

A-LEVEL OPTIONS



INFORMATION & GUIDANCE BOOKLET 2023

Course Title: AS and A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Course codes:

- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Mathematics (XMA01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Mathematics (YMA01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Further Mathematics (XFM01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Further Mathematics (YFM01).

Why study Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A-Level?

The aims of the Edexcel IAL in Mathematics and Further Mathematics are to encourage pupils to:

- Be able to use the knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts.
- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs through use of precise statements, logical deduction and inference and by the manipulation of mathematical expressions, including the construction of extended arguments for handling substantial problems presented in unstructured form.
- Recall, select and use the knowledge of standard mathematical models to represent situations in the real world; recognize and understand given representations involving standard models; present and interpret results from such models.
- Comprehend translations of common realistic contexts into mathematics; use the results of calculations to make predictions, and, where appropriate, read critically and comprehend longer mathematical arguments or examples of applications.
- Use contemporary technology and other permitted resources (such as formulae booklets or statistical tables) accurately and efficiently.

What will I learn?

In **Mathematics** we study Pure Maths 1 and 2, Pure Maths 3 and 4, Statistics, Mechanics and Decision.

In **Further Mathematics** we study Further Pure Maths 1, Further Pure Maths 2, Further Pure 3, Statistics, Mechanics and Decision.

The topics involved in Pure 1, Pure 2, Pure 3 and Pure 4 are Algebra and functions; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane; differentiation; integration; numerical methods; binomial expansion; vectors.

The topics involved in Further Pure 1, 2 & 3 are Complex numbers; roots of quadratic equations; numerical solution of equations; coordinate systems; matrix algebra; transformations using matrices; series; proof; inequalities; series; further complex numbers; first order differential equations; second order differential equations; Maclaurin and Taylor series; Polar coordinates; hyperbolic functions; further coordinate systems; differentiation; integration; vectors; further matrix algebra.

In Statistics 1 the topics are mathematical models in probability and statistics; representation and summary of data; probability; correlation and regression; discrete random variables; discrete distributions; the Normal distribution.

In Statistics 2 & 3 the topics are Binomial and Poisson distributions; continuous random variables; continuous distributions; samples; hypothesis tests; combinations of random variables; sampling; estimation, confidence intervals and tests; goodness of fit and contingency tables; regression and correlation.

In Mechanics 1 the topics are mathematical models in mechanics; vectors in mechanics; kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line; dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; statics of a particle; moments.

In Mechanics 2 & 3 the topics are kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; centre of mass; work and energy; collisions; statics of rigid bodies; further kinematics; elastic strings and springs; further dynamics; motion in a circle; statics of rigid bodies.

In Decision 1 the topics are algorithms; graphs and networks; algorithms on graphs; route inspection; the travelling salesman problem; critical path analysis and linear programming.

What are the entry requirements?

It is strongly recommended that pupils who wish to study International Advanced Level Mathematics, have completed the International GCSE in Mathematics (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) at grades A*–C.

Pupils who wish to study International Advanced Level Further Mathematics should demonstrate a strong background in additional topics of Mathematics and is therefore highly recommended to have completed the International GCSE in Additional Mathematics at grades A*–B.

Future Opportunities?

The IAL in Mathematics is addressed to pupils with an interest in the subject, who wish to pursue further studies at University in the fields of Science, Information Technology, Business, Engineering, etc.

The IAL in Further Mathematics is addressed to pupils with a genuine interest in Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Statistics, Information Technology etc.

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Advanced Level in Sciences: Physics – Chemistry – Biology

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary *and* Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Course structure:

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in all three sciences comprises six units and contains an International Advanced Subsidiary subset of three IAS units.

The International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) is the first half of the International Advanced Level course and consists of Units 1, 2 and 3. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification at the end of Year 12 or contribute 50 per cent of the total International Advanced Level marks should the pupil wish to continue with the subject in Year 13.

The full International Advanced Level award consists of the three IAS units (Units 1, 2 and 3), and three IA2 units (Units 4, 5 and 6) which make up the other 50 per cent of the International Advanced Level (completed at the end of Year 13).

Pupils wishing to take the full International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all six units.

Assessment:

100% external assessment. Exams are taken at the end of year 12 (IAS) and at the end of year 13 for those wishing to complete the full International A Level.

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Course Title: AS and A-Level Physics

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Physics (XPH11);
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (YPH11)

Why study Physics at A-Level?

The Advanced Level in Physics is an optional course that is offered to all pupils entering Year 12 at Byron College.

The course will help pupils:

- To progress from the Key Stage 4 programme of study and enable them to sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, physics and its applications.
- To develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.
- To understand the importance of physics as a human endeavour that interacts with social, philosophical, economic and industrial matters.
- To prepare for higher educational courses in physics and related courses.

What will I learn?

In the first year we study the topics mechanics, waves, electricity, nature of light and the properties of different materials. In the second year we further explore mechanics and we also study electric and magnetic fields, particle physics, thermal physics, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

How will I be assessed?

The International Advanced Level physics course is completed through the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (IAL). The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics comprises six units and contains an International Advanced Subsidiary subset of three IAS units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level course and consists of Units 1, 2 and 3. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification or contribute 50 per cent of the total International Advanced Level marks. The full International Advanced Level award consists of the three IAS units (Units 1, 2 and 3), plus three IA2 units (Units 4, 5 and 6) which make up the other 50 per cent of the International Advanced Level. Pupils wishing to take the full International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all six units.

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Physics or the equivalent and have attained Grade C or above.

Future opportunities?

Physics is a challenging and interesting subject which is essential not only for those who want to study Physics at a higher level, but also for those who wish to obtain other degrees such as Engineering, Electronics and Meteorology.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Biology

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Biology (XBI11)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Biology (YBI11)

Why study Biology at A-Level?

The aims of the International Advanced Level in Biology enable pupils to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology including an

Appreciation of how society makes decisions about Biology-related issues and how Biology contributes to the success of the economy (medicines, cures for diseases, sustainable products) and society (conservation, environmental protection...)

Developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other and to other areas of science. Topics include: Genetics, Disease, Forensic Science, Human Physiology, the Brain and Nervous System, Biochemistry, Environment and Evolution, Stem Cells...

What will I learn?

The International Advanced Level Qualification in Biology **requires** pupils to:

- Apply scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations
- Analyse and Evaluate scientific knowledge and processes.
- To assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.
- Recognise, recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge.

What are the entry requirements?

Pupils who would benefit most from studying an International Advanced Level in Biology are likely to have a Level 2 qualification such as an International GCSE in Biology at grades A*–C.

Future Opportunities?

The IAL is demanding and should appeal to anyone with a keen interest in the subject and who wishes to pursue further studies involving the subject after school (Biomedical, Dentistry, Medicine, Sports Science, Environmental, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, etc.)

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Course Title: AS and A-Level Chemistry

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Chemistry (XCH11);
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Chemistry (YCH11)

Why study Chemistry at A-Level?

The aims of the Edexcel IAL in Chemistry are to encourage pupils to:

- Develop enthusiasm for Chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry
- Acquire deeper knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject, such as inorganic, organic and physical Chemistry and how they relate to each other.
- Appreciate the contribution of chemistry to the success of the economy and society and stimulate awareness on contemporary environmental issues
- Encourage critical thinking by combining ideas across the curriculum, emphasising on the links with other sciences.

What will I learn?

In the first year we study inorganic and organic chemistry and then during the second year we concentrate on certain aspects of advanced inorganic, further organic, organic synthesis and physical chemistry. The International A-Level in Chemistry compliments the other sciences and develops critical thinking, a quality required for further studies at University.

What are the entry requirements?

It is strongly recommended that pupils who wish to study International Advanced Level Chemistry, have completed the International GCSE in Chemistry (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) at grades A*–C.

Future Opportunities?

The IAL in Chemistry is addressed to pupils with a genuine interest in the subject, who wish to pursue further studies at University in the fields of Chemistry, Environmental Science, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Sports Science, Forensic Science, Engineering, etc.

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Course title: AS and A-Level Computer Science

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A-Level Computer Science (9618)

Why study Information Technology at A-Level?

This syllabus encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in Computer Science as well as twenty-first century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively, through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

What are the entry requirements? It is advisable that candidates beginning this course have studied Computer Science at IGCSE level.

Future opportunities?

Cambridge International A Level Computer Science provides an excellent foundation for the study of any Computer Science related course in higher education.

What will I learn?

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Computer Science study the following topics:

1. Information representation
2. Communication
3. Hardware
4. Processor Fundamentals
5. System Software
6. Security, Privacy and data integrity
7. Ethics and Ownership
8. Databases
9. Algorithm Design and Problem Solving
10. Data Types and Structure
11. Programming
12. Software Development

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Computer Science study the previous (AS) topics **and** the following topics:

13. Data Representation
14. Communication and Internet Technologies
15. Hardware and Virtual Machines
16. System Software
17. Security
18. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
19. Computational Thinking and Problem Solving
20. Further Programming

How will I be assessed?

The Scheme of the Assessment is as follows:

AS-Level:

Paper 1: Theory Fundamentals: Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills: Written paper (in pseudocode): 2 hours

A2-Level:

Paper 3: Advanced Theory: Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 4: Practical: Submit complete program code and evidence of testing: 2 hours 30 minutes

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Course Title: AS and A-Level Business

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Business (XBS11)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Business (YBS11)

Why study Business at A-Level?

Business is an exciting and dynamic subject that is relevant and intriguing to students. It has a strong academic thread and prepares students extremely well in a vast range of transferable skills.

Every day there are important news stories to which you can relate the theories and techniques you have studied. This ensures the subject is energetic and vibrant, stimulating students and broadening their understanding of the business world.

What will I learn?

You will be focusing on decision making to improve the performance of the marketing, operations, finance and human resources departments within a business as well as the strategies businesses may adopt to achieve their objectives. You will also examine the ways in which businesses can manage change successfully. You will study businesses in a variety of contexts for example large multinational businesses versus small start-ups. The course reflects today's global world; students develop an understanding of current global issues that impact on business, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.

Development of your quantitative skills – students develop these skills throughout the content of the course and are required to apply these skills to relevant business contexts within the assessment.

The course helps develop a holistic understanding of business – the assessment culminates with a final paper that draws on the knowledge and skills students developed from all the Units.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written examinations. Each paper is 2 hours long with a mixture of short answer, data response and essay questions.

The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2) plus two IA2 units (Units 3 and 4). Students wishing to take the International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all four units.

What are the entry requirements?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need a grade C in IGCSE English Language; IGCSE Mathematics Grade C is also required. If IGCSE Business Studies is taken, a grade C is required.

Future Opportunities?

As many degree courses relate to the business world it is no surprise that A-level Business students continue to take business related courses such as Management, International Marketing and Accountancy and Finance at university. A number of students opt to study non-related subjects such as Law, Mathematics, Politics, Psychology, IT and Sciences at university. Business prepares you for a variety of careers ranging from marketing, banking, accountancy and finance, management consultancy, law and actuarial work. If you combine Business with a language, this can lead to many opportunities working abroad. The A level allows students to apply for a variety of graduate recruitment schemes offered by major blue-chip company.

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Course title: AS and A-Level Economics

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Economics (XEC11)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Economics (YEC11)

Why study Economics at A-Level?

Economics is the study of how individuals and groups make decisions with limited resources so as to best satisfy their wants, needs and desires. You will study basic economic concepts and theories such as supply and demand, the operation of markets for goods, services and labour, reasons why markets sometimes fail (e.g. the recent problems in the financial and housing markets) and how policies can be used to remedy such failure. You also look at the key features and measures of international economies such as unemployment, inflation and economic growth, which will help you to understand, and comment upon, government policy.

Key topics in the second year of the course are business economics and the labour market. You also examine the global economy, including financial markets, and the role of the state in the macroeconomy. You then examine and explore the economies of developing countries and consider wider issues such as poverty, aid and debt.

What will I learn?

In the first year you will learn about markets and market failure (micro) and economic performance and government policies (macro). In the second year you will study business behaviour and the labour market finishing with a unit on the global economy.

The course covers engaging content – Content allows students to develop an awareness of trends in the global economy, researching developed and developing economics, including a focus on contemporary issues.

Development of quantitative skills – students develop these skills throughout the content of the course and are required to apply these skills to relevant economic contexts within the assessment.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written examinations. Each AS level paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long. Each A2 paper is 2 hours long. The examinations contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essay questions.

The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2) plus two IA2 units (Units 3 and 4). Students wishing to take the International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all four units.

What are the entry requirements?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need a grade C in IGCSE English Language; IGCSE Mathematics Grade C is also required.

You can study Economics at A Level without A Level Mathematics although the content of mathematics in the Economics syllabus has increased and you will be required to undertake calculations and interpret data throughout the two years. However, A Level Mathematics is very strongly recommended if you are considering studying Economics at degree level. Many competitive universities will require A Level Mathematics and will not consider your application for Economics without it. Having said that, there are also some universities who will take students on to degree courses without A Level Mathematics!

Future Opportunities?

Aside from progressing to an Economics degree Economics is a suitable foundation for many related courses such as Accountancy, Finance, Business and Management at university. A number of students opt to study non-related subjects such as Law, Mathematics, Politics, Psychology, IT and Sciences at university. Economics prepares you for a variety of careers ranging from financial services, banking, accountancy and finance to management consultancy, law, business services, politics and actuarial work. The A level allows students to apply for a variety of graduate recruitment schemes offered by major blue-chip companies.

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Course Title: Literature in English

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A Level Literature in English (9695)

Why study Literature in English at A-Level?

Advanced level study in Literature is an exciting and challenging endeavour. Through the study of a wide variety of texts from different periods, forms, and genres, learners develop a lifelong understanding of literary ideas, gain knowledge of ways in which literary works are structured, and cultivate an enjoyment of literary texts that will hold them in good stead when it comes to being accepted by employers and universities.

In their lessons, students will interact with sophisticated literary ideas and concepts, as well as acquire essential critical thinking skills. Class discussions, presentations, research-based activities and essays will prepare pupils for the academic demands and independent learning approaches of higher education.

What will I learn?

AS - For the AS, students will study two papers: Drama & Poetry and Prose & Unseen. Texts include *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams, an anthology of poems by Gillian Clarke, and *Unseen Texts*.

The AS syllabus aims to develop an appreciation of literature in English in a wide range of texts, which will result in informed personal responses. Analytical oral and written communication skills will be honed throughout, and an understanding of how close reading may contribute to personal development will also be cultivated.

A2 - For the A2, students will study two more papers: Shakespeare and Drama and Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry & Prose. Texts include *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, a selection of poems by Emily Dickinson, and *Indian Ink* by Tom Stoppard. The A2 syllabus will build on and develop the knowledge and skills gained during AS but will also introduce learners to schools of literary criticism.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by 100% examination. Each paper counts for 50% of the total mark of the AS, or 25% of the total mark for A-Level.

Questions are either general essay responses, or passage-based. Examinations are closed text.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in IGCSE English Literature.

Future Opportunities?

Education, Publishing, Policy, Business, Social Enterprise, Librarianship, Journalism, Politics, Creative Writing and Law are just some of the fields available for Literature students to pursue careers in.

Course Title: AS and A-Level History

Course code: Cambridge International AS and A Level History 9489

Why study History at A-Level?

Cambridge International AS/A-Level History is one of the most rewarding subjects a pupil can study. It is accepted by universities and employers as proof of exemplary knowledge and understanding of History. Pupils who show a keen interest in history, politics or international relations are well suited for this subject as they will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge on a multitude of events, individuals and ideas each day. Throughout the two-year course there are multiple lifelong skills which will be gained which can be applied in both academic and professional settings. These skills include:

- assessing different interpretations of an argument
- formulating their own ideas about a subject
- presenting clear and logical arguments
- evaluating historical evidence
- developing an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference and continuity and change

What will I learn?

AS-Level

During the first year of A-Level History, pupils will focus on international relations. This refers to events that occurred around the world and the effects they had on world relations. This course covers 'Empire and the emergence of world powers, 1870–1919', The League of Nations and international relations in the 1920s and 1930s' and 'China and Japan, 1912–45'.

A2-Level

During the second year of A-Level History, pupils will focus on events in Europe, particularly on the impact of individuals on countries, communities and the world. This course begins with an in-depth study of Adolf Hitler and Anti-Semitism in Europe, with a focus on Germany. During this section pupils will study the different schools of thought and interpretations of the Holocaust and the reasoning behind it. The second half of the year will focus on European dictators including Stalin and Hitler. This time, however, there is a focus on their rule and policies implemented during their reign.

How will I be assessed?

Year 12

There are two exams. Topics within each of the AS options rotate year-on-year so that one topic is assessed via Paper 1 and the remaining three via Paper 2. Paper 1 is a document question which is 1 hour 15 minutes, while Paper 2 is an outline study which is 1 hour 45 minutes.

Year 13

There are two exams. Component 3 is an interpretations question which is 1 hour 15 minutes, while component 4 is an outline study which is 1 hour 45 minutes.

What are the entry requirements?

Minimum of a C grade in IGCSE History is recommended

Future Opportunities?

With an A-Level in history pupils who follow this route tend to work in accountancy firms, banks, higher education institutions (HEIs), law firms, management consultancies, publishing companies, retailers, schools, television and radio broadcasters and governments.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Geography

Course code: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Geography (XGE01)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Geography (YGE01)

Why study Geography at A-Level?

Edexcel International AS and A-Level Geography is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of Geography. Pupils will gain lifelong skills, including:

- develop their knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments, at all geographical scales from local to global.
- develop an in-depth understanding of the selected geographical patterns, processes and issues in physical and human geography at a range of temporal and spatial scales, and of the concepts that illuminate their significance in a range of locational contexts
- recognise and be able to analyse the complexity of people–environment interactions at all geographical scales, and appreciate how they underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today
- become confident and competent in selecting, using and evaluating a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches (including observing, collecting and analysing geo-located data) and applying them as an integral part of their studies
- engage with models, theories and generalisations, and develop a mature understanding of the nature and limitations of objectivity and the significance of human values and attitudes
- understand the fundamental role of fieldwork as a tool to understand and generate new knowledge about the real world, and become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork in appropriate situations
- undertake fieldwork that encourages them to apply and evaluate theory in the real world, and take responsibility for selecting research questions, applying relevant techniques and skills, and identifying appropriate ways to analyse and communicate findings.

What will I learn?

Year 1

Unit 1: Global Challenges: World at Risk (plate tectonics, meteorological conditions, drought, sea level rise and climate change) and Going Global (globalization, development, free trade, the changing relationship and power of TNC's and governments)

Unit 2: Geographical investigation: A choice of a minimum of two days fieldwork studying either crowded coasts (coastal processes of erosion, transportation and deposition, challenges of living on the coastline, coastal defenses and sea level changes)

Year 2

Unit 3: Contested planet: Compulsory topics: Atmosphere and weather systems and Biodiversity under threat. First optional topics: Energy security or water conflicts. Second optional topics: Superpower geographies or Bridging the development gap.

Unit 4: Researching geography: Student will research on of four options: Tectonic activity and hazards; Feeding the worlds people; Cultural diversity, people and landscapes or Human health and disease.

How will I be assessed?

Year 1: Global Challenges (One hour 45 minutes—90 marks) - 60% of AS or 30% of A level

Section A consists of data response and short-answer questions.

Section B makes use of students' own ideas and consists of a choice of Topic 1: World at Risk or Topic 2: Going Global longer/guided essay questions.

Year 1: Geographical Investigations (One hour 30 minutes – 60 marks) – 40% of AS or 20% of A level

Section A consists of data response and short-answer questions on Topic 1: Crowded Coasts and Topic 2: Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration.

Section B consists compulsory short-answer questions on research and fieldwork investigation (familiar context).

Section C consists of a choice of one unfamiliar context fieldwork question, broken down into short-answer questions, on either Topic 1: Crowded Coasts or Topic 2: Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration.

Year 2: Contested Planet: (Two hours – 90 marks) – 30% of A level

Section A consists of longer/guided essay questions and a synoptic question on: o Topic A1: Atmosphere and Weather Systems o Topic A2: Biodiversity Under Threat.

In Section B, students have a choice of one data response/essay question from two topics: o Topic B1: Energy Security or Topic B2: Water Conflicts.

In Section C, students have a choice of one data response/essay question from two topics: o Topic C1: Superpower Geographies or Topic C2: Bridging the Development Gap.

Year 2: Researching Geography (One hour 30 minutes – 60 marks) – 20% of A level

Students must answer one question out of a list of questions based on the four options they have studied.

Students will be given pre-release material of research focus questions relating to each of the four options.

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Geography or the equivalent and have attained Grade C or above.

Future Opportunities?

Edexcel International A-Level Geography provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Planning, Environmental Subjects, Development, Tourism, etc., or as part of a course of general education.

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Course Title: AS and A Level Sociology

Exam Board: Cambridge International AS and A-Level in Sociology 9699

Why study?

Sociology is the study of human society and the social relationships and institutions within it. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime, religion, the family to education, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse areas of study is Sociology's purpose – to understand how human action and thinking both shape, and are shaped, by surrounding cultural and social structures. You will also study the techniques that sociologists use in order to conduct their research, and sociological theories that seek to explain and understand the nature and development of contemporary society.

What will I learn?

The Cambridge International AS Level provides a solid grounding in the central ideas and approaches in Sociology, including family as well as theory and methods. Cambridge International A Level students can choose to explore a variety of important areas of sociological enquiry including global development, education, religion and media.

Year 1: The Family, Methods and Research, Socialisation and Identity

Year 2: Education, Global development, Media, Religion

How will I be assessed?

AS level:

Paper 1 (50%) 1hr 30 mins - Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions
Section B: one essay from a choice of two.

Paper 2 (50%) 1hr 30 mins - Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions
Section B: one essay from a choice of two.

A level:

Paper 3 (25%) 1hr 15 mins - Candidates answer four compulsory questions. Question 4 is an essay.

Paper 4 (25%) 1hr 45 mins - Candidates answer two essay questions
Section A: Globalisation
Section B: Media
Section C: Religion
Each section has two essay questions. Candidates select one question from two different sections.

What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that pupils have a grade C or above in English Language.

Future Opportunities?

Sociology is recognised for entry to all universities and by employers for a wide variety of jobs and careers. Sociology trains pupils to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving them a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for pupils considering careers in the professions or business, health and welfare, administration, education, journalism, public relations, police or research.

Course Title: AS and A-Level Greek

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Greek (XGK01)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Greek (YGK01)

Why study Modern Greek at A-Level?

A level Greek is a fascinating subject. Pupils will study a variety of texts from different Greek authors and thus become acquainted with the Greek literary heritage, irrespective of their nationality. They will develop an understanding of literary ideas and strengthen their knowledge, in order to cultivate critical thought. The course is comprised of class discussions, research tasks and essay writing in order to promote learning, while also being an enjoyable and enriching experience.

What will I learn?

The Advanced Subsidiary specification requires students to:

- read and respond to a variety of Greek-language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt their written Greek language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- use the Greek language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures of the Greek language as detailed in Greek unit content: Grammar list.

IAS General Topic Areas:

Youth culture and concerns, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment

The Advanced Level specification requires students to:

- use the Greek language to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures in Greek as detailed in Greek unit content: Grammar list
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the Greek-language countries or communities
- transfer meaning from English into Greek. The knowledge and understanding requirements of this Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level specification are inextricably linked to the two language skills of reading and writing in Greek in line with the requirements of the subject criteria.

IAL General Topic Areas

Youth culture and concerns, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment, Technology in the Greek-speaking world, Society in the Greek-speaking world, Ethics in the Greek-speaking world.

IAL Topics, Texts and Films

History of Greece: 1960-1974, History of Cyprus: 1925-1960, Films and documentaries: Conversations about crisis in Greek society, Society and childhood in Greek cinema, Poetry and Short stories

Although speaking and listening skills are not directly assessed, it is anticipated that these will be developed in the course of general teaching to support this specification.

How will I be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Greek and the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Greek are modular qualifications. The Advanced Subsidiary can be claimed on completion of the International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) units. The International Advanced Level can be claimed on completion of both units (IAS and IA2 units).

AS is a 2-hour and 30-minute paper in 3 sections, externally assessed. The examination covers three key areas: Section A - Reading; Section B - Grammar; Section C - Essay.

A2 is a 3-hour paper in 3 sections, externally assessed. The examination also comprises three sections: Section A: Translation; Section B: Creative/Discursive Essay; Section C: Research-based Essay

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B or above in GCSE Greek.

Future Opportunities?

Literature, Classics, Sociology, Law, Arts, Psychology, Medicine, Life Sciences, Journalism, Translating / Interpreting.

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Course Title: IAS and IA-Level Spanish

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Spanish (XSP01)
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Spanish (YSP01)

Why study?

It is a motivating course of study that will equip students with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.

What will I learn?

Studying this course will enable students to develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex texts for different purposes
- an understanding of standard spoken language, whether live or broadcast, on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant salient issues, providing points of view with supporting arguments (where relevant) and showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of speaking contexts with little obvious searching for expressions or use of avoidance strategies
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in Spanish-speaking countries or where Spanish is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts in order to build up competence in communication.

The IAS General Topic Areas are:

Youth matters, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment

The IAL General Topic Areas are:

Youth matters, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment, Technology in the Spanish-speaking world, Society in the Spanish-speaking world, Ethics in the Spanish-speaking world.

How will I be assessed?

IAS

- Unit 1: Spoken expression and response (8-10 minutes)
- Unit 2: Understanding and written response (2 hour and 30 minutes)

IAL

- Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response (11-13 minutes)
- Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response

To achieve the IAS, students must complete Units 1 and 2 which are 100% externally assessed. To achieve the IAL, students must complete all four units which are 100% externally assessed.

What are the requirements?

A requirement is that pupils have a GCSE/IGCSE in Spanish with a grade above 6.

Future opportunities:

This course will enable students to foster their ability to learn other languages and to equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or employment (Literature, Sociology, Law, Arts, Journalism, Translating/ Interpreting, tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, journalism and education).

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Course Title: A-Level Art and Design

Course code: A-Level (9AD0)

What will I learn?

Advanced level Art aims to develop the ability to appreciate the visual world; respond in a personal and creative way and communicate this through Art. It prepares pupils for employment and/or further studies beyond A-level Art and Art related courses.

The titles of study for Art and Design are Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design and Photography. All titles explore practical and critical/contextual work through a range of processes and media. Drawing techniques will be on aspects of visual investigation and used for the development of ideas.

In lessons the skills developed will be a working knowledge of materials, processes and techniques. Imaginative powers and critical abilities will be developed experientially.

Lessons will involve drawing/photographing various stimuli for the formation and development of visual ideas. You will practice various techniques and then experiment to extend and apply these skills. This creative process is annotated to interlink practice and critical thinking, e.g. noting what makes Modern Art Modern, and takes the form of visual diary to record the journey.

How will I be assessed?

A-Level -Linear course (2 years of studies with exam at the end of second year). There are two components in this course which are to be completed in 2 years. Component 1 weighs 60% of the total qualification and is a personal investigation. This incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study (a written essay). Component 2 weighs 40% of the total qualification and is an externally set assignment. This incorporates preparatory studies and a 15-hour period of sustained focus under exam conditions.

What are the entry requirements?

Art GCSE at grade C or above. The best foundation of success in Advanced GCE in Art is a good grade at GCSE. In addition to that, if you have a real flair for the subject, if you are creative, or 'good at drawing', you have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities, as well as meeting internal deadlines set by the department. You should have an understanding of the formal elements of art: line, colour, tone, form, texture, pattern, as well as understanding the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all, you should have an interest in creating and understanding art and the determination to develop your own personal authentic and meaningful artwork.

Future opportunities?

There are many careers in Art and Design. You may wish to take an Advanced GCE in Art for its own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest, or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Art and Design or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, illustration, marketing, design, architecture, fashion, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.