Bishop Heber High School

RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT



Sixth Form Provisional Course Guide

2027–2029

'A firmly embedded culture of being committed to learning helps students to achieve very well.'

Ofsted 2026

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'Pupils and students in the sixth form are "happy at Heber".'
Ofsted 2026

'Students engage fully and benefit from myriad opportunities to contribute to school life.'
Ofsted 2026

Course Summary

Bishop Heber High School
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GENERAL SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Additional requirements are shown below and on each subject page; Welsh grade equivalents are at the foot of this page.

Subject	Qualification	Exam board	Additional entry requirements	Page
Art and Design	A-level	Eduqas	–	04
Biology	A-level	OCR	Grade 6 GCSE Biology or 6-6 Combined Science (Higher)	06
Business	BTEC Level 3	Pearson (BTEC)	–	08
Chemistry	A-level	AQA	Grade 6 GCSE Chemistry or 6-6 Combined Science (Higher)	10
Computer Science	A-level	OCR	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science or Mathematics	12
Drama	A-level	AQA	–	14
Economics	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	–	16
English Language	A-level	Eduqas	–	18
English Literature	A-level	AQA	Grade 4 in GCSE English Literature	20
Food Science and Nutrition	Level 3	WJEC	–	22
Further Mathematics	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	Grade 8 GCSE Maths (Higher); taken with A-level Maths	24
Geography	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography	26
Health and Social Care	BTEC Level 3	Pearson (BTEC)	Grade 4-4 Combined Science or grade 4 GCSE Biology	28
History	A-level	AQA	Grade 5 in GCSE History (if taken)	30
Languages	A-level	AQA	Grade 5 GCSE in the language (Higher Tier)	32
Mathematics	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (Higher Tier)	34
Media Studies	A-level	OCR	–	36
Music Technology	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	Grade 4 GCSE Music or Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent)	38
Photography	A-level	Eduqas	–	40
Physics	A-level	AQA	Grade 6 GCSE Physics or 6-6 Combined Science (Higher)	42
Politics	A-level	Pearson Edexcel	–	44
Product Design	A-level	AQA	Grade 4 GCSE Design and Technology or Engineering	46
Psychology	A-level	AQA	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics	48
Religious Studies	A-level	AQA	–	50
Sociology	A-level	AQA	–	52
Sport	BTEC Level 3	Pearson (BTEC)	–	54
Travel and Tourism	BTEC Level 3	Pearson (BTEC)	–	56
Extended Project (EPQ)	Level 3	AQA	Year 12 only; not with Mathematical Studies	58
Mathematical Studies	Level 3	AQA	Year 12 only; not with A-level Maths or the EPQ	59

WELSH GCSE GRADE EQUIVALENTS

England	**Grade 8**	**Grade 7**	**Grade 6**	**Grade 5**	**Grade 4**	**Combined Science 6-6**
Wales	**A***	**A**	**B (Higher)**	**B**	**C**	**B-B (Higher)**

Art and Design

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design (Eduqas)

Subject Leader – Mrs A Stoddart
astoddart@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Art and Design A-level offers the opportunity to really stretch the creative ability of students, and we are proud to celebrate former students being accepted at internationally renowned, prestigious art schools. A growing number of our students also successfully continue to study Architecture, History of Art, Fashion, Fine Art and Graphic Design.

Students enjoy excellent support and varied schemes of study, and the course is enhanced by trips and visits. We run the Eduqas Art, Craft and Design A-level, which allows students to explore an exciting variety of two- and three-dimensional art as well as digital media and materials, encouraging experimentation, diversity and creative risk-taking.

Course outline

Component 1: Personal Investigation

A practical investigation supported by written material. There will be a broad-based starting point in Year 12 set by the Art Department, such as 'Metamorphosis'.

This will involve initial skills-based workshops, followed by individual development of ideas leading to a deeper, focused and independently led personal investigation. It will evolve from initial intentions, evidence of research and developing ideas, relating your work in meaningful ways to relevant critical and contextual materials. This portfolio is supported by a creative learner statement.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

You will receive an Eduqas list of varied starting points from which to produce a visual response, followed by a preparatory period and the production of a final outcome in 15 hours of supervised time.

Where might it lead?

If you are interested in pursuing a career in any of the creative industries, such as Advertising, Architecture, Art, Crafts, Fashion, Film, Gaming, Publishing or Graphics, then the Art and Design A-level is a valuable choice for you to consider.

The subject promotes real independent and creative thinking, which is in high demand within the jobs market. The creative industries are thriving in the UK and have grown at double the rate of the economy as a whole during the last 10 years.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Eduqas qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Art and Design

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

40% examination · 60% coursework

Examining board: Eduqas

60%	**Component 1: Personal Investigation**	**Coursework** · A practical investigation supported by written material, including a creative learner statement of at least 1,500 words.
40%	**Component 2: Externally Set Assignment**	**Externally set, supervised** · Preparatory period (beginning 1 February) followed by 15 hours of supervised time in April.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Artist Research presentation – 2-hour mock (Jun Y12)
- Personal Investigation completed (Jan Y13)
- Externally Set Assignment – 15 hours supervised (Apr Y13)
- Course completion (Apr Y13)

This course may go well with

- Photography
- Product Design
- Media Studies
- English Literature
- History

Additional Comments

- A wide range of media and processes, drawn together in extended creative responses.
- Sketchbooks and portfolios will be offered to students at a reduced cost.

Required and Recommended Resources

OTHER RESOURCES

Pinterest, for visual research · Tate Britain and Tate Modern, National Gallery, V&A, British Museum and local gallery websites, for exhibition updates

Podcasts: The Art Angle (Artnet) · Talk Art (Russell Tovey and Robert Diament) · Art Matters

Documentaries: Civilisations and Power of Art (BBC) · Abstract: The Art of Design (Netflix)

WIDER READING

This is Modern Art (Collings) · A World History of Art (Honour and Fleming) · Ways of Seeing (Berger) · British Art Journal

A*/A students considering Art at university: The Story of Art (Gombrich) · Art in Theory 1900–2000 (Harrison and Wood) · a journal of studies and thoughts on art, alongside your sketchbook

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

artuk.org
3,000 museums' collections, with the BBC

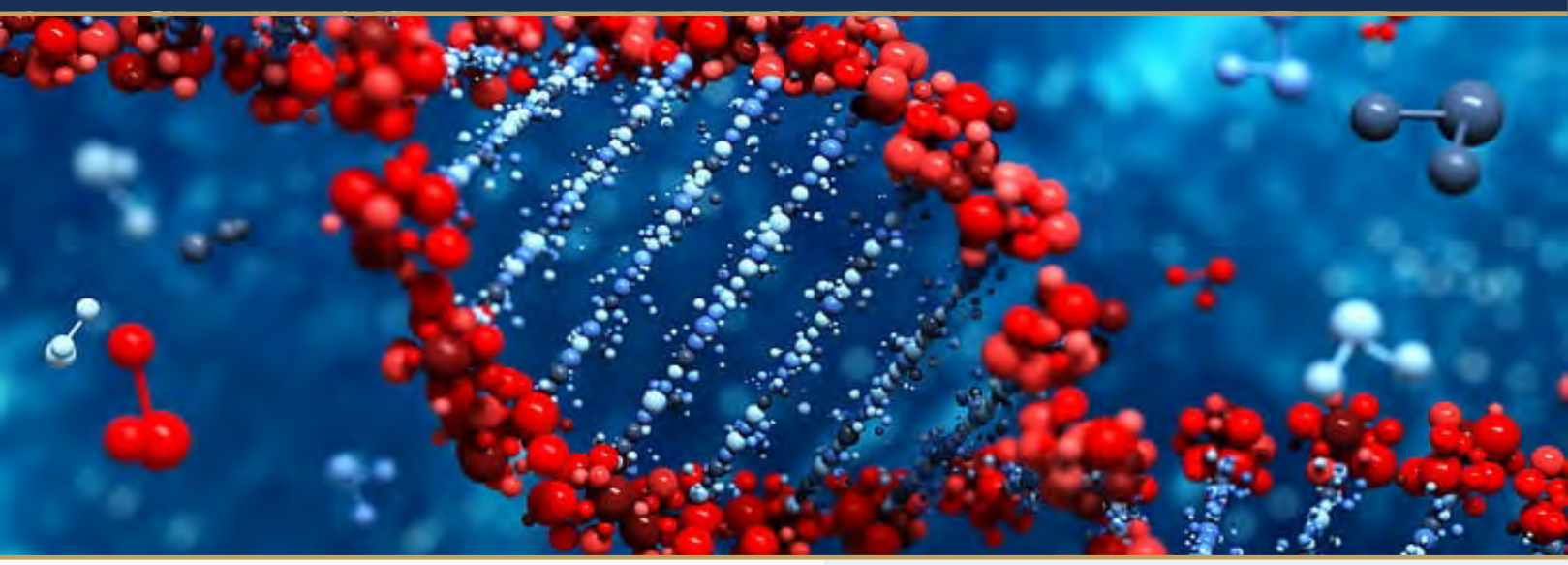
Guardian: Art and design
Arts news and articles

emptykingdom.com
Artists overturning the rules

thisiscolossal.com
Contemporary art, craft and photography

Biology

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Biology A (OCR)

Head of Biology – Mrs H Williams
hwilliams@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

A-level Biology is an exciting and challenging subject. It covers key concepts of biology with practical skills integrated throughout the course. This enables students to develop transferable skills such as investigative, problem-solving, research, mathematical and analytical skills.

It is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary science or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology, botany or forensic science. Biology also complements sports science, psychology, sociology and many more. Whilst it is a key course for those considering careers in the biological field, the transferable skills developed are also useful in many other areas, such as law.

Course outline

Six modules covered over two years

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Foundations in biology
- Exchange and transport
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

The course includes 12 required practicals.

Where might it lead?

Possible career options

Studying Biology gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including: clinical molecular geneticist, dentist, marine biologist, medicine, nature conservation officer, pharmacologist, research scientist, secondary school teacher and veterinarian.

Possible degree options

The most popular degree courses taken by students with an A-level in Biology are: Biology; Medicine; Psychology; Physiology and Pathology; Pharmacology; Sport and Exercise Science; Toxicology; Pharmacy; Chemistry.

Scan for detailed course information

Official OCR qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Biology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology (Higher Tier) or grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier)

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: OCR

37%	**Paper 1**	**2 hours 15 minutes** · Any content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5, including relevant practical skills.
37%	**Paper 2**	**2 hours 15 minutes** · Any content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6, including relevant practical skills.
26%	**Paper 3**	**1 hour 30 minutes** · Any content from modules 1–6, including relevant practical skills.

Practical skills are assessed in the written exams; the Practical Endorsement is reported separately.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- End-of-topic tests and spot tests
- Half-termly tests

This course may go well with

- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Geography

Additional Comments

On SharePoint: Biology PiXL resources for each topic and exam question booklets, plus the OCR specification and past papers. Kerboodle is also used.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	A-Level Biology for OCR A: Year 1 & 2 (CGP) · ISBN 9781837741373
REVISION GUIDES	OCR A Biology Year 1 & 2 Complete Revision & Practice (CGP) · ISBN 9781789080353
OTHER RESOURCES	Essential Maths Skills for AS/A Level Biology (CGP) · ISBN 9781847623232 A Level Biology for OCR A Student Book (Oxford University Press)
WIDER READING	Biological Sciences Review magazine (Hodder Education)

The CGP student book can be bought from the Science department for a refundable deposit.

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

kerboodle.com
Online textbook and resources

Business

BTEC LEVEL 3



COURSE

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business (Pearson) – equivalent to one A-level

Subject Leader – Mr B Lonergan
blonergan@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Business is a dynamic course that examines the fast-paced and ever-changing business environment and current affairs in the wider world, and prepares you with essential life skills. The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses or apprenticeships – not necessarily in business-related subjects.

The emphasis of this course is very much on you acquiring the essential skills demanded by industry. Progress is made through successful completion of four units of study, two assessed by coursework alongside two external examinations. The course includes several external visits to relevant businesses to give more context to the content taught and enhance learning outside the classroom.

Course outline

Unit 1 – Exploring Business (25%)

The purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to innovate to survive.

Unit 2 – Developing a Marketing Campaign (25%)

How a marketing campaign is developed.

Unit 3 – Personal and Business Finance (33%)

The purpose and importance of personal and business finance, and how to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.

Unit 8 – Recruitment and Selection Process (17%)

How businesses recruit, including taking part in selection interviews and reviewing your performance.

Where might it lead?

Business is a growth subject which equips students with an understanding of the business environment and develops the everyday life skills required in the outside world. It is increasingly popular as it engages students with real-life, current business examples relevant to today's global workplace. Students are encouraged to work independently and carry out research which they then analyse and evaluate.

Roles requiring business acumen and analytical skills are invaluable, opening up choices of university, entry-level positions in industry and apprenticeships. All the skills learnt are transferable to other subjects and provide a foundation for those considering the subject at university.

This respected course has led many students to careers in Business, Human Resource Management, International Business, Advertising and Marketing, and many others.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Business

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

58% external assessment · 42% coursework

Examining board: Pearson (BTEC)

25%	**Unit 1: Exploring Business**	**Coursework**
25%	**Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign**	**External set task** · 3-hour supervised session (70 marks).
33%	**Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance**	**Written exam, 2 hours, 80 marks**
17%	**Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process**	**Coursework**

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Unit 1 coursework (Jan Y12)
- Unit 8 coursework (Apr Y13)

This course may go well with

- Economics
- Psychology
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Travel and Tourism

Additional Comments

- Students study real-life businesses in their assignments, relating theory to case studies; the examined units use case studies that require in-depth knowledge of Finance and Marketing.
- Textbooks are supplied in class, a revision guide is available, and past papers are used for homework and revision.
- Students are encouraged to keep up to date with current affairs and watch the news regularly or use business apps.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Pearson BTEC National Business Student Book 1 · ISBN 9781292126241
REVISION GUIDES	Revise BTEC National Business Revision Guide, with online edition (Pearson) · ISBN 9781292230566 Revise BTEC National Business Revision Workbook (Pearson) · ISBN 9781292150116
WIDER READING	Business Review magazine (Philip Allan) · BBC News Business and Economics

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON Seneca Learning senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

tutor2u.net
Business topics and revision

moneysavingexpert.com
Personal finance in the real world

Chemistry

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Chemistry (AQA)

Subject Leader – Dr S Clark
sclark@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

- Chemistry is the 'Central Science' – it connects all the other sciences to each other.
- A-level extends the ideas introduced at GCSE to give a greater insight into how and why compounds are formed, why reactions occur (or don't) and why we exist.
- It introduces the fundamental ideas of chemistry to enable specialisms in Biochemistry, Physical Chemistry or Inorganic Chemistry at degree level.
- It develops essential skills prized by employers, including problem solving, written and oral communication, monitoring and recording data, analysis and time management.

Course outline

Year 12

Physical – atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, equilibria, redox. Inorganic – periodicity, Groups 2 and 7. Organic – isomerism, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, IR and mass spectroscopy.

Year 13

Physical – thermodynamics, rate equations, Kp, acid–base equilibria, buffers, electrode potentials and cells. Inorganic – Period 3 elements and oxides, transition metals, ions in aqueous solution. Organic – optical isomerism, aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters, acyl chlorides, aromatics, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins, DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography.

Where might it lead?

Chemistry is an excellent basis for a great many vocational courses at university. It is a challenging and highly respected subject that leads to a huge range of traditional and diverse career opportunities. The skills required to achieve well at A-level are transferable to any profession.

The opportunities are endless and include: Biomedicine, Chemical Engineering, Cosmetics Research, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Manufacturing, Medicine, Oceanography, Pharmacy, Science and Technology, Scientific Research and Veterinary Science.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Chemistry

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry (Higher Tier) or grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier)

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

35%	**Paper 1**	**2 hours** · Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, with relevant practical skills.
35%	**Paper 2**	**2 hours** · Physical and Organic Chemistry, with relevant practical skills.
30%	**Paper 3**	**2 hours** · Any content, practical skills, techniques and data analysis; includes a multiple-choice section.

All three papers are sat at the end of Year 13. 12 required practicals, assessed in the written exams; the Practical Endorsement is reported separately.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Half-termly end-of-unit tests

This course may go well with

- Biology
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Geography

Additional Comments

- Lunchtime and after-school revision and drop-in sessions, including multiple-choice questions and practical techniques.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	A-Level Chemistry for AQA: Year 1 & 2 (CGP) · ISBN 9781789080476, or AQA Chemistry A Level Student Book (OUP) · ISBN 9780198351825
REVISION GUIDES	AQA Chemistry Year 1 & AS Complete Revision & Practice (CGP) · ISBN 9781789080278
OTHER RESOURCES	Calculations in AS/A Level Chemistry (Jim Clark) · ISBN 9780582411272
WIDER READING	Chemistry Review magazine (Hodder Education)

Student books can be bought from the Science department for a refundable deposit.

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

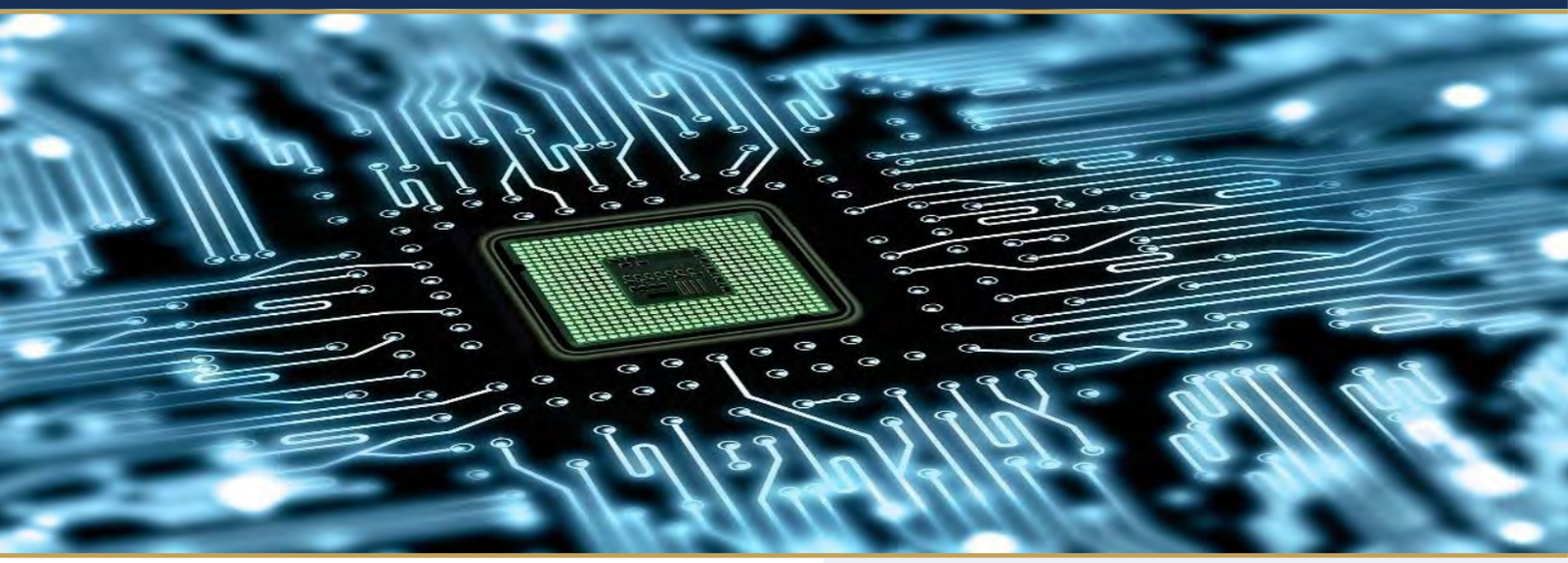
chemguide.co.uk
Clear explanations across the course

rsc.org
Royal Society of Chemistry learning resources

a-levelchemistry.co.uk
Revision notes and questions

Computer Science

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level Computer Science (OCR)

Subject Leader – Mr R Mawhinney
rmawhinney@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

In a world driven by technology, the ability to understand, create and innovate with computing systems provides a significant advantage. The course challenges students to think logically, solve complex problems and develop practical programming skills that are highly prized by universities and employers alike.

Whether you pursue a career in software development, cybersecurity, engineering, medicine, finance or business, the analytical and computational thinking skills you develop open doors to countless opportunities.

Course outline

Computer systems (01) – 40%

2 hours 30 minutes written paper. Contains the majority of the content of the specification, assessing knowledge and understanding.

Algorithms and programming (02) – 40%

2 hours 30 minutes written paper. Focuses on the problem-solving skills needed to apply the knowledge and understanding from Component 01.

Programming project (03) – 20%

Non-exam assessment: a practical, portfolio-based project on a task chosen by the teacher or learner, produced in a suitable programming language.

Where might it lead?

Computer Science is one of the most exciting and future-focused subjects you can study. As AI, cybersecurity and digital technologies continue to transform society, students with computing skills are in high demand.

It can lead to degrees, degree apprenticeships and careers in software development, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data science, engineering, finance and many other sectors.

- AI and emerging technologies are creating exciting new opportunities.
- Computing skills are valued across every industry.
- Students develop the knowledge and confidence to shape the technologies of the future.

Scan for detailed course information

Official OCR qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Computer Science

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science or grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Structure and Assessment

80% examination · 20% coursework

Examining board: OCR

40%	**Component 01: Computer systems**	**Exam, 2 hours 30 minutes** · Processors, input, output and storage; software and software development; exchanging data; data types, structures and algorithms; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.
40%	**Component 02: Algorithms and programming**	**Exam, 2 hours 30 minutes** · Computational thinking; problem solving and programming; algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.
20%	**Component 03: Programming project**	**Coursework** · Choose a computing problem and work through analysis, design, development, testing, evaluation and documentation of the solution.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Product Design
- Economics

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	OCR AS and A Level Computer Science (PM Heathcote and RSU Heathcote) · ISBN 9781910523056
REVISION GUIDES	My Revision Notes: OCR A Level Computer Science, 2nd edition (Rouse, Pitt, O'Byrne) · ISBN 9781398325470
OTHER RESOURCES	Visual Studio Community 2022 (free, from Microsoft) installed at home
WIDER READING	Craig 'n' Dave A-level videos (student.craigndave.org) · Isaac Computer Science A-level topics

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON Seneca Learning senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

freecodecamp.org
Learn to code for free

Computerphile (YouTube)
Videos on computer science topics

isaaccomputerscience.org
Free A-level Computer Science resources

Drama

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Drama and Theatre (AQA)

Head of Drama – Mrs K Cawley
kcawley@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

A-level Drama will:

- develop your enjoyment of drama and theatre as a participant and as an informed audience member
- develop your understanding of the social, cultural and historical influences on drama and theatre
- build a variety of dramatic and theatrical skills, so you grow creatively in devised and scripted work
- integrate theory and practice through critical concepts and specialist terminology.

Course outline

A linear course with three components:

Drama and Theatre

Explore and analyse two contrasting set texts: The Glass Menagerie (Tennessee Williams) and Jerusalem (Jez Butterworth).

Creating Original Drama

Create your own piece in the style of a chosen playwright, director or theatre company.

Making Theatre

Interpret three extracts and perform Extract 3 to a live audience, assessed by a visiting AQA examiner.

Students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets and/or directing.

Where might it lead?

Students gain invaluable theatrical and transferable skills – collaborating, thinking analytically and evaluating effectively.

Those wanting a career in theatre or performance can go on to drama school or university to study acting, directing, writing for performance or technical theatre, and work on stage or backstage in roles such as theatre management, marketing, lighting, directing, arts funding, costume and staging.

Employers and universities value the confidence to present to others, to work creatively in a team, and a broad social, cultural and historical knowledge.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Drama

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

40% examination · 60% practical

Examining board: AQA

40%	**Component 1: Drama and Theatre**	**Written exam** · Covered practically and in essays. Section A: a set play from List A (25 marks). Section B: a three-part question on an extract from a List B play (30 marks). Section C: theatre makers in a live production (25 marks).
30%	**Component 2: Creating original drama**	**Practical (moderated by AQA)** · A devised piece from a stimulus you choose, influenced by one prescribed practitioner, with an assessed Working Notebook.
30%	**Component 3: Making theatre**	**Practical – visiting AQA examiner** · Practical exploration of three extracts; Extract 3 is performed, with a Reflective Report.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Component 2 devised performance (Summer Y12)

This course may go well with

- English Literature
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- English Language

Additional Comments

- You can specialise in your chosen area of theatre production, from acting to set design.
- Students buy their own scripts for Drama and Theatre; scripts for Making Theatre are supplied in class.
- All students will attend at least two live theatre trips.

Required and Recommended Resources

REVISION GUIDES

Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre (Keith Johnstone) · ISBN 9780878301171

The Empty Space (Peter Brook) · ISBN 9780141189222

Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty (Albert Bermel) · ISBN 9780413766601

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

nationaltheatre.org.uk
National Theatre

StageAgent: Jerusalem
Context for the set text Jerusalem

SlideShare: Theatre of Cruelty
Artaud's Theatre of Cruelty

Economics

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Economics B (Pearson Edexcel)

Teacher in charge of Economics – Mr G Forster
gforster@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Economics is the study of why and how decisions are made by individuals, firms and governments. Contemporary topics which affect you now and in the future, such as Brexit, globalisation and university funding, are examined closely.

Without realising it, you are already part of the global economic system – perhaps asking, 'Do I have pizza at home tonight or go out for a burger with my friends?' – and weighing up key concepts such as resources, opportunity cost and marketing.

Studying Economics will explain Donald Trump's decisions on tariffs, who gains and loses from globalisation, where your taxes go, what makes a business succeed – and why you chose that pizza or burger!

Course outline

Theme 1: Markets, consumers and firms

The economic problem, enterprise, business and the economy, sources of finance, market failure and government intervention, revenue, costs and profits.

Theme 2: The wider economic environment

Business growth, marketing and elasticity, business efficiency, the global economy, the economic cycle and macroeconomic policy.

Theme 3: The global economy

Globalisation, business expansion, global marketing, multinationals, global labour markets and inequality.

Theme 4: Making markets work

Competition and market power, market failure, macroeconomic policies, the financial sector and risk.

Where might it lead?

Students following this and similar qualifications have gone on to study Economics, Management, Marketing, PPE, Accounting, Law and many other courses at university. Others have gained employment as apprentices or trainees in a wide range of industries.

This course is suitable if:

- you want to study economics or a related subject at university
- you are unsure which area of study you wish to follow at university, or as a career
- you are unsure whether to pursue higher education or enter the world of work.

Economics is a challenging subject that universities and employers hold in high regard.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Economics

Bishop Heber High School
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

35%	**Paper 1: Markets and how they work**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · Themes 1 and 4; three sections of questions based on case study materials.
35%	**Paper 2: Competing in the global economy**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · Themes 2 and 3; three sections of questions based on case study materials.
30%	**Paper 3: The economic environment and business**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · All themes; two sections, based on a pre-released context document.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Additional mock exam (Feb Y12)
- Regular assessment using past papers and case studies

This course may go well with

- Mathematics
- Politics
- Geography
- Business
- History

Additional Comments

Use economic models and theories to analyse issues such as the environment, technology and globalisation.

Learn to interpret data, solve problems and explain your ideas clearly – highly transferable skills.

Keep up to date with economic news by reading a quality newspaper.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Edexcel Economics B, Themes 1–4, 2023 editions (Nancy Wall and Brian Ellis) – from economicsfactorybookstore.co.uk
REVISION GUIDES	Anforme Edexcel Economics B revision guides – Theme 1: 978-1-78014-013-1 · Theme 2: 978-1-78014-014-8 · Theme 3: 978-1-78014-018-6 · Theme 4: 978-1-78014-019-3
WIDER READING	The Economist · Financial Times

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn*** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning*** senecalearning.com **Different specification*

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

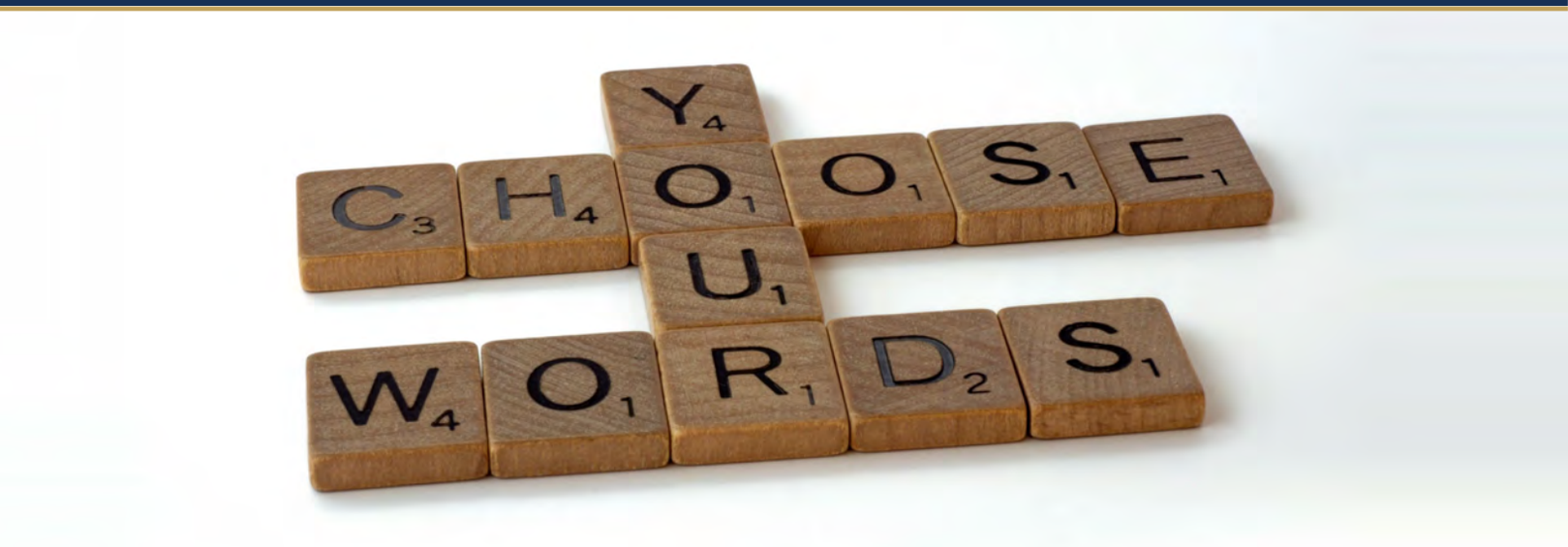
tutor2u.net
Revision notes, videos and current-affairs blogs

economicshelp.co.uk
Clear explanations of key economic concepts

BBC News: Economy
Economic news and analysis

English Language

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level English Language (Eduqas)

Subject Leader – Mrs J McWilliams
jmcwilliams@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

English Language is an exciting and stimulating course which will transform the way you think about the language around you. You will study texts ranging from children's books to Mills and Boon romances, MI5 job adverts to EastEnders transcripts, and 16th-century recipes to Donald Trump's tweets.

You will understand how and why men and women speak differently, why your parents may not understand why a good thing is 'sick', and how babies and children learn to speak. You will understand where English came from and where it's going. Be prepared for hard work, but huge rewards – and to realise just how fascinating the English language is!

Course outline

Year 12

Students are introduced to the key concepts of English Language: Spoken Language (a wide range of transcripts and theorists) and essays on Concepts and Issues. They begin an original writing portfolio and develop the skills to analyse their own language.

Context for Language Change Over Time is covered, and students start exploring the genres in English in the Twenty-First Century. By the end of the year, they complete the first draft of their investigation.

Year 13

Students cover Child Language Acquisition and, by January, complete their Language Change study and investigation, leaving time for revision before the exams.

Where might it lead?

A-level English Language teaches numerous skills that are invaluable in a wide range of professions. You will present, research, analyse and evaluate, and form and justify your own opinions on texts and theorists – skills that will also prepare you for further education.

Past students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at university, including Law, Marketing, Journalism, Linguistics, Creative Writing and History.

In the words of David Crystal, the foremost expert on the English language: 'English has no independent existence apart from the people who use it. It is not an end in itself: it is a means to an end of understanding who you are and what society is like.'

Scan for detailed course information

Official Eduqas qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

English Language

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

80% examination · 20% coursework

Examining board: Eduqas

30%	**Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues**	**Exam** · Spoken Language: compare two or more transcripts. Concepts and Issues: one essay – Child Language Acquisition, Standard and Non-Standard, Language and Situation, or Language and Power.
30%	**Component 2: Language Change Over Time**	**Exam** · Three unseen texts from 1500 onwards, linked by genre: short questions and an extended comparison. English in the Twenty-First Century: analysis of data such as social media, texts or emails.
20%	**Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language**	**Exam** · Two original pieces inspired by a stimulus, with analysis of one.
20%	**Component 4: Language and Identity**	**Coursework (NEA)** · A 2,500–3,500-word investigation into self-representation, gender, culture or language diversity.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Language Change study and investigation (Jan Y13)

This course may go well with

- English Literature
- Media Studies
- Psychology
- Languages

Additional Comments

- Students should be aware of the importance of organisation and be prepared to maintain folders for each component.
- Students should complete their own wider reading and research in addition to the texts covered in lessons.

Required and Recommended Resources

REVISION GUIDES	Revision Express AS and A2 English Language (Alan Gardiner) · ISBN 9781408206539
OTHER RESOURCES	Mastering Advanced English Language (Sara Thorne) · ISBN 9781403994837
WIDER READING	BBC Radio 4: Word of Mouth (Michael Rosen)

No set textbook.

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

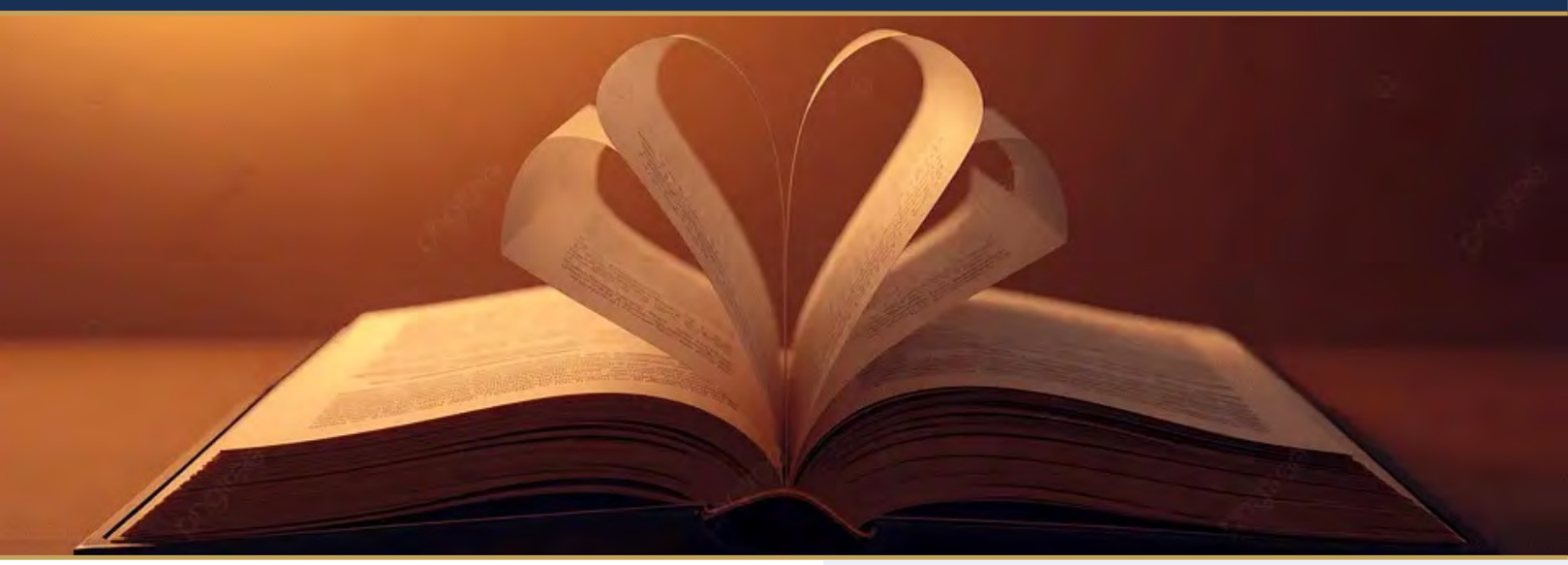
Scan to visit

davidcrystal.com
Articles and talks by David Crystal

Mind your language
English language in the news (The Guardian)

English Literature

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level English Literature B (AQA)

Subject Leader – Mrs J McWilliams
jmcwilliams@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

If you love watching characters and conflicts come to life in a powerful play, seeing the world afresh through the striking imagery of a poem, and think of reading as 'chocolate for the brain', English Literature is the A-level for you.

You'll explore fascinating stories, characters and ideas across genres including tragedy and political and social protest, discovering how writers create meaning, challenge expectations and explore important issues. You'll learn to interpret texts from different perspectives, make connections between them and develop your own informed ideas – building confidence, critical thinking and communication skills that provide an excellent foundation for further study and many careers.

Course outline

Year 12

You are introduced to the two genres of study – Tragedy, and Political and Social Protest – beginning with Shakespeare's Othello and Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner, then moving on to Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman and Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale.

You build your essay-writing skills, considering wider literary and social contexts and different critical approaches, and choose your own poetry and prose texts for the NEA – one essay can be a recreative response.

Year 13

You complete your study of tragedy with Thomas Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles and of protest with William Blake's poetry.

Where might it lead?

English Literature can lead to university courses in English, Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism, Law, History, Politics or Media, and to careers such as journalism, publishing, teaching, law, marketing, advertising, public relations and communications.

The ability to analyse ideas, communicate clearly, construct strong arguments and see different perspectives is valued across many professions – even in science, technology and mathematics, where writing proposals and academic papers is essential.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

English Literature

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 4 in GCSE English Literature

Course Structure and Assessment

80% examination · 20% coursework

Examining board: AQA

40%	**Paper 1A: Aspects of Tragedy**	**Closed book** · A – passage-based question on the Shakespeare text; B – essay on the Shakespeare text; C – essay linking two texts (25 marks each).
40%	**Paper 2B: Political and Social Protest Writing**	**Open book (clean copy)** · A – unseen passage; B – essay on set texts; C – essay connecting two texts (25 marks each).
20%	**NEA: Theory and Independence**	**Coursework** · Two 1,250–1,500-word essays (one poetry, one prose), each linked to the Critical Anthology; one may be recreative. Moderated by AQA.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Additional mock exam (Nov Y12)

This course may go well with

- History
- Religious Studies
- Drama
- English Language
- Politics

Additional Comments

- English Literature is assessed through academic essay writing, so expect regular essay assignments!
- Keep work organised, with separate folders for each section of each component.
- Students must do their own wider reading, especially for the coursework – for example critical opinions and context.
- Students will need to purchase their own copies of the set texts listed below.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Othello (Shakespeare) · Death of a Salesman (Miller) · The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood) · The Kite Runner (Hosseini) · Songs of Innocence and Experience (Blake) · Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Hardy)
REVISION GUIDES	York Notes Advanced study guide for each core text above
WIDER READING	A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini) · The Testaments (Atwood) · 1984 (Orwell) · A Streetcar Named Desire (Williams)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

rsc.org.uk
Royal Shakespeare Company – learning resources

Food Science and Nutrition

LEVEL 3



COURSE

Level 3 AAQ Extended Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC)

Subject Leader – Miss J Stockley
jstockley@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

We are living through times of great change, yet with this change come great opportunities in the food industry. The Food Science and Nutrition qualification allows students to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food, as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food.

Course outline

- Unit 1 – Nutritional needs across the life stages (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Unit 2 – Developing practical food production skills (25%): internally assessed
- Unit 3 – Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production (25%): written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Unit 4 – Experimenting to solve food production problems (25%): internally assessed (optional unit)

Why this type of qualification?

It develops practical and academic skills through applied, project-based learning in a vocational context relevant to the food industry, with flexible choices to specialise. Its strong practical emphasis is ideal for students who prefer to learn by doing.

Where might it lead?

A career in the food industry puts you at the heart of the largest and most important economic activity in the world. The global food industry is growing at around 5% a year, and food and drink is the UK's biggest manufacturing sector – so career prospects are excellent.

Careers include food technology, food marketing, product development, nutrition, dietetics, catering, journalism, environmental health, teaching, hotel management, laboratory work, food retailing, nursing, social health and sports science.

Scan for detailed course information

Official WJEC qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Food Science and Nutrition

Bishop Heber High School
RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

50% examination · 50% coursework

Examining board: WJEC

25%	**Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages**	**Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks**
25%	**Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills**	**WJEC-set task, internally assessed**
25%	**Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production**	**Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks**
25%	**Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems**	**Internally assessed** · Optional unit (the alternative is Unit 5: Current issues).

Key Dates / Milestones

- Unit 2 task released (Jan Y12), submitted (May Y12)
- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Unit 1 exam, timetabled by WJEC (May Y12)
- NEA investigation days instead of Pre-mocks (Oct Y13)
- NEA work instead of Mocks (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Biology
- Health and Social Care
- Sport
- Chemistry
- Psychology

Additional Comments

Each unit is graded a–e, and the overall qualification A*–E.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

Year 1: WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition (Anita Tull and Jillian Bryant) · ISBN 9781911208587

Year 2: WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition (Anita Tull) · ISBN 9781912820702

WIDER READING

Journal of Food Science (Wiley Online Library)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

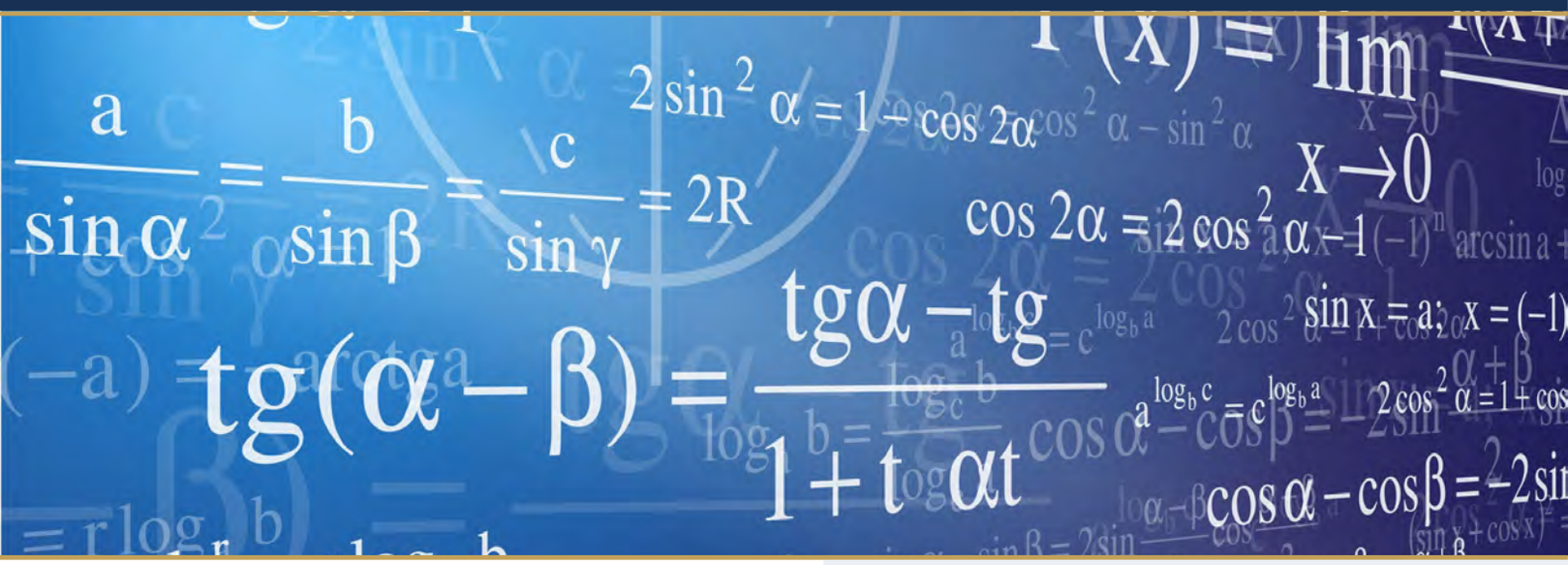
foodafactoflife.org.uk
Food, nutrition and healthy eating

bbcgoodfood.com
Recipes and food inspiration

hse.gov.uk
Health and Safety Executive

Further Mathematics

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Further Mathematics (Pearson Edexcel)

Subject Leader – Mr J Pedder
jpedder@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Mathematics is a vast subject with many different branches to explore. Further Mathematics allows students to widen their field of understanding and provides an enriched set of skills to take onto their chosen career path.

The course is a great challenge for the most able mathematicians. For most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees, A-level Mathematics is a requirement and AS or A-level Further Mathematics is often preferred. Anyone applying for a STEM degree should consider taking Further Mathematics to at least AS level, as the additional content helps ensure a successful progression to university.

"Those students who had studied Further Mathematics to A- or AS-level standard reported coping better with the mathematical content of the degree, and as such perceived that they required less additional support throughout their studies." – Institute of Physics, 'Mind the Gap' report, 2010

Course outline

Currently, during Year 12 and Year 13, students study additional pure mathematics alongside decision mathematics.

Pure mathematics

New concepts include matrices, complex numbers, hyperbolic functions, differential equations and more advanced calculus.

Decision mathematics

Concepts include linear programming, critical path analysis, algorithms and graphs, and game theory.

Where might it lead?

Further Mathematics can make you stand out from the crowd, opening doors to the most prestigious university courses and employment opportunities. Careers for people with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid but often interesting and rewarding.

Careers in physics, engineering, market research, accountancy, logistics, games design, computer programming, encryption and security are just some that rely heavily on mathematical skills.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Further Mathematics

Bishop Heber High School
RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics (Higher Tier) – must be taken alongside A-level Mathematics

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

25%	**Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1**	**1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks** · Core pure mathematics from the two years.
25%	**Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2**	**1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks** · Core pure mathematics from the two years.
25%	**Paper 3: Decision Mathematics 1**	**1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks** · Optional paper studied at Bishop Heber.
25%	**Paper 4: Decision Mathematics 2**	**1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks** · Optional paper studied at Bishop Heber.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Regular ongoing assessment

This course may go well with

- Mathematics (required)
- Physics
- Computer Science
- Chemistry

Additional Comments

- A calculator that handles matrices up to at least 3×3 is mandatory – students need the Casio ClassWiz fx-991EX.
- Resources covering the whole course are provided; the textbooks below are recommended extras.
- Further Mathematics is taken as an additional fourth A-level, alongside Mathematics and two other subjects.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Further Mathematics: Core Pure Mathematics Book 1/AS · ISBN 9781292183336

Core Pure Mathematics Book 2 · ISBN 9781292183343

Decision Mathematics 1 · ISBN 9781292183299 · Decision Mathematics 2 · ISBN 9781292183305

WIDER READING

Journey into Mathematics (Joseph Rotman) · Introductory Mathematics: Algebra and Analysis (Geoffrey Smith) · Basic Linear Algebra (Blyth and Robertson) · A History of Mathematics (Boyer and Merzbach)

Films: A Beautiful Mind, Hidden Figures, The Theory of Everything, The Imitation Game

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

furthermaths.org.uk
Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

mathscareers.org.uk
Where maths can take you

futuremorph.org
STEM careers

Geography

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Geography (Pearson Edexcel)

Subject Leader – Mrs O Limbert
olimbert@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Geography matters. That's why our course covers a wide range of contemporary themes and issues, so you can understand the world around us and what could impact its future.

The world needs geographers. It's well known that studying geography leads to a wealth of further study and career opportunities, and you will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to succeed in your next step.

"Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future." – Michael Palin

Course outline

Dynamic Landscapes

Tectonic Processes and Hazards · Coastal Landscapes and Change

Dynamic Places

Diverse Places · Globalisation

Physical Systems and Sustainability

The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity · The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Human Systems and Geopolitics

Superpowers · Health, Human Rights and Intervention

There are four compulsory fieldwork days over the two years, two of which are residential.

Where might it lead?

Geography is a highly respected academic qualification, valued by employers.

Jobs related to geography

- Cartographer
- Commercial/residential surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Town planner
- International aid/development worker
- Landscape architect
- Nature conservation officer
- Sustainability consultant
- Tourism officer

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Geography

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE Geography

Course Structure and Assessment

80% examination · 20% coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

30%	**Paper 1**	**2 hours 15 minutes** · Understanding and application of physical geography.
30%	**Paper 2**	**2 hours 15 minutes** · Understanding and application of human geography.
20%	**Paper 3**	**2 hours 15 minutes** · A synoptic assessment of geographical skills, knowledge and understanding in a place-based context.
20%	**Independent Investigation (NEA)**	**Coursework** · A fieldwork-based enquiry in a topic area of your choice.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Biology
- Economics
- History
- Travel and Tourism

Additional Comments

Alongside knowledge and understanding, you will develop research, data-collection, statistical and IT skills (including computer cartography), written and oral communication, problem solving and creative thinking about ethical issues.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Geography for Edexcel A Level Year 1 and Year 2 (Bob Digby) · ISBNs 9780198366454 / 9780198366485
REVISION GUIDES	Year 1 and Year 2 Revision Guides (Catherine Hurst) · ISBNs 9780198432722 / 9780198432753
OTHER RESOURCES	Edexcel A Level Geography Exam Practice (Tim Bayliss) · ISBN 9780198432623
WIDER READING	Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall) · Disaster by Choice and Antarcticness (Ilan Kelman) · The New Urban Crisis (Richard Florida) · Brilliant Maps (Ian Wright) · Fifty Things That Made the Modern Economy (Tim Harford) · Seriously Curious (The Economist) · BBC World Service: The Inquiry

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

rgs.org
Royal Geographical Society – student resources

Geography Review
Hodder Education magazine

Ask the Geographer
RGS podcast series

physicsandmathstutor.com
Edexcel A-level revision

Health and Social Care

BTEC LEVEL 3



COURSE

BTEC Level 3 AAQ Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (Pearson)

Teacher in charge of Health and Social Care – Mrs H Williams
hwilliams@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

This course gives students a broad understanding of health, social care and health science through the study of human development, biology, professional practice and disease. Students explore how individuals grow and develop throughout the lifespan, how the body's systems function, and how disorders and diseases can affect health.

They also study the principles and values that underpin effective person-centred care in health and social care settings, and investigate microorganisms, infectious diseases and epidemiology. Together, these units develop students' knowledge, analytical skills and understanding of health and wellbeing, preparing them for higher education and a range of health-related professions.

Course outline

The course covers four units. Units 1 and 2 are examined; Units 3 and 7 are internally assessed through coursework.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development

Unit 2: Human Biology and Health

Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice

Unit 7: Health Science

Where might it lead?

Further study

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Social Work
- Paramedic Science
- Care work
- Public health

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Health and Social Care

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 4 in GCSE Biology

Course Structure and Assessment

50% examination · 50% coursework

Examining board: Pearson (BTEC)

50%	**Units 1 and 2**	**Written exams, 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks each** · Unit 1 – Human Lifespan and Development; Unit 2 – Human Biology and Health.
50%	**Units 3 and 7**	**Coursework** · Internally assessed: Unit 3 – Principles of Health and Social Care Practice; Unit 7 – Health Science.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Unit 1 exam (May Y12)
- Unit 2 exam (Jan Y13), with an extra mock (Dec Y13)
- Assessments (Autumn and Spring Y12)

This course may go well with

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Sport

Additional Comments

Students will develop academic skills such as research; management of their own time and learning; organisation and critical thinking; the responsibilities, values and skills expected of professionals delivering care; cultural and social intelligence when working with people of all ages with different needs; and interpersonal skills, including compassion and empathy.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	L3 AAQ BTEC National 2025 Health and Social Care Extended Certificate Student Book (Pearson) · ISBN 9781292487083
REVISION GUIDES	Revision guide to be confirmed for the 2025 AAQ specification
OTHER RESOURCES	Pearson specification · Active Hub · tutor2u Knowledge Booklets
WIDER READING	Community Care online journal (communitycare.co.uk) · NHS England: personalised care and choice

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

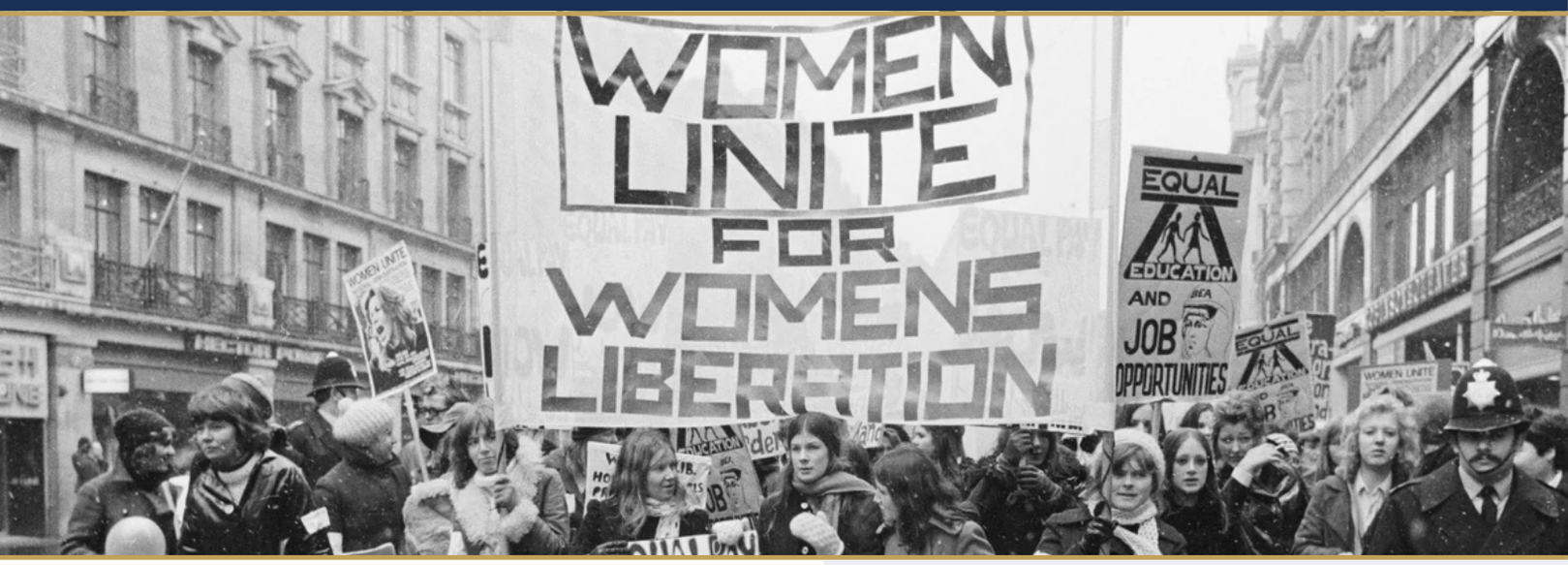
Scan to visit

healthcareers.nhs.uk
NHS careers in health

skillsforcare.org.uk
Careers and training in social care

History

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level History (AQA)

Subject Leader – Mr J Penlington
jpenlington@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

History is interesting and relevant to the world you live in. It is a challenging academic qualification that is highly valued by universities and employers, and the interesting and varied topics studied over two years give you time to fully understand the course content.

You will develop the skills needed to research and present key arguments, understand different interpretations, analyse and evaluate evidence, and reach substantiated judgements and conclusions.

Course outline

Unit 1 – Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

A breadth study of Russian history, from the last Tsars, through the Russian Revolution, to the Communist era of Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev.

Unit 2 – The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

A depth study of modern British history, covering political, social and economic developments.

Unit 3 – Non-Examined Assessment: the causes of the American Civil War

Coursework of 3,500–4,500 words analysing the causes of the American Civil War.

Where might it lead?

History is a highly respected academic qualification, valued by employers. The subject is very popular as we cover engaging topics and significant moments in British and world history.

The course demands dedication, reading and research skills; explanation and analytical skills; the ability to understand different interpretations of events; using and evaluating evidence; and forming detailed arguments and conclusions. These skills are transferable to other written and analytical subjects and are an excellent basis for university.

It has led many former students to varied careers such as journalism, law, archaeology, politics, teaching, museum curation, conservation and the civil service.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

History

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE History (if taken)

Course Structure and Assessment

80% examination · 20% coursework

Examining board: AQA

40%	**Paper 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia**	**2 hours 30 minutes** · Section A: one question on three historical interpretations (extracts). Section B: two essays from a choice of three.
40%	**Paper 2: The Making of Modern Britain**	**2 hours 30 minutes** · Section A: one primary source question. Section B: two essays from a choice of three.
20%	**NEA**	**Coursework** · An independent historical investigation of 3,500–4,500 words.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Politics
- English Literature
- Religious Studies
- Economics
- Geography

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Oxford AQA History: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855–1964 (Sally Waller) · ISBN 9780198354673 Access to History: Britain 1951–2007, 2nd edition (Hodder) · ISBN 9781471839092
REVISION GUIDES	My Revision Notes: Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855–1964 (Michael Scott-Baumann) · ISBN 9781471876165 My Revision Notes: The Making of Modern Britain 1951–2007 (Peter Clements) · ISBN 9781471876288
WIDER READING	The History of Modern Britain (Andrew Marr) · Revolutionary Russia, 1891–1991 (Orlando Figes)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

teachithistory.co.uk
History resources

bbc.co.uk/history
BBC History – modern Britain

Languages

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level French / A-level German / A-level Spanish (AQA)

Subject Leader – Mrs L Stanisstreet
lstanisstreet@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Students studying an A-level language can expect to explore the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken. In turn, students can expect to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and develop their capacity for critical thinking
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning for both practical and intellectual purposes
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language, including through online media
- develop language-learning skills and strategies to build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts and films in the original language
- develop as independent researchers through the language of study.

Course outline

The A-level is a two-year course taught alongside a comprehensive grammar programme. Topics include social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, and literary texts and films.

Three papers assess all four key skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – at the end of the two-year course. Students also carry out an assessed individual research project on an area of study related to the target-language country.

Where might it lead?

Modern languages are a highly respected academic qualification, valued by employers. After A-level, combining a foreign language with any other subject at university is a very popular pathway – from single honours to joint language degrees or business and management with a language, there is always a course that lets you continue studying a language.

Employers regard language skills as highly desirable, and students of a foreign language have gone on to careers in translating, travel, tourism, management, teaching, recruitment, IT, border control, the security services, policing and many more.

French German Spanish

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA pages for French, German and Spanish – specification, assessment details and past papers

Languages

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE in the relevant language (Higher Tier)

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination (including speaking) · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

50%	**Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing**	**Exam, 2 hours 30 minutes** · Current trends and issues; artistic culture and political life in the target-language world; grammar.
20%	**Paper 2: Writing**	**Exam, 2 hours** · One text and one film, or two texts, from the list set in the specification; grammar.
30%	**Paper 3: Speaking**	**21–23 minutes, including 5 minutes' preparation** · Discussion of a sub-theme from a stimulus card, then a presentation and discussion of your individual research project.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- English Language
- History
- Politics
- English Literature

Additional Comments

Includes an individual research project on a country where the language is spoken, presented in the speaking exam.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

French: AQA Year 1 and AS (2nd edition) and Year 2 Student Books (Pike, Povey, Shannon)

German: AQA Year 1 and AS and Year 2 Student Books (Klingler, McCrorie, Sauer, Schicker, Sydenham)

Spanish: AQA Year 1 and AS and Year 2 Student Books (Bond, Kendrick, Mejías Yedra, Villatoro)

STUDY GUIDES

French: Au revoir les enfants (Harrington) · Un sac de billes (Harrington)

German: Good Bye, Lenin! (Brammall) · Der Besuch der alten Dame (Elliott)

Spanish: El laberinto del fauno (García Sánchez, Weston) · Crónica de una muerte anunciada (Bianchi, Thacker)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Seneca Learning (Spanish)** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

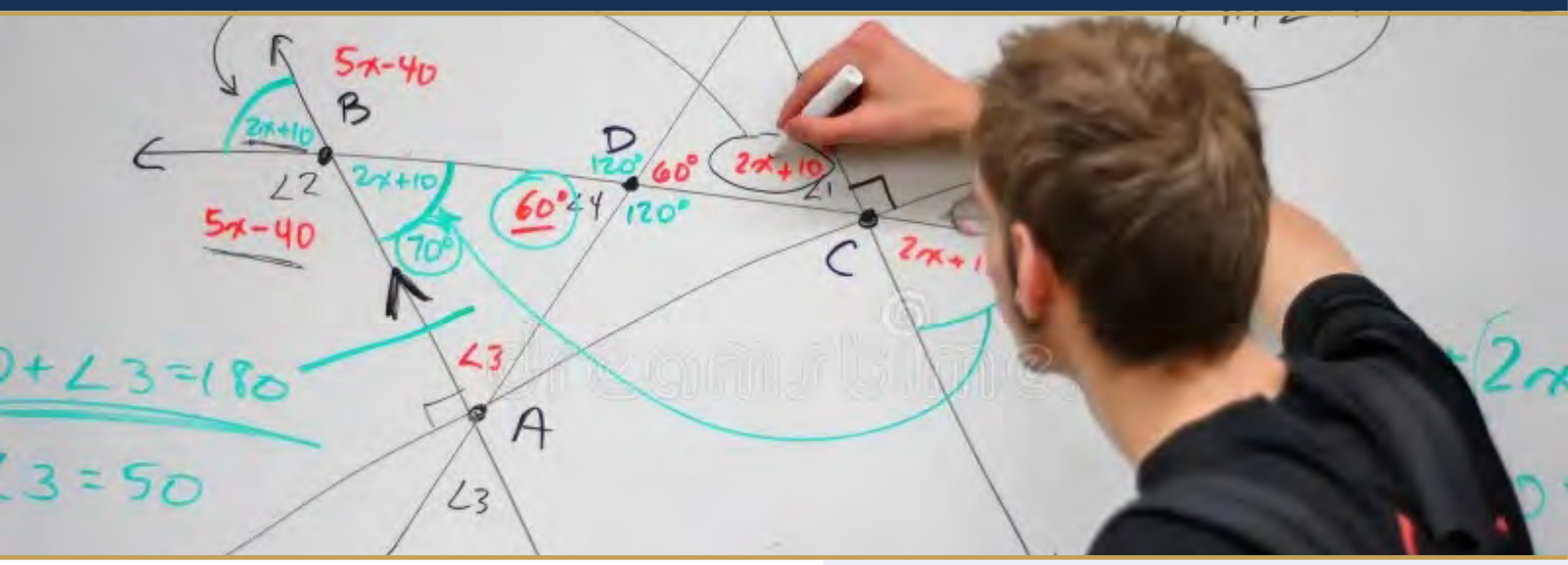
Scan to visit

kerboodle.com
Online textbook and resources

teachit.co.uk
Language learning resources

Mathematics

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Mathematics (Pearson Edexcel)

Subject Leader – Mr J Pedder
jpedder@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

It would be difficult today (perhaps impossible) to live a normal life without making use of mathematics of some kind. Mathematics is fundamental to all scientific and technological work, from experiments that rely on mathematical models to developing the computers on which they run.

The skills you learn in A-level Mathematics are of great benefit to other subjects, and strong mathematics skills are important for progression to many university courses. For most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees, A-level Mathematics is a requirement.

Employers highly value mathematics qualifications, as students become better at thinking logically and analytically and are able to formulate reasoned arguments. You will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. It is also a most satisfying, challenging and rewarding subject to study in its own right.

Course outline

Year 12

You will develop your existing skills in pure mathematics, learning new concepts such as calculus, exponentials and logarithms. You will also apply your skills to mechanics – forces, Newton's laws, moments and kinematics – and to statistics, developing your understanding of probability, statistical sampling, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing.

Year 13

You will further advance your pure mathematics skills with topics such as parametric equations, partial fractions and numerical methods such as Newton–Raphson, and continue with mechanics and statistics.

Where might it lead?

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well respected by employers, and a 'facilitating' subject for entry to higher education. Careers for people with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid but often interesting and rewarding.

Careers in physics, engineering, market research, accountancy, logistics, games design, computer programming, encryption and security are just some that rely heavily on mathematical skills.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Mathematics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (Higher Tier)

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

33⅓%	**Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · Any of the pure mathematics learnt over the two years.
33⅓%	**Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · Any of the pure mathematics learnt over the two years.
33⅓%	**Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics**	**2 hours, 100 marks** · Section A – Statistics; Section B – Mechanics.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Early hurdle test (Autumn Y12)
- Regular ongoing assessment

This course may go well with

- Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Computer Science
- Chemistry
- Economics

Additional Comments

- A scientific calculator that can compute summary statistics and access probabilities from standard statistical distributions is mandatory. Students will require the Casio ClassWiz fx-991EX.
- A textbook covering the two-year course is provided to each student; the books below are recommended extras.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics: Pure Mathematics Year 1/AS · ISBN 9781292183398
	Pearson Edexcel A level Mathematics: Pure Mathematics Year 2 · ISBN 9781292183404
	Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Mathematics: Statistics & Mechanics Year 1/AS · ISBN 9781292232539
	Pearson Edexcel A level Mathematics: Statistics & Mechanics Year 2 · ISBN 9781446944073
WIDER READING	Fermat's Last Theorem (Simon Singh) · Taming the Infinite (Ian Stewart) · YouTube: Numberphile, Oxford Mathematics

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

furthermaths.org.uk
Advanced Mathematics Support Programme

mathscareers.org.uk
Where maths can take you

futuremorph.org
STEM careers

Media Studies

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Media Studies (OCR)

Head of Media Studies – Mr M Parsons
mparsons@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Media Studies helps students understand the industries, technologies and messages that shape our everyday lives. From television, film and advertising to social media and online news, the media sector is one of the UK's fastest-growing creative industries.

The course develops valuable skills, including critical thinking, analysis, research, communication and creative problem solving. Students explore how media products are created, distributed and consumed, while also producing their own practical work. A-level Media Studies provides a strong foundation for a wide range of university courses and careers, including journalism, marketing, advertising, television, film, public relations, digital media and content creation.

Course outline

Year 12

An introduction to the key concepts of Media Studies, followed by a practical task. The autumn and spring terms cover the examined media forms – Film, Advertising, Music Video, Magazines, Radio and Video Games – through set products analysed with media theories. In the summer term, students respond to the exam board's production brief to create their own media product.

Year 13

Exam preparation continues with Television, Print News and Online News, applying a wide range of media theories. The course ends with two written exams and the submission of the coursework project.

Where might it lead?

A-level Media Studies opens the door to a wide range of university courses and careers. Throughout the course, students develop highly transferable skills in research, analysis, communication, creativity and critical thinking, all valued by universities and employers alike.

Many students progress to degrees in Media, Journalism, Film, Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, Digital Media and Communications. Career pathways include journalism, television and film production, social media management, content creation, graphic design, advertising, marketing and public relations.

The subject complements English, Sociology, Business and Politics, making it a versatile and respected A-level for both creative and professional industries.

Scan for detailed course information

Official OCR qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Media Studies

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

70% examination · 30% coursework

Examining board: OCR

35%	**Component 1: Media Messages**	**Written exam, 2 hours** · News (print and online), advertising and marketing, magazines and music videos; media language, representation and media theories.
35%	**Component 2: Evolving Media**	**Written exam, 2 hours** · Film, radio and video games – industries and audiences; long-form television drama.
30%	**Component 3: Making Media**	**Coursework** · Create your own media product from a live OCR brief, including research, planning, production and evaluation.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- English Language
- Sociology
- Photography
- Drama
- Business

Additional Comments

- Students will be required to write extended pieces in their exams and to analyse media products independently.
- Students do not need any of their own media production equipment for this course.
- Equipment is available through the department and can be loaned to students during any production.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

OCR A Level Media Studies Student Guide 1: Media Messages (Louisa Cunningham) · ISBN 9781510429499

OCR A Level Media Studies Student Guide 2: Evolving Media (Jason Mazzocchi) · ISBN 9781510429505

REVISION GUIDES

My Revision Notes: OCR A Level Media Studies (Michael Rodgers) · ISBN 9781510429215

WIDER READING

Media Studies: A Complete Introduction (Joanne Hollows) · Writings on Media: History of the Present (Stuart Hall)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

intofilm.org
Film resources and reviews

bfi.org.uk
British Film Institute

media-studies.com
Guides to analysing media texts

theguardian.com/media
Media news, opinion and analysis

Music Technology

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Music Technology (Pearson Edexcel)

Subject Leader – Mr S Ferrelly
sferrelly@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

- Do you have a passion for recording rock and pop music?
- Are you interested in music production using computer software and synthesisers?
- Do you enjoy creating your own compositions?
- Are you open to a wide range of musical styles and traditions?
- Do you want to learn more about musical analysis and how producers create modern music?

If the answer to these questions is yes, A-level Music Technology could be for you.

Course outline

Component 1 – Recording (20%)

Record, edit and mix a song from the popular music tradition, from an Edexcel list released in June of Year 12.

Component 2 – Technology-based composition (20%)

A 3-minute composition responding to an Edexcel brief, using synthesis and sampling.

Component 3 – Listening and analysing (25%)

A 90-minute exam on 'unfamiliar' pop music: short-answer questions, a comparison of two recordings and a wider-context essay.

Component 4 – Producing and analysing (35%)

A 135-minute practical and written exam: analysing audio and MIDI, creating a mix, and an essay on a mixing scenario, signal path, effect or hardware unit.

Where might it lead?

A-level Music Technology is a fascinating, rewarding and practical course that also teaches the theory, science and mathematics of MIDI and audio recording and production. It prepares you for degrees such as Music Technology or Sound Production, and careers in the music industry including:

- sound engineering and studio roles
- live sound production
- broadcasting
- film or games music production.

Its numeracy, literacy and analysis skills transfer to any degree or career. Balancing practical NEA with challenging exams, it is valued by universities and employers; successful students are motivated, creative critical thinkers.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Music Technology

Bishop Heber High School
RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 4 in GCSE Music or Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent)

Course Structure and Assessment

60% examination · 40% coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

20%	**Recording**	**NEA, marked by Pearson** · A 3–3.5-minute song from an Edexcel list, recorded, mixed and mastered in a DAW, with a logbook (the performance isn't assessed).
20%	**Technology-based composition**	**NEA, marked by Pearson** · A 3-minute composition for an Edexcel brief, using synthesis and sampling, with a logbook.
25%	**Listening and Analysing**	**Exam, 90 minutes** · Unfamiliar popular music – short-answer questions, a comparison of two recordings and a wider-context essay.
35%	**Producing and Analysing**	**Exam, 135 minutes** · With a practical element – correcting and mixing audio and MIDI, and an essay on a mixing scenario, signal path, effect or hardware unit.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- NEA deadline (15 May Y13)
- Regular interim NEA deadlines

This course may go well with

- Physics
- Media Studies
- Drama
- Computer Science
- Photography

Additional Comments

- Past Recording songs include AC/DC, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Olivia Rodrigo, The Who, Dua Lipa and Taylor Swift.
- Composition briefs have included a short film scene, a poem set as a song, and an abstract piece from given samples.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	A Level Music Technology Study Guide (Tim Hallas, Rhinegold) · ISBN 9781785586026
REVISION GUIDES	A Level Music Technology Revision Guide (James Reevell, Rhinegold) · ISBN 9781785586347
OTHER RESOURCES	A music streaming subscription (e.g. Apple Music or Spotify) · Libby and JSTOR library resources
WIDER READING	Sound on Sound · MusicTech magazine · Logic forums (the software used on the course)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

soundonsound.com
Sound on Sound magazine

Photography

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level Art and Design: Photography (Eduqas)

Subject Leader – Mrs A Stoddart
astoddart@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

A-level Photography will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. The creative potential stimulated in this course will enable you to apply creative, analytical and critical thinking and problem solving to communicate ideas visually through photography – an awareness that also benefits any other course you take.

Students develop critical analyses of artists' work, helping to develop their own ideas through reaction, practical application and written reflection. Throughout the course, students learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes, including hands-on experimentation alongside traditional techniques such as film and lighting, and the use of Photoshop and other digital media platforms.

Course outline

Eduqas assesses coursework, which is completed during the first sixteen months of the course. Component 1 (coursework) is worth 60% and Component 2 (exam) is worth 40%.

Students use sketchbooks and digital workbooks to demonstrate project management through practical learning, development of ideas and critical analysis. Coursework takes pressure away from traditional timed exams.

In Year 13 there is an externally set assignment. Students receive an Eduqas list of varied starting points on 1 February from which to produce a visual response, with a preparatory period culminating in a final outcome produced in 15 hours of supervised time.

Where might it lead?

Photography develops a wide range of skills – analytical and critical thinking and problem solving – which will be useful at university and in future careers. It offers a highly creative, hands-on alternative to other A-level subjects. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive, resulting in great achievements throughout the course.

Photography could lead to academic or vocational degrees relating to art careers, advertising, commercial, editorial, fashion, film, food, forensic, industrial, architectural, aerial, portrait, wedding, sports, travel and press photography, photojournalism, fine art, editing, styling, the film industry, forensic science and curating.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Eduqas qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Photography

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

40% examination · 60% coursework

Examining board: Eduqas

60%	**Component 1: Personal Investigation**	**Coursework** · A practical investigation supported by written material, including a creative learner statement of at least 1,500 words.
40%	**Component 2: Externally Set Assignment**	**Externally set, supervised** · Preparatory period (beginning 1 February) followed by 15 hours of supervised time in April.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Artist Research presentation – 2-hour mock (Jun Y12)
- Personal Investigation completed (Jan Y13)
- Externally Set Assignment – 15 hours supervised (Apr Y13)
- Course completion (Apr Y13)

This course may go well with

- Art and Design
- Media Studies
- Product Design
- Computer Science
- English Language

Additional Comments

- A wide range of media and processes, drawn together in extended creative responses.
- Sketchbooks and portfolios will be offered to students at a reduced cost.

Required and Recommended Resources

OTHER RESOURCES

Required purchases: an SD card and SD card reader · Pinterest, for visual research

Tate, National Gallery, V&A, British Museum and local gallery websites, for exhibition updates

Podcasts: The Messy Truth · Magnum Podcast · A Photographic Life · Documentaries: Finding Vivian Maier (Amazon Prime) · Annie Leibovitz: Life Through a Lens (YouTube)

WIDER READING

British Journal of Photography · Photography: A Critical Introduction (Wells) · Why It Does Not Have To Be In Focus (Higgins) · Humans of New York (Stanton) · Magnum Contact Sheets (Lubben)

A*/A students considering Photography at university: World Press Photo · National Geographic Photography · Magnum photo essays · a journal of images and thoughts, alongside your portfolio

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

Photography Life
Techniques and reviews

Cambridge in Colour
Learning community

Fstoppers
News, reviews, tutorials

Guardian: Art
Arts news

designcollector.net
Art and design

artuk.org
Museum collections

Physics

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Physics (AQA)

Head of Physics – Mr A Wilson
awilson@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

You will already be familiar with many of the topics you will study, including forces, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism. At A-level, you'll look at these areas in more detail and find out how they are interconnected. You will also learn how to apply maths to real-world problems and explore new areas such as particle physics, cosmology and medical physics.

Perhaps more importantly, you will develop skills that transfer to just about any other area of work, from setting up a business to saving the planet. Even if you don't become a physicist, learning to think like one will help you get to the root of any problem and draw connections that aren't obvious to others. Physics won't give you all the answers, but it will teach you how to ask the right questions.

Course outline

Topics

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics

Where might it lead?

Physics is highly respected by universities and leads to a huge range of traditional and diverse career opportunities. The skills achieved at A-level are transferable to any profession.

The opportunities are endless and include: actuarial and scientific research, all types of engineering, astrophysics, dentistry, forensic science, manufacturing industries, medicine, veterinary science and physics.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Physics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 6 in GCSE Physics (Higher Tier) or grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier)

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

34%	**Paper 1**	**2 hours** · Topics 1 to 5 and 6.1 Periodic motion.
34%	**Paper 2**	**2 hours** · Topics 6.2 to 8.
32%	**Paper 3**	**2 hours** · Practical skills and data analysis, plus the Astrophysics option (Topic 9).

12 required practicals, assessed in the written exams; the Practical Endorsement is reported separately.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- End-of-topic tests

This course may go well with

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Product Design

Additional Comments

On SharePoint, students have access to Physics PiXL6 resources for each topic. Optional workbooks can be bought from retailers or, where demand is high, through a bulk order by the Science department.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	A-Level Physics for AQA: Year 1 & 2 (CGP) · ISBN 9781789080483 (compulsory)
REVISION GUIDES	AQA Physics Year 1 & AS Complete Revision & Practice (CGP) · ISBN 9781789080322 (optional)
OTHER RESOURCES	Practice in Physics (Akrill et al.) · ISBN 9781444121254 (optional)
WIDER READING	Living Reviews in Relativity (Springer) · Mrs Miller's blog

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

Institute of Physics (YouTube)
Physics talks and explainers

Physics Online (YouTube)
A-level Physics lessons

DrPhysicsA (YouTube)
Physics topic videos

AK Lectures (YouTube)
University-level lectures

Politics

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Politics (Pearson Edexcel)

Subject Leader – Mr J Penlington
jpenlington@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

- Politics is incredibly interesting, relevant to the world you live in and ever-changing – so it cannot be learnt from a textbook! It also complements other A-level subjects such as History, Economics and Sociology.
- You develop the skills needed to present key arguments, understand different political ideologies and viewpoints, analyse and evaluate our current political system, and enhance your essay writing and ability to form substantiated judgements and conclusions.

Course outline

Unit 1 – UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

- Political participation, including political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour
- Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism

Unit 2 – UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

- UK government, including the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive
- A non-core political ideology

Unit 3 – Comparative Politics: USA

- A comparative study of American politics, including the US Constitution, civil rights and the US presidency

Where might it lead?

Politics is a well-respected qualification, and a significant proportion of students who take it go on to study some form of Politics at university; International Relations and Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) are common choices.

The varied, contemporary topics make for a highly engaging course. The skills learnt are transferable to other written and analytical subjects and are an excellent basis for university.

It has led many former students to varied careers – some directly in politics, but also in law, humanitarian work, journalism and the civil service.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Politics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: Pearson Edexcel

33.3%	**Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas**	**2 hours** · One source question and one essay, each from a choice of two, plus a core political ideas essay from a choice of two.
33.3%	**Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas**	**2 hours** · One source question and one essay, each from a choice of two, plus a non-core political ideas essay from a choice of two.
33.3%	**Paper 3: Comparative Politics – USA**	**2 hours** · A short question from a choice of two, a compulsory comparative-theories question, and two essays from a choice of three.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- History
- Economics
- Sociology
- English Literature
- Religious Studies

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Edexcel AS and A Level Politics Student Book (Pearson) · ISBN 9781292187020
	Edexcel UK Government and Politics for A Level, 5th edition (Hodder) · ISBN 9781471889318
REVISION GUIDES	My Revision Notes: Edexcel A Level UK Government and Politics (Hodder) · ISBN 9781471889660

Textbooks are provided in lessons and are also available to buy.

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

alevelpolitics.com
Revision resources and political news

Product Design

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level Design and Technology: Product Design (AQA)

Subject Leader – Miss J Stockley
jstockley@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

- Are you interested in designers past and present?
- Are you interested in technologies and how they have changed the course of industrial manufacturing?
- Could you design the next mobile phone, electric car, ergonomically perfect chair or waterproof jacket?

Course outline

Paper 1 – written exam, 2.5 hours (30%)
Technical principles.

Paper 2 – written exam, 1.5 hours (20%)
Designing and making principles.

Non-examined assessment (50%)
A substantial design-and-make task: practical application of technical principles and designing and making principles.

Where might it lead?

Design and Technology can lead to careers in architecture, product design, engineering, manufacturing, graphic design, advertising, fashion design, quantity and building surveying, and illustration.

"The innovation that fuels UK growth relies on knowledge, the skilled use of materials and the command of ideas. Design and the Arts are vital components of an accessible and varied education system that can provide these skills."

– Sir Jonathan Ive, Stella McCartney, Sir Terence Conran and others, in an open letter to Government

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Product Design

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or Engineering

Course Structure and Assessment

50% examination · 50% coursework

Examining board: AQA

30%	**Paper 1: Technical principles**	**2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks** · Short-answer and extended-response questions.
20%	**Paper 2: Designing and making principles**	**1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks** · Section A – Product analysis (30 marks): up to 6 short-answer questions on visual stimulus of product(s). Section B – Commercial manufacture (50 marks): short and extended-response questions.
50%	**Non-exam assessment (NEA)**	**100 marks** · Substantial design-and-make project: a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of the final prototype.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- NEA submission (1 Mar Y13)

This course may go well with

- Art and Design
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Photography

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	AQA AS and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design (Potts, Morrison, Granger, Sumpner; Hodder) · ISBN 9781510414082
REVISION GUIDES	My Revision Notes: AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design (Hodder) · ISBN 9781510432291
WIDER READING	The Design of Everyday Things (Donald A. Norman)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

technologystudent.com
Design and technology resources

designmuseum.org
The Design Museum, London

alessi.com
Iconic product design

Psychology

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Psychology (AQA)

Subject Leader – Mrs P Mullan
pmullan@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

A-level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways.

You will learn a variety of skills, including analytical thinking, communication and problem solving, that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

Course outline

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology

Social influence · Memory · Attachment · Clinical psychology and mental health

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Approaches in psychology · Biopsychology · Research methods

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Issues and debates · Relationships · Schizophrenia · Aggression

Where might it lead?

An A-level in Psychology forms an excellent basis for a career working with or managing people. Psychology is a well-respected qualification, and a large number of our students go on to Psychology-related courses at university.

These degree courses include Psychology, Criminology, Sociology, Business Studies, Teaching, Sport and Exercise Science, and Law.

Studying Psychology can lead to a whole host of exciting careers, including accountancy, business development, clinical psychology, human resources, forensic psychology, marketing, nursing, occupational therapy and teaching.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Psychology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form entry requirements (see page 3), plus:

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

33.3%	**Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology**	**2 hours, 96 marks** · Social influence, memory, attachment, and clinical psychology and mental health.
33.3%	**Paper 2: Psychology in context**	**2 hours, 96 marks** · Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.
33.3%	**Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology**	**2 hours, 96 marks** · Issues and debates in psychology, plus one option from each of three topic groups.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Biology
- Sociology
- Mathematics
- Health and Social Care
- English Language

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

AQA Psychology for A Level: Year 1 & AS, 3rd edition (Flanagan, Jarvis, Liddle; Illuminate / Hachette Learning) · ISBN 9781036011970

AQA Psychology for A Level: Year 2, 3rd edition (Flanagan, Jarvis, Liddle; Illuminate / Hachette Learning) · ISBN 9781036011987

WIDER READING

The Lucifer Effect (Philip Zimbardo) · One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Ken Kesey) · tutor2u Psychology · Crash Course Psychology (YouTube)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON **Up Learn** uplearn.co.uk **Seneca Learning** senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

simplypsychology.org
Clear guides to psychology topics

Religious Studies

A-LEVEL



COURSE

A-level Religious Studies (AQA)

Subject Leader – Miss H Chadwick
hchadwick@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Religious Studies is a thought-provoking subject, and its contemporary themes inspire engaging classroom discussion, which you will be encouraged to take part in as fully as possible.

You will study the theories of key philosophers and Christian views, as well as their critics, and develop your own views. You will gain a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints.

Course outline

Paper 1 – Philosophy of religion and ethics

Arguments for the existence of God; the problem of evil; religious experience; miracles; the body/soul distinction and the afterlife; ethical theories – Utilitarianism, Kant, Natural Law, Situation Ethics – and their application to issues such as embryo research, abortion, euthanasia, the use of animals and capital punishment; ethical language; free will; conscience.

Paper 2 – Study of religion and dialogues (Christianity)

Christian views on God, the afterlife, moral conduct, identity, gender and sexuality, science, secularisation, migration and pluralism. Making links between Christian thought and the philosophical and ethical theories studied in Paper 1.

Where might it lead?

Religious Studies, with its debate, exploration of ethical issues and investigation into belief, provides an ideal platform for many degree courses. It is highly regarded by universities and employers, as it shows that you can think, discuss and evaluate.

You will develop a high standard of critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, publishing, administration and the media.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Religious Studies

Bishop Heber High School
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

50%	**Paper 1**	**3 hours** · Answer all questions.
50%	**Paper 2**	**3 hours** · Answer all questions in Section A; in Sections B and C, answer one question from a choice of two in each.

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- History
- English Literature
- Sociology
- Politics
- Psychology

Additional Comments

- Extended reading from our Philosophy library is actively encouraged to boost students' general philosophical thinking.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	AQA A-level Religious Studies Year 1: Including AS (John Frye) · ISBN 9781471873959 AQA A-level Religious Studies Year 2 (John Frye) · ISBN 9781471874000
REVISION GUIDES	My Revision Notes: AQA Religious Studies Paper 1 (Sheila Butler) · ISBN 9781510425873 My Revision Notes: AQA Religious Studies Paper 2 (Sheila Butler) · ISBN 9781510425880
WIDER READING	The God Delusion (Richard Dawkins) · The Sage Train (Nicky Hansell) · Sophie's World (Jostein Gaarder)

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

philosophyalevel.com
Philosophy A-level resources

Sociology

A-LEVEL



COURSE
A-level Sociology (AQA)

Teacher in charge of Sociology – Mr D Upton
dupton@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Sociology is about the world in which we live. It will help you to understand the structures within society. Lessons are always engaging and full of discussion. Sociology results are well above the national average, and it is a challenging academic qualification that is highly valued by universities and employers.

Sociology students develop excellent analytical and evaluative skills, which are of worth to any academic discipline. They are able to look at the world with empathy and understanding, which is beneficial to any person-centred job you might want in the future.

Course outline

Year 12

- Families and Households
- Education
- Theory and Methods

Year 13

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods

Where might it lead?

Sociology is a highly respected academic qualification, valued by employers and universities alike. The subject is very popular as we cover interesting, engaging topics that apply to the society in which we live. The course demands full attendance, dedication, reading, explanation and analytical skills.

The skills learnt are transferable to other written and analytical subjects such as History, Politics, Psychology, English and Media Studies, and Sociology provides an excellent basis for university. It enables students to develop a social conscience, essential for any career where you need to understand the needs of others.

It has led many former students to varied careers such as journalism, law, nursing, social work, probation, politics, teaching, history, psychology and criminology.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Sociology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

100% examination · No coursework

Examining board: AQA

33.3%	Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	2 hours, 80 marks
33.3%	Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	2 hours, 80 marks
33.3%	Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	2 hours, 80 marks

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)

This course may go well with

- Psychology
- Politics
- History
- Health and Social Care
- Media Studies

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS

AQA A-level Sociology Book One, including AS Level (Webb, Westergaard, Trobe, Townend) · ISBN 9780954007911

AQA A-level Sociology Book Two (Webb, Westergaard, Trobe, Townend) · ISBN 9780954007928

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

AVAILABLE ON Seneca Learning senecalearning.com

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

tutor2u.net
Free Sociology resources

revisesociology.com
Revision notes and theory

theguardian.com/society
Society news

Sport

BTEC LEVEL 3



COURSE

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (Pearson) – equivalent to one A-level

Subject Leader – Mr M Lindley
mlindley@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

If you have a strong passion for sport, are highly motivated and are interested in working in a sporting environment in the future, then the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is the ideal course to follow.

Employers value BTEC's approach to learning because it combines technical skills that prepare students for employment with a breadth of knowledge about the sector that empowers them to succeed in the real world. The flexibility to build a programme of study combined with practical application, tailored to a student's aspirations, is proven to produce a valued candidate in the eyes of employers. The ethos of BTEC courses also promotes maturity, which directly enhances employability.

Course outline

The BTEC Extended Certificate is an academic, practical and vocational course, equivalent to one A-level. You learn through projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, plus externally set tasks and exams.

Four units cover the broad range of the sports industry. Two are assessed internally through a portfolio (written assignments, presentations or practical demonstrations) and two externally through an exam and a set task.

Internally assessed

Sports Psychology · Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Externally assessed

Anatomy and Physiology · Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Where might it lead?

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and progress to higher education and, ultimately, employment in the sport sector.

Its content was developed with academics to support progression to higher education, and with employers and professional bodies to ensure it reflects current practice for learners entering employment directly.

Progression routes include Sport Science, Leisure and Business Management, Marketing, Fitness Training, Coaching, Teacher Training and Sports Development.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Sport

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

67% external assessment · 33% coursework

Examining board: Pearson (BTEC)

External	**Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology**	**Year 12** · Online exam, 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks).
Coursework	**Unit 6: Sports Psychology**	**Year 12**
External	**Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being**	**Year 13** · Set task: case study a week ahead; supervised session of up to 2.5 hours (60 marks).
Coursework	**Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry**	**Year 13**

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Unit 1 exam (May/Jun Y12; resit Jan Y13)
- Unit 2 set task (Jan Y13; resit Jun Y13)

This course may go well with

- Biology
- Psychology
- Business
- Health and Social Care
- Food Science and Nutrition

Additional Comments

- All subject content aims to introduce a variety of situations and activities within a sporting context to improve and broaden skills, as well as develop students' knowledge, understanding and independent learning.
- A key element of the course is the ability to meet deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines could result in failure of the course.
- Units are graded Distinction, Merit, Pass or U; the qualification Pass to Distinction*, based on points scored.
- Up to two resits are available for each external assessment (exam/set task).
- Please also refer to assignment briefs for further websites based on the unit you are studying.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	Pearson BTEC National Sport Student Book 1 · ISBN 9781292134000
REVISION GUIDES	Revise BTEC National Sport: Units 1 and 2 Revision Guide (Sue Hartigan) · ISBN 9781292230535

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

brianmac.co.uk
BrianMac Sports Coach

bases.org.uk
British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences

1st4sport.com
Sport and physical activity qualifications

pponline.co.uk
Peak Performance

ukcoaching.org
UK Coaching (formerly Sports Coach UK)

Travel and Tourism

BTEC LEVEL 3



COURSE

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism (Pearson) – equivalent to one A-level

Subject Leader – Mrs O Limbert
olimbert@heber.org.uk

Why study this subject?

Tourism is a dynamic course that examines the fast-paced and ever-changing tourism industry across the globe, which presents diverse job opportunities. This qualification supports learners who are interested in the travel and tourism industry alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.

BTECs take a learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills needed to succeed in employment.

Course outline

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism

The UK travel and tourism industry is growing and of major importance to the economy. Learners develop the skills to examine, interpret and analyse statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK.

Unit 2: Global Destinations

Learners investigate the features and appeal of global destinations.

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Learners explore how to develop a successful marketing plan to attract and engage customers using research data.

Unit 9: Visitor Attractions

Learners investigate built and natural visitor attractions – their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of a memorable visitor experience.

Where might it lead?

Tourism is a growing sector of the global economy, and this course equips students with an understanding of the industry. It is increasingly popular as it engages students with real-life tourism examples from across the globe. Students are encouraged to work independently and carry out research which they then analyse and evaluate.

Tourism is now one of the largest employment sectors globally, with many opportunities to work overseas. The skills learnt are transferable to other subjects and provide a foundation for those considering this or similar subjects at university.

This respected course can lead to careers with airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, tourist attractions and tourism boards, as well as in event management.

Scan for detailed course information

Official Pearson qualification page – specification, assessment details and past papers

Travel and Tourism

Bishop Heber High School
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General Sixth Form requirement: a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 (C in Wales), including grade 4 (C in Wales) in both English Language and Mathematics.

Course Structure and Assessment

58% external assessment · 42% coursework

Examining board: Pearson (BTEC)

25%	**Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism**	**Year 12 · External exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks**
33%	**Unit 2: Global Destinations**	**Year 13 · External set task** · Information released two weeks before a supervised session of up to 3 hours (60 marks).
25%	**Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism**	**Year 13 · Coursework**
17%	**Unit 9: Visitor Attractions**	**Year 12 · Coursework**

Key Dates / Milestones

- Progression Exams (Apr Y12)
- Pre-mock Exams (Oct Y13)
- Mock Exams (Feb Y13)
- Unit 1 exam (May/Jun Y12; resit Jan Y13)

This course may go well with

- Geography
- Business
- Languages
- Media Studies
- Economics

Additional Comments

- Students are encouraged to study real-life tourism examples and investigate these in their assignments, relating theory to case studies. Case studies are used in the examined units, which require in-depth knowledge of the dynamic tourism industry.
- Textbooks are supplied in class.
- Past papers are used extensively for homework activities and revision.
- Students are encouraged to keep up to date with current affairs and watch the news regularly.

Required and Recommended Resources

CORE TEXTS	BTEC Nationals Travel and Tourism Student Book (Pearson) – available on Teams
WIDER READING	Watch: The Travel Show (BBC World News) · Listen: Simon Calder's Independent Travel podcast

Course materials listed above are subject to change. Please check with the department or subject leader before making any purchases.

Useful Websites

Scan to visit

travelweekly.co.uk
Travel industry news

visitbritain.com
Britain's national tourism agency

wanderlust.co.uk
Travel inspiration and destinations

abtamag.com
ABTA Magazine

tripadvisor.co.uk
Destination reviews

visitbritain.org
Tourism industry research and statistics

Extended Project (EPQ)

ENRICHMENT · LEVEL 3

½ A-level	1 year	No exams	2 hours
UCAS TARIFF POINTS	COMPLETED IN YEAR 12	PROJECT-BASED	TAUGHT PER FORTNIGHT

COURSE

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

Examining board: AQA · Final completion date: Summer Term of Year 12

What is the EPQ?

The EPQ is a Level 3 enrichment course that lets you lead your own project. You plan and carry out research on a topic you have chosen that isn't covered by your other qualifications – inspired by something touched on in class, or something personal and unrelated to your studies.

You then use this research to produce a written report and, for practical projects, an artefact or a production.

SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT STUDY

With only 2 taught hours per fortnight, most of the EPQ is completed in your own time. Expect to spend at least 1–2 hours a week outside lessons on research, planning and writing – good time management is essential.

What you'll gain

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision-making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project), you will:

- become a more critical, reflective and independent learner
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

How it works

Taught skills

The EPQ is mainly independent, but your supervisor delivers 'taught skills' lessons and tutorials that equip you to complete a successful research project.

- No exams – you submit your project with a production log, written report and/or practical evidence
- Completed in Year 12; marks go to AQA in November of Year 13, with results confirmed in January of Year 13

Who is it for?

- Recommended if you intend to go to university – it builds the independent skills needed for higher education.
- Open to any Sixth Form student; it is usually available in all five option blocks.
- Not recommended for students on a 4-subject pathway, or those taking Level 3 Mathematical Studies.
- Worth half an A-level, contributing UCAS tariff points or reduced contextual offers at some universities and for some courses.
- Typically 25% of the year group complete the EPQ, with above-average results locally and nationally.

More information about the EPQ is given during Sixth Form Induction.



Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification and assessment details

Mathematical Studies

ENRICHMENT · LEVEL 3

AS-level	1 year	2 exams	6 hours
UCAS TARIFF POINTS	COMPLETED IN YEAR 12	90 MINUTES EACH	TAUGHT PER FORTNIGHT

COURSE

Level 3 Mathematical Studies – Core Maths (AQA)

Examining board: AQA · Final completion date: Summer Term of Year 12

What is Mathematical Studies?

An academic enrichment course first offered at Bishop Heber in September 2025. This diverse, engaging and inclusive qualification equips you with the quantitative skills for your future destination, whatever that may be.

Course content

Four compulsory modules, plus the optional modules in Theme A: Statistical Techniques.

Compulsory content

3.1 Analysis of data

3.2 Maths for personal finance

3.3 Estimation

3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models

Optional theme A: Statistical Techniques

3.5 The normal distribution

3.6 Probabilities and estimation

3.7 Correlation and regression

Also offered by AQA

B: Critical Path and Risk Analysis – Critical path analysis; Expectation; Cost-benefit analysis

C: Graphical Techniques – Graphical methods; Rates of change; Exponential functions

Bishop Heber teaches Theme A. Themes B and C are shown for information only.

Assessment

- Paper 1 (90 minutes): content from 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
- Paper 2 (90 minutes): 3.4 plus Theme A (Statistical Techniques)
- Both exams are sat in the summer of Year 12

Timetable

- 6 taught hours per fortnight
- Students taking Mathematical Studies have 3 hours of Silent Study per fortnight instead of the usual 4
- Option block: Block A in 2026–27 – to be confirmed for 2027–28

Who is it for?

- Recommended if you are taking Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Psychology but not A-level Mathematics – it complements the quantitative skills those courses need.
- Subject to places, any student not taking A-level Maths may request it, with priority for those studying Geography, Sociology, Business or Economics.
- You cannot take both Mathematical Studies and the EPQ.
- Carries the same UCAS tariff points as an AS-level, and can lead to reduced contextual offers at some universities.

Scan for detailed course information

Official AQA qualification page – specification and assessment details

Choosing Your Subjects

Most students choose three courses. Some degrees need particular subjects (essential); many don't, but value related ones (recommended). Use this as a starting point – requirements vary between universities, so always check the course on Unifrog, UCAS or the university's website.

UNIVERSITY COURSE	ESSENTIAL	RECOMMENDED
MEDICINE, HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES		
Medicine	**Chemistry and Biology at most medical schools; many also ask for Mathematics or Physics**	Mathematics (strongly recommended), Physics, Psychology
Dentistry	**Chemistry and Biology**	Mathematics, Physics
Veterinary Science	**Chemistry and Biology**	Mathematics, Physics
Pharmacy	**Chemistry, plus one of Biology, Mathematics or Physics**	Biology
Biomedical and Biological Sciences	**Biology, plus Chemistry at most universities**	Mathematics, Physics
Nursing and Midwifery	None specified – some ask for a science, usually Biology	Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care
Physiotherapy	**Biology (or another science)**	Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Sport
Nutrition and Dietetics	**Biology or Chemistry – often both**	Food Science and Nutrition, Psychology
Sport and Exercise Science	**Often a science, usually Biology**	Sport, Psychology, Mathematics
Psychology	None at most universities – some ask for a science or Mathematics	Psychology, Biology, Mathematics
MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING		
Mathematics	**Mathematics; Further Mathematics at many leading universities**	Further Mathematics, Physics
Physics	**Physics and Mathematics**	Further Mathematics, Chemistry
Chemistry	**Chemistry, usually plus Mathematics or another science**	Mathematics, Physics, Biology
Engineering	**Mathematics, usually plus Physics (Chemistry for Chemical Engineering)**	Further Mathematics, Product Design, Computer Science
Computer Science	**Mathematics at most universities**	Further Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics
Architecture	None specified – a portfolio is usually required	Art and Design, Mathematics, Physics, Product Design
CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS		
Fine Art and Art and Design	**Art and Design, with a portfolio – many students take an Art Foundation year first**	Photography, Product Design
Photography	**Photography or Art and Design, with a portfolio**	Media Studies, Art and Design
Product and Industrial Design	**Product Design or Art and Design is often required, with a portfolio**	Mathematics, Physics
Drama, Theatre and Acting	**Drama is usually expected (often with an audition)**	English Literature, Music Technology
Music Technology and Production	**Music Technology is usually expected**	Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science

Choosing Your Subjects

UNIVERSITY COURSE	ESSENTIAL	RECOMMENDED
SOCIAL SCIENCES, LAW AND BUSINESS		
Law	None specified	English Literature, History, Politics, Religious Studies
Economics	**Mathematics at most universities**	Economics, Further Mathematics
Business, Management and Accounting	None specified – some Accounting and Finance courses ask for Mathematics	Mathematics, Business, Economics
Politics and International Relations	None specified	Politics, History, Economics, Languages
Sociology, Criminology and Social Work	None specified	Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care
Teaching and Education	None specified – GCSE English, Mathematics and Science are required	English Language, Psychology, Sociology
Tourism, Events and Hospitality	None specified	Travel and Tourism, Business, Geography
HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES		
English	**English Literature (some accept English Language)**	History, Religious Studies, Drama, Languages
English Language and Linguistics	None specified – English or a language is often preferred	English Language, Languages, Psychology
History	**History at most universities**	English Literature, Politics, Religious Studies
Geography	**Geography at most universities**	Biology, Economics, Mathematics, History
Philosophy, Theology and Religion	None specified	Religious Studies, English Literature, History, Mathematics
Modern Languages	**The language you plan to continue (beginners' routes exist for others)**	A second language, English Literature, History
Media, Film and Journalism	None specified	Media Studies, English Language, English Literature

GOOD TO KNOW

- Further Mathematics can only be taken alongside A-level Mathematics.
- BTEC and other applied qualifications are accepted for many degrees, but some competitive courses (e.g. Medicine) may not accept them or may want them alongside A-levels.
- Undecided? Choosing subjects you enjoy and do well in keeps the most options open.
- The EPQ is valued by many universities, and some make reduced offers for it.
- Talk to your subject teachers, Form Tutor and the Sixth Form team before you finalise your choices.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Most degree and higher apprenticeships ask for grades rather than particular subjects, but some sectors look for:

- **Engineering:** Mathematics (essential), Physics (recommended)
- **Digital and software:** Mathematics or Computer Science (recommended)
- **Health and science:** a science, usually Biology or Chemistry
- **Accountancy and finance:** Mathematics (recommended)
- **Construction and surveying:** Mathematics, Physics or Geography (recommended)

Search vacancies on Unifrog and GOV.UK 'Find an apprenticeship'.

My Subject Choices

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Use this page to plan your course combination. Most students choose three courses.

	COURSE	ENTRY REQUIREMENT	AM I ON TRACK TO MEET REQUIREMENTS?
Choice 1			☐ Yes ☐ Not yet
Choice 2			☐ Yes ☐ Not yet
Choice 3			☐ Yes ☐ Not yet
Reserve			☐ Yes ☐ Not yet

ENRICHMENT I'm interested in: ☐ Extended Project (EPQ) ☐ Mathematical Studies

FOURTH SUBJECT ☐ I'd like to take Further Mathematics as a fourth subject
Must be taken alongside A-level Mathematics; requires grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths.

Why this combination?

What do I enjoy and do well in? How do my courses fit together?

Where might it lead?

Career ideas or university courses – check which subjects they ask for on pages 60–61.

Questions I still have

Ask your subject teachers, Form Tutor or the Sixth Form team.

Next Steps

APPLYING TO OUR SIXTH FORM

Admissions information, key dates and how to apply are on the Sixth Form Options Information page of our website. Scan the code or visit:

bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk/sixth-form-options-information

Explore your choices on Unifrog

Log in to Unifrog with your school account (unifrog.org) and use these tools to research your Sixth Form courses before you decide:

Subjects library

Find out what each subject involves, its key topics, wider reading and where it can lead.

Quizzes

Discover subjects and careers that suit your personality, interests and skills.

Careers library

Explore over 600 careers, the skills they need and the subjects that help you get there.

Universities tool

Look up degree courses and check which A-levels or Level 3 courses they ask for.

Read, Watch, Listen

Try a subject first with recommended books, podcasts and films.

Know-how library

Short guides on choosing your courses and planning your next steps.

Then talk to your subject teachers, your Form Tutor and our Sixth Form team – we're here to help you choose the right courses for you.

'The majority of students proceed to ambitious destinations.'

Ofsted 2026

Bishop Heber High School

RESPECT · OPPORTUNITY · ACHIEVEMENT

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Telephone: 01948 860571

Email: sixthform@heber.org.uk

Website: www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk

'Students produce high-quality work which shows their secure understanding of the subjects that they study.'

Ofsted 2026