and Technology, Theatre Studies and Art, but has also worked well as the only creative subject within an otherwise academic choice of subjects, e.g. sciences.

What do we expect from candidates?

It would be advantageous if pupils had some experience in either Textiles, Design and Technology or Art at GCSE level. They should be prepared to work consistently hard throughout the course and demonstrate a keen interest in the subject, with a willingness to look at the work of other textile artists by visiting galleries and exhibitions.

The nature of the course

AS units: taken at the end of the first year of study.

Unit 1 Coursework Portfolio 50%

Candidates may submit in their portfolio: At least one extended collection of work, or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue which demonstrates the candidate's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. Critical/contextual work which could include written materials such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Candidates are required to submit a final piece or pieces which must be accompanied by preliminary/supporting studies. The sketch book is viewed as a visual diary in which candidates record both visual and text-based observations. It will address all four assessment objectives.

Unit 2 Externally Set Assignment 50%

The test is in two parts: a preparatory period of four weeks for initial research and investigations, followed by a timed 5 hour unaided test when candidates are required to respond to their initial investigations and plan further developments.

A2 units: extend the skills, knowledge and understanding attained in AS.

Unit 3 Personal Investigation 50%

This a practical unit with written elements in which candidates are expected to develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished piece or pieces. Candidates are required to submit a final piece or pieces which must be accompanied by preliminary/supporting studies. The emphasis of this unit should be on self directed study based on a personal issue, interest or concern

Unit 4 Externally Set Assignment 50%

The test is in two parts: a preparatory period of four weeks for initial research and investigations. This is followed by a timed 15 hour unaided test when candidates are required to produce a final realisation.

Higher Education and Careers

It is recommended for students to apply for Art Foundation rather than proceed directly onto a Degree Course from A level. The range of career opportunities available to Textiles students is broad. It can include Theatre, Product Design, Fashion, Textile manufacture/design, Advertising and Teaching.

textiles

PREPARATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION/CAREERS

Almost all Sixth Form pupils will make an application to higher education, mainly universities. The aim of this course is to introduce them to the huge variety of institutions and degree subjects available. We shall prepare a draft application so that we can submit a UCAS form as early as possible in the Upper Sixth year. Part of the course will be devoted to consideration of the financial implications of university life. For those who are not intending university the course will offer information on alternative destinations including Art Foundation, years abroad and careers. A Personal Statement/Curriculum Vitae will also be written for general use in educational or job applications.



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