



*'Encourage, support, inspire'*

# St Benedict's Catholic High School

## Sixth Form

### **COURSE GUIDE**

September 2022

 **BTEC**

**A LEVELS**



St Benedict's Catholic High School Sixth Form  
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## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please read through this Course Guide and then select **three** subjects you wish to study in preference order. Please also choose **one** reserve subject.

The Extended Project Qualification is taken in addition to the 3 subjects.

Apply online via the Sixth Form page of our school website:  
[www.st-benedicts.org/sixthform](http://www.st-benedicts.org/sixthform)

Should you require more information or have any queries, please contact the Sixth Form office on 01789 762888 or email: [sbe-sixthform@sbe.magnificat.org.uk](mailto:sbe-sixthform@sbe.magnificat.org.uk)

## OPTIONS

Please select **three** subjects, plus a reserve:

A Level subjects:

- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Core Maths
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Philosophy & Ethics
- History
- Geography
- Sociology

Applied subjects:

- Business
- Criminology
- Health & Social Care
- Sport
- Law

**Please note** - if there is insufficient demand the school reserves the right to withdraw a course.



## POST 16 GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A level programme: A minimum of five 9-5 GCSE grades
- Mixed programme: A minimum of five 9-4 GCSE grades
- Vocational programme: A minimum of four 9-4 GCSE grades

Please see the individual requirements for each subject:

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Specific requirements:</b>
Art & Design	Grade 5 in the subject/evidenced aptitude
Biology	Grade 6/6 in Science GCSEs Grade 5 in English Language & Mathematics
Business	Grades 9-4 x5
Chemistry	Grade 6/6 in Science GCSEs Grade 5 in English Language & Mathematics
AS Core Mathematics	Grade 5 in Maths/ additional study option with three other L3 subjects.
Criminology	Grades 9-4 x5
English Literature	Grade 5 in Literature or Language
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in the subject
Geography	Grade 5 in Maths/English or Geography
Health and Social Care	Grades 9-4 x5
History	Grade 5 in Maths/English or History
Law	Grades 9-4 x5
Mathematics	Grade 6 in the subject
Physics	Grade 6/6 in Science GCSEs Grade 6 in English Language & Mathematics
Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 5 in English Language or RE
Psychology	Grade 6 in Maths/English or Science
Sociology	Grade 5 in Maths/ English or Science
Sport	Grades 9-4 x5

- In cases where a GCSE grade is required in the subject and the student has not previously studied the subject, the decision to admit is at the discretion of the Head of Sixth Form.
- If group sizes are not viable the school reserves the right not to offer the course.
- If certain subjects become oversubscribed, admission will default to rank order of grades at GCSE.
- If you need further information and guidance advice, please contact our MAC Careers Lead at [kclatt@magnificat.org](mailto:kclatt@magnificat.org)



# ENGLISH LITERATURE - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

The English Literature course will allow you to explore and study a range of writers from different time periods, cultures and backgrounds. You will study all three genres of novels, poetry and drama considering how these texts were written and received.

## How will you do it?

Throughout the entirety of the English Literature course you will study a total of three units. These comprise two examination units (which make up 80% of your overall English Literature grade) and a non-examination unit (which makes up 20% of your overall English Literature grade.) The course will build upon the skills that you have established at GCSE English Language and Literature but it will afford you the chance to begin to develop your own interpretations of the texts you study.

## How will you be assessed?

### Paper 1: 'Love Through the Ages'

In this unit you will study three texts: one poetry and one prose, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. The examination will be worth 40% of your qualification and will include three different sections. The set texts that we have chosen as a department are Shakespeare's 'Othello,' 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald and the 'Pre-1900 Poetry Anthology.'

### Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

In this unit we have chosen to focus on the option of: 'Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day.' In this unit you will study three different texts: one prose, one poetry and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. The examination will be worth 40% of your qualification and will include two different sections. The set texts that we have chosen are: 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill, 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett and Seamus Heaney 'New Selected Poems.'

### Non-exam assessment: Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time

In your non-examination assessment you are required to write 2500 word comparative critical study of two texts. The rationale is 'Texts across time' to provide you with a challenging and comprehensive opportunity for independent study. In the unit you must approach your critical study with a focus on exploring one of a range of key themes which could include the struggle for identity, crime and punishment or war and conflict. This is worth 20% of your qualification.

## What is your commitment as a learner?

In order to be successful it is essential that you are willing to read and engage in the process of reading literature. Furthermore, those who engage with different critical interpretations of the set text are likely to achieve higher grades so it is also integral that you are willing and capable to research the set texts and academic writings around these.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

There is an element of independence, particularly in the Independent critical study. This study emphasises the central idea that, within a Literature course, you should have the opportunity to work independently and this unit allows you to explore areas of English Literature that interest you most.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

English Literature is recognised as an academic subject. This course will allow you to develop your ability to communicate effectively, analyse closely and research independently. These are all skills that are greatly desired by both employers and universities. The course will ensure that you are well prepared to study English Literature at degree level and, subsequently, English graduates are qualified to enter a range of careers: teaching, writing, advertising, publishing, journalism and many more. The course is also viewed favourably by many other essay-based degree courses.



# MATHEMATICS - A Level (Edexcel)

## What will you do?

During this course you will learn to extend your knowledge of algebra and geometry from GCSE and explore the ways in which mathematics can be applied in the real world. Areas which you will cover include:

- New topics such as coordinate geometry, series, differentiation and integration, all of which are highly algebraic and are an excellent introduction to maths at a higher level
- Branching further into core maths with topics such as logarithms and exponentials, radian measures and higher-level trigonometry
- More complex pure maths including trigonometric proofs, further differentiation and integration as well as numerical methods for finding solutions
- Further and more complex work on coordinate geometry as well as vectors in 3D. Lots of the maths studied in earlier core modules is linked together here
- Mechanics and Statistics: this applied paper introduces students to mathematical modelling of everyday experiences, like driving a car, throwing a ball up in the air, walking across a bridge and playing snooker. In order to be successful in this area you need to be able to visualise a situation and simplify the forces acting on different parts of it. You will have a better understanding of how the physical world operates and how to use maths to predict what will happen next following this module. Using statistics, you will also get to: interpret measures of central tendency and variation, extending to standard deviation, understand and use simple, discrete probability distributions (calculation of mean and variance of discrete random variables is excluded), including the binomial distribution, as a model, calculating probabilities using the binomial distribution and use the Normal distribution as a model, finding probabilities using the Normal distribution.

## How will you do it?

You will be taught the material in class in a variety of ways and then be expected to practise the skills independently. You will regularly be assessed through topic assessments and end of term assessments, these will be used by your teacher to help support you.

## How will you be assessed?

All of the A Level content will be examined at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (2 hours, answer all questions, 100 marks)

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (2 hours, answer all questions, 100 marks)

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (2 hours, answer all questions, 100 marks)

## What is your commitment as a learner?

It will be a challenge. You will need to accept that you are going to get things wrong. You will need to go and ask for help. This will probably be a new feeling after having understood everything at GCSE. There will be times when you might sit for ages trying to fathom the seemingly unfathomable. Then it clicks, you see your way through; a wonderful feeling.

You must be committed to attend all lessons, work independently as well as part of a group. There will be about 2 hours of homework each week and you will also be expected to read around the topics and familiarise yourself with any presumed knowledge.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

Maths is a cumulative subject; it builds upon itself. Maths may come easy to you but the good grades come from constant practice, reinforcement and trying the past paper questions. But it's a lovely feeling knowing there is nothing they can ask you that you don't know how to do.

You will be expected to be fully equipped with the standard mathematical instruments and you will have to purchase a graphical calculator (approx. £75).

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Maths has wide applications in industry, business, finance, social sciences, science, technology and many other areas. Maths qualifications can help you towards a large range of future careers. It is also a useful support for many university courses that increasingly can involve statistics modules.



# CORE MATHEMATICS - Level 3 (Edexcel)

## What will you do?

The Core Maths qualification takes some concepts from GCSE Mathematics, like sequences, probability and statistics. It extends your understanding and supports the Mathematical content of other subjects.

Applications of Statistics – content includes:

Spearman's Rank, Linear Regression, Product Moment Correlation, Variance and Standard Deviation

Probability – content includes:

Using Venn diagrams and set notation, Conditional probability, risk

Linear Programming – content includes:

Graphical solutions

Sequences and Growth – content includes:

Graphing exponential and reciprocal functions, Gradients of curves (not differentiation), Quadratic and Fibonacci sequences, APs and GPs (terms and sums)

## How will you do it?

You will be taught the material in class in a variety of ways and then be expected to practise the skills independently. You will regularly be assessed through topic assessments and end of term assessments.

## How will you be assessed?

All of the content will be examined at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Comprehension (1h 40 mins, 40% of total)

Paper 2: Applications (1h 40mins, 60% of total)

## What is your commitment as a learner?

As well as working in lessons there will be an expectation of completing homework, whilst there is no formal algebra or calculus in the course, some aspects are likely to prove challenging. You must be prepared to get things wrong, and willing to seek help in order to put them right. You must be committed to attend all lessons, work independently as well as part of a group. There will be about 2 hours of homework each week and you will also be expected to read around the topics and familiarise yourself with any presumed knowledge.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

The Level 3 Core Maths qualification is aimed at those students who achieved a grade 4 or above in their GCSE Maths qualification. The course carries the same UCAS tariff as an AS-Level and Grades A-E can be awarded.

You will be expected to be fully equipped with the standard mathematical instruments and you will have to purchase a graphical calculator (approx. £85). This calculator can be used in both of the exams at the end of the course.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

This Maths qualification will support the use of Mathematics in a range of A-Levels and Undergraduate courses. Degrees such as Biology, Geography and Business Studies all expect a high level of mathematical competency that can be supported by studying Core Maths.





# ART AND DESIGN - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

The course encompasses a variety of different material areas of which there are six;

1. Art, craft and design
2. Fine art
3. Graphic communication
4. Textile design
5. Three-dimensional design
6. Photography

The decision on the direction of the course will be determined on the skill set and desire of those deciding to study Art and Design. Whatever the decision the teaching of the course does not change. The course is divided into two components; component 1 personal investigation which is a practical investigation supported by written material being informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practise of artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople. Component 2 externally set assignment consisting of a preparatory period from 1 February followed by a 15 hour supervised time with a finished outcome related to the outcomes of the preparatory work.

## How will you be assessed?

### Component 1: Personal investigation

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of A-level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) are set and marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit to the school.

Practical investigation supported by written material of between 1000 and 3000 words.

### Component 2: Externally set assignment

- Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set by AQA< marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit to the school.

In the 15 hours a finished outcome must be produced or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by the preparatory work.

## What is your commitment as a learner?

Students require the inspiration and motivation to drive their work forward in their own independent style with the support of the class teacher. Work for component one will be explored and developed during lesson time and extended during home learning.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

The decision on the direction of the course will be determined on the skill set and desire of the students taking the subject. As the course is a science, there is a requirement to write essays.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Carrying on to University to study at degree level otherwise an apprenticeship with the broad career prospect of interior designer, art director, fashion designer, product development, user experience designer, graphic designer, multimedia artists



# BIOLOGY - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

Whether you want a career in medicine or industry, biology is a solid platform upon which careers are built.

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. In two years you will get a real in-depth knowledge of this fascinating subject, preparing you for higher education or giving you the credentials to enhance your career options straight away.

## How will you do it?

You will be covering a range of topics including the roles of enzymes, transport of substances in and out of cells, the digestive system and diseases caused by microorganisms.

You will also find out about the variety of living organisms and how variation is influenced by environmental and genetic factors.

You will have the chance to learn investigative and experimental skills in a variety of practical lessons.

## How will you be assessed?

At the end of Year 13 you will have 3 examinations, which together are worth 100% of your A Level. Practical based questions will form 15% of this assessment.

## What is your commitment as a learner?

Students studying Biology should be well-organised and conscientious. Their interest in the field of science and Biology should extend out of the classroom and laboratory. They should also be prepared to read around the subject and take an interest in current research that is published in scientific journals.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

Students should also achieve a grade 6 minimum in the GCSE Biology exam or grade 6 minimum in the GCSE trilogy exam.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biology-related degree course. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching.

So, whatever field you eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.



# CHEMISTRY - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

If you enjoyed Chemistry at GCSE, you will love this course. In two years, that will fly by, you will get a real in-depth knowledge of this fascinating subject, preparing you for higher education or giving you the credentials to enhance your career options straight away.

Chemists have greatly improved the quality of life for the majority of people. You will also find out how chemists are innovators, designing solutions to the problems that affect modern life.

Students with a wide range of interests enjoy the Chemistry course and move on to careers in both medicine and industry.

## How will you do it?

You will be covering a range of topics including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle, periodicity, the halogens, the alkaline earth materials, NMR spectroscopy, organic synthesis, proteins and DNA, isomerism and chromatography.

You will have the chance to learn investigative and experimental skills in a variety of practical lessons.

## How will you be assessed?

At the end of Year 13 you will have three examinations, which together are worth 100% of your A Level. Practical based questions will form 15% of this assessment.

## What is your commitment as a learner?

Students studying Chemistry should be well-organised and conscientious. Their interest in chemistry should extend out of the classroom and laboratory. They should also be prepared to read around the subject and take an interest in current research that is published in scientific journals.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

You should achieve at least a grade 6 on the GCSE Chemistry paper or a grade 6 on the trilogy paper. There may be some scope to accept individuals who achieve a grade 5 on the higher paper.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Chemistry is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions. These include medicine, nursing, biochemistry, dentistry or forensic science. It will also equip you for a career in industry, for example in the petrochemical, pharmaceutical, finance and law sectors. Students who take Chemistry often also study from a wide range of subjects; these can include psychology, sociology, biology, physics, mathematics, applied science, health and social care, and critical thinking.

There are not many subject combinations that you would not be able to fit Chemistry into!



## PHYSICS - A Level (AQA)

### What will you do?

If you gained an interest for physics from the GCSE course, then A level physics is the course for you. In just 2 years you will continue to enhance this interest, gaining an in depth knowledge of this fascinating subject. This can then be the stepping stone to enhance your career opportunities by being able to go onto further education or by opening a career pathway straight into the field. Physics is such an important subject that has been the heart of developing many of the things we use in everyday life, we would welcome more people to study this exciting A level.

### How will you do it?

You will cover a variety of topics previously seen as GCSE, such as electricity, nuclear physics and waves, but studying them at a more complex and detailed level. As well as these topics you will have the opportunity to explore new and exciting extremely relevant topics such as medical physics, astrophysics, electronics and engineering physics. All topics which can open doors to a future career path.

You will have the chance to learn investigative and experimental skills in a variety of practical skills.

### How will you be assessed?

At the end of year 13 you will have 3 examinations, which together are worth 100% of your final grade. Practical based questions will form 15% of this assessment.

### What is your commitment as a learner?

Students studying physics should be well-organised and conscientious. Their interest in physics should extend beyond the classroom and laboratory. They should be prepared to read around the subject and take an interest in current research that is published in scientific journals.

### Is there anything else you need to know?

You will need a minimum of Grade 6,6 in Combined Science GCSE or if you have studied the Sciences separately, Grade 6 in Physics.

### What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

The overall job prospect for people studying physics has always been good. It is such a sort after subject by many employers but a subject not taken by many. Hence, the demand for individuals with a physics background is high. You'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it...), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology and research.



## PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS - A Level (Eduqas)

### What will you do?

The course is designed to enable the student to engage with some key religious issues through ultimate questions and by the very nature of the subject there are opportunities for students to develop their understanding of spiritual, cultural, moral and social issues while making connections between their studies and the wider aspects of human experience.

This is a real opportunity to explore some of the 'big' questions and broaden your world view!

### How will you do it?

The aim of Religious Studies at A Level is to enable students to:

- Develop an interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion, philosophical enquiry and ethical issues
- Develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion, philosophy and ethics
- Use an enquiring, critical and empathetic approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics

### How will you be assessed?

- There will be three component examinations at the end of Year 13
- Each component examination is 2 hours

### What is your commitment as a learner?

In Year 12 and 13 all students must complete the following three key areas of study:

- Philosophy of religion
- Christianity
- Ethics theory and the applied ethics

### Is there anything else you need to know?

Provisional course entry requirements:

As this is an essay based course, you will be required to have a grade 6 in RE and English Language.

### What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Students can gain entry to university for many courses as PRE is highly rated due to the breadth of skills students develop. PRE complements so many other A Level combinations.

Ultimately students can enter a variety of careers including journalism, banking, teaching, law, the civil service, business, social work and the police, to name but a few!



# HISTORY - A Level (Edexcel)

## What will you do?

A Level History at St Benedict's is a modern history course which focusses on the search for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century and a British history element examining poverty, public health and the state in Britain.

### Route F: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century

Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96

Paper 2: South Africa, 1948– 94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'

Paper 3: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939

Coursework: Individual choice from a given question bank

## How will you do it?

The Edexcel History course helps to develop skills of critical analysis, questioning and analysis of interpretations and will therefore be delivered through varied lesson activities and independent learning. As well as varied lessons, students will be expected to work independently, collaboratively in groups, give presentations and develop and lead seminars in order to prepare you for the next stage in your education or career.

## How will you be assessed?

External Examination:

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations [2 hours 15 minutes] - 30%

Paper 2: Depth study [1 hour 30 minutes] - 20%

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth [2 hours 15 minutes] - 30%

Internal Assessment: Coursework - 20%

## What is your commitment as a learner?

A key component to developing the skills of a historian is the ability to research, work independently and maintain your own personal interest in the topics studied with extensive reading. Students will need to keep abreast of political situations and historical thinking by reading relevant magazines, periodicals and newspaper articles. Understanding of the topics should be supported through film, the media and historical visits.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

As the History A Level is an essay-based subject, you will need a Grade 6 in History GCSE.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

A History qualification opens doors to a range of opportunities. History is very practical because it involves: learning about people; learning about countries, societies and cultures; learning to locate facts and create interpretations and present information in a way that makes sense to others. History develops a wide range of skills which are particularly useful in courses and careers in areas such as history, psychology, law, sociology, English, journalism, politics, international relations and many more.



# GEOGRAPHY - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

Geography teaches students about our contemporary world. It occupies a pivotal position in the understanding and interpretation of social, economic, political and environmental conditions and change. This A Level Geography course aims to develop your sense of awe and wonder for physical and human environments. It will challenge your perceptions of places and it will enable you to become more internationally aware. You will examine key global issues whilst developing your investigative and analytical skills.

The course comprises of 3 parts:

### Component 1: Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: either Hot desert systems and landscapes or Coastal systems and landscapes or Glacial systems and landscapes

Section C: either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress

### Component 2: Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: either Contemporary urban environments or Population and the environment or Resource security

### Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student, leading to one written report.

## How will you do it?

During the course students will be involved in individual and group work, experiencing both traditional teaching and opportunities for research. Students will be expected to undertake 4 days of fieldwork during their A Level course. The fieldwork report (3,000 – 4,000 words) is internally assessed and externally moderated and is worth 20% of the qualification.

## How will you be assessed?

Assessment involves exam papers which are externally marked and a fieldwork report which is marked internally and moderated externally by AQA. The organisation of this assessment is shown in the table below:

	Assessment
Component 1 - Physical Geography	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 120 marks Question types: short answer, levels of response and extended prose 40% of A Level
Component 2 - Human Geography	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 120 marks Question types: short answer, levels of response and extended prose 40% of A Level
Component 3 - Geography fieldwork investigation	3,000–4,000 words - 60 marks 20% of A Level marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

## What is your commitment as a learner?

A keen interest in current affairs and global issues is required. Post – 16 geographers should have a degree of personal commitment to try to resolve these issues, appreciating our shared responsibility as a citizen of an increasingly interconnected world.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

As this A Level is an essay-based subject, you will need a Grade 6 in Geography GCSE.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Geography is a broad academic subject which is very respected by employers and provides you with transferable skills for life. Students can continue to study Geography or a related subject at university.



# PSYCHOLOGY - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

During the course students will study psychological theories and develop an understanding of the core areas of Cognitive, Social, Developmental and Physiological Psychology. The course will offer the opportunity to develop essay writing and design and conduct experiments. The following areas will be studied:

### Paper 1: Introduction to topics in Psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

### Paper 2: Psychology in context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

### Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

- Forensic Psychology
- Schizophrenia
- Gender
- Issues and debates (compulsory).

## How will you be assessed?

### Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology

**Assessed** - written exam: 2 hours  
96 marks in total  
33.3% of A Level

### Paper 2 Psychology in Context

**Assessed** - written exam: 2 hours  
96 marks in total  
33.3% of A Level

### Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology

**Assessed** - written exam: 2 hours  
96 marks in total  
33.3% of A Level

## What is your commitment as a learner?

Students need to show commitment to their learning as well as be conscientious, well-organised and be prepared to read around the subject in their own time. As learners, students must be prepared to study a wide range of psychological research and be committed to learning the studies for use in exams.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

As the course is a science, there is a requirement to write essays. Students require Grade 6 in Psychology, or if not studied, Grade 5 in two Sciences and Grade 4 in English Language.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

These qualifications offer an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.





# SOCIOLOGY - A Level (AQA)

## What will you do?

This specification consists of four main topics:

1. Education with Theory and Methods:
  - a. you will study differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.
  - b. You will assess the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome.
  - c. You will explore the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.
  - d. You will debate the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific.
2. Families and Households:
  - a. you will study changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
  - b. You will debate gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society.
3. The Media:
  - a. you will explore the media, globalisation and popular culture.
  - b. You will research media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability.
4. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:
  - a. you will study the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime.
  - b. You will explore crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

## How will you do it?

As well as ongoing formal half term assessments, you will be regularly set a variety of practice exam questions which will be completed both in class and as homework. Teacher, self and peer-assessment will be used throughout by means of exam board mark schemes coupled with the expertise of teaching staff.

## How will you be assessed?

You will sit three Exam Papers (two hours each) at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

## What is your commitment as a learner?

For every hour spent in the classroom during a fortnightly period, you will be expected to spend the equivalent amount of time outside the classroom completing learning tasks set by teaching staff.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

You will need to have achieved a Grade 5 in English Language.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

A level Sociology can lead to a host of exciting future prospects. Students go on to study Sociology at university either as a standalone subject or it can be combined with various other subjects including Law, Politics, Anthropology and Criminology. Job opportunities include: Social Worker, Lawyer, Prison Officer, Police Officer, Welfare Officer, Counsellor, Politician, Youth & Community Worker and even Business & Management.



# **BUSINESS - BTEC (Pearson)**

## **- Level 3 National Extended Certificate**

### **What will you do?**

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is an Applied General qualification. It is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the business sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent introduction to study of the business sector.

You will complete 4 units of which 3 are mandatory; 2 are externally assessed:

The core units you cover are:

1. Exploring Business
2. Developing a Marketing Campaign
3. Personal and Business Finance

In addition to these, you take 1 optional unit:

8. Recruitment and Selection Process

This course develops and enhances your professionalism in a business context. It develops personal skills alongside knowledge acquisition and its practical application.

### **How will you do it?**

The BTEC will be taught using a mixture of interactive classroom teaching, discussion and reflection. Students will be expected to work independently but also as part of a team.

### **How will you be assessed?**

Students will be assessed on each unit and will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction, which will then give the overall grade at the end of their studies.

Internal Assessment - These units are assessed through written and oral assignments:

1. Exploring Business
8. Recruitment and Selection Process

External Assessment -

2. Developing a Marketing Campaign

A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions:

- Learners will be given a context two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research
- The supervised assessment period is undertaken in a single session of three hours
- Submission completed using a computer
- 70 marks

3. Personal and Business Finance

Written examination set by Pearson

- 2 hours
- 80 marks

### **What is your commitment as a learner?**

Business students are expected to be enthusiastic about their studies and be able to work independently. Their interest in Business should extend out of the classroom by reading around the subject and keeping up-to-date with current affairs and legislation.

### **What future opportunities will this subject open for you?**

This course provides the foundation for students who want to pursue further study of business at university or related work.



# CRIMINOLOGY - Level 3 Diploma (WJEC)

## What will you do?

**Unit 1** – enables the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported

**Unit 2** - will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1

**Unit 3** - will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases

**Unit 4** – learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy

## How will you do it?

**Year 12:** Unit 1 – Coursework  
Unit 2 – Exam

**Year 13:** Unit 3 – Coursework  
Unit 4 – Exam

## How will you be assessed?

Unit Name and Number	Exam or Coursework?	Guided Learning Hours (GLH) / % of overall qualification
Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime	Coursework	90 / 25%
Unit 2: Criminological Theories	Exam	90 / 25%
Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom	Coursework	90 / 25%
Unit 4: Crime and Punishment	Exam	90 / 25%

## What is your commitment as a learner?

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality? If you'd like to answer any of these questions, then Criminology may be the subject for you! A genuine interest in the subject is essential.

## Is there anything else you need to know?

This qualification also allows students to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

## What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

The main purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is mainly to use the qualification to support access to Criminology related higher education degree courses. Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

Suitable A Levels to study alongside this qualification would be English, History or Psychology.



# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - BTEC (Pearson)

## - LEVEL 3 National Extended Certificate

### What will you do?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to the sector. It is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. Students will study a programme of four units which is equivalent in size to one A Level:

- Human Lifespan development – to develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development. You will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing
- Working in Health and Social Care - to help you understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs – to introduce you to the values and issues that need to be considered when planning care and support that meet the needs of an individual in a health and social care environment
- Physiological Disorders - to learn about the signs and symptoms of physiological disorders and how they are investigated and diagnosed. You will also learn about the different types of treatment and support available for individual service user

### How will you do it?

The BTEC will be taught using a mixture of interactive classroom teaching, discussion and reflection. Learning will be reinforced by Health and Social Care professionals and work experience placements. Students will be expected to work independently but also as part of a team.

### How will you be assessed?

Unit Name	Exam or Coursework?	Guided Learning Hours (GLH) / % of overall qualification
Human Lifespan Development	Exam	90/25%
Working in Health and Social Care	Exam	120/33%
Meeting Individual Needs	Coursework	90/25%
Physiological Disorders	Coursework	60/17%

### What is your commitment as a learner?

Health and Social Care students are expected to be enthusiastic about exploring the Health and Social Care sector, challenging them to work and interact within a very multicultural society. Their interest in the sector should extend out of the classroom by reading around the subject and keeping up-to-date with current affairs and legislation.

### Is there anything else you need to know?

In the BTEC National units there are opportunities during the teaching and learning phase to give learners practice in developing employability skills. Where employability skills are referred to in this specification, we are generally referring to skills in the following three main categories:

- cognitive and problem-solving skills: use critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology
- intrapersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation
- interpersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development

### What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

Students will be fully prepared for a range of degree programmes in the Health and Social Care sector if studied alongside A Level subjects such as Biology and Psychology e.g. HSC, Biology and Psychology could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing.



# SPORT - BTEC (Pearson)

## - Level 3 National Extended Certificate

### What will you do?

You will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

You will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

### How will you do it?

Unit 1 - You will explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.

Unit 2 - You will explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.

Unit 3 - You will explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. You will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

### How will you be assessed?

Unit number	Unit title	GLH	Type	How assessed
<b>Mandatory units – learners complete and achieve all units</b>				
1	Anatomy and Physiology	120	Mandatory	External
2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	120	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	60	Mandatory	Internal
<b>Optional units – learners complete 1 unit</b>				
4	Sports Leadership	60	Optional	Internal
5	Application of Fitness Testing	60	Optional	Internal
6	Sports Psychology	60	Optional	Internal
7	Practical Sports Performance	60	Optional	Internal

### What is your commitment as a learner?

Students should have a genuine interest in sport, fitness and the human body and be prepared for both theoretical and practical work. As well as class work there will be an expectation for homework to be completed. Students will need to complete coursework as part of the qualification and so wider reading and research will be essential.

### Is there anything else you need to know?

This is an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector. The qualification is equivalent to one A Level, and it has been designed as a full two-year programme when studied alongside further Level 3 qualifications.

### What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study. Subjects such as Biology, Psychology, Maths, Business are popular choices to study alongside.



## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ) - (AQA)

### What will you do?

The Extended Project Qualification is, to put it simply, a BIG independent project for which you will earn a qualification. It involves writing an essay of 5000 words, a pretty long piece of paperwork about your research and how you approached the project, plus a final presentation where you'll talk through this essay and paperwork. Alternatively, you can make an 'artefact' - this can be a piece of artwork, or something else you've physically made – and an accompanying shorter essay. You will receive some instruction but most of the project is self-guided which makes it both a challenge to complete and an award worth gaining. The EPQ has the value of one AS Level qualification – 28 UCAS points.

### How will you do it?

The course is a combination of the taught element and independent work. The taught element includes the skills that are necessary to complete your project sessions cover such areas as:

- Research and study skills
- Note taking skills and personal learning styles
- Manipulating internet search engines wisely
- Plagiarism and how to avoid it
- How to reference, e.g. Harvard Style
- How to deliver an effective presentation
- Time management skills
- How to write a report and prepare an effective plan
- How to write abstracts, summaries and conclusions
- How to critically reflect, analyse and evaluate your work
- Assessment objectives and how to meet them

You will receive one hour of directed teaching each week. The remaining time is project time which should be spent on independent work, producing, recording and presenting your EPQ.

### How will you be assessed?

Your project is assessed as a whole.

The three elements of your project that will be assessed are:

- The production log
- The written report (5000 words)
- A presentation of the project to a small audience

In all three elements you need to show evidence of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working.

### What is your commitment as a learner?

To engage with the lessons in order to learn the skills needed for independent research and to produce this work. You will then need to organise your time so that you can complete this project within the time frame given.

### Is there anything else you need to know?

The EPQ will help you to demonstrate to higher education providers and future employers that you are able to work independently. It will help you to develop essential skills for working at a higher level such as team work, meeting deadlines, planning and management of a project, decision making and problem solving, presentation skills, and communication skills.

### What future opportunities will this subject open for you?

The skills you will gain through the EPQ are excellent preparation for university level study. You can refer to your EPQ in your UCAS personal statement and at an interview to show some of the qualities that universities are looking for. For some people, not only can an EPQ help you get into university in the first place, but some courses offer lower grade requirements if you get a certain grade in your EPQ.



## **LAW - APPLIED (BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE)**

### **What will you do?**

You will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Dispute solving in Civil Law (Exam)
- Unit 2: Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System (CWK)
- Unit 3: Apply the Law (Exam)

You will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

### **How will you do it?**

#### Unit 1

Features of civil law, English civil courts, legal skills, advice/funding, precedent, duty of care, breach of duty and damages.

#### Unit 2

Legal skills, parliament, delegated legislation, European legislation, the legal profession, lay people, judiciary, effects of a crime, non-fatal offences, aims of sentencing and types of sentences.

#### Unit 3

Murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, corporate manslaughter, theft, robbery, burglary, fraud by false representation, criminal damage, duress, intoxication, self-defence, insanity, stop and search, arrest, detention.

### **How will you be assessed?**

50% Coursework, 50% exam.

### **What is your commitment as a learner?**

### **Is there anything else you need to know?**

The optional units work really well alongside Criminology or Business studies. There are many areas you can specialise in later at University such as Family or Tort law.

### **What future opportunities will this subject open for you?**

BTEC in applied law provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector. This can be through higher education (degrees in business and law) or through an advanced apprenticeship in legal services.







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