

Welcome to the Humanities Department

Our Aims

We want to share our passion for the world around us and the past that has helped to shape it. Students are encouraged to investigate the world that they live in. Students are challenged to think critically about peoples and places from around the globe and the past. We want students to develop their own strong and supported opinions on why the world is like it is. It is important to us that our students are able to handle evidence to explain our planet and the journey people have been on.

Department Information

The Humanities department currently consists of eight dedicated members of staff. The staff have a depth of experience so all specialisms are well represented. Within the department staff are skilled in the delivery of Geography, History, Religious Education, Psychology and Sociology. The department has 6 dedicated classrooms that are fully equipped with hardware such as data projectors, audio capability and interactive whiteboards.

Department Staffing

Matthew Fisher = Head of Faculty Humanities

Matthew.fisher@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Louisa Wilkinson = Assistant Principal, Teacher of Geography

Louisa.wilkinson@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Michelle Woollard = Subject Leader of RE

Michelle.woollard@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Kim Scott Johnson = Subject Leader of Psychology

Kim.scott-johnson@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Hilary Grady = Pastoral Leader, Teacher of Religious Education and History

Hilary.grady@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Jo Bekhradnia = Pastoral Leader, Teacher of History

Jo.bekhradnia@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Genna Foster = Pastoral Leader, Teacher of Geography

Genna.foster@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Maria Martyn = Teacher of Geography.

Maria.martyn@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Geography Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 – Geography

The Geography department is committed to making students understand the world around them, whilst making the study of Geography relevant and interesting. The department is keen to use fieldwork, case studies, debate and evidence analysis to promote enthusiasm and learning in the subject. Students are challenged with interesting topics such as natural hazards and urban redevelopment. A key focus for the department is the local geography in and around Banbury. Our mission is to get the students to understand the interaction between human and physical processes in the local area.

Students broadly follow the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. Students: are immersed in map skills, are challenged to analyse places; examine geographical evidence and investigate human and physical processes. Students do this looking at key topics such as Rivers and Coasts, Resource Management, Globalisation and Urbanisation.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	Local Places: Map Skills	Local Places: Settling Banbury	The Ages Of Discovery; Cartography	Fantastic Places: Asia And Europe	Powerful Processes: Hydrology	Powerful Processes: Coasts
8	Moving Towards The Modern Age: Globalisation	Moving Towards The Modern Age: Urbanisation	Hazards: Tectonics And Wildfires	Hazards: Tornados And Hurricanes	Development And Aid: Developing Nations	Development And Aid: Poverty And Appropriate Aid
9	Population And Migration	Resource Management: The Geography Of Food	Resource Management: Energy And Fuel	Dynamic Places: Rivers And Coasts	Shaping The Land: Glaciation	Country Study/ Fieldwork

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department sets one homework per week. Tasks are focussed on preparing students for upcoming lessons or to consolidate key learning from the subject. If appropriate staff can set homework's over a two week period, but this must equate to the amount set over the two weeks. Usually these are used to prepare students for their assessments. Homework's are saved in class books and feedback is offered by staff.

Geography Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4- Geography

GCSE Geography is a vital qualification to a student in terms of how they perceive the world around them. It is a subject that is relevant, current and hands on. Students experience strands of both physical and human Geography as well as a fieldwork study, which in this year's case involved a coastal investigation at Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex.

At North Oxfordshire Academy our aim is to encourage students to strive to their full potential in this field with support and encouragement from a team of specialists who share a united passion in their subject area. Students are taught skills such as data interpretation (of both primary and secondary sources), map skills as well as how to apply geographical knowledge to the world socially, environmentally, economically and politically.

Currently the cohort undertakes the AQA B syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-b-9035>

Students follow three units throughout the duration of the course; Unit 1 Managing places in the 21st century, Unit 2 Hostile World and Unit 3 Investigating the Shrinking World. Students will also complete two controlled assessment pieces over the duration of the course which comprises of 25% of the overall Geography GCSE result. The assignment is currently based on a study of how natural processes shape the coastline and investigating water as a precious resource. All examinations are completed in the summer exam period at the end of year 11.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline)

Geography Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
10	The Urban Environment	The Urban Environment	Hostile World	Hostile World	Coastal Environments	Coastal Environments
11	Controlled Assessment	Controlled Assessment	Investigating The Shrinking World (Tourism)	Investigating The Shrinking World (Tourism)	Revision For All Modules And Exam.	

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department set homework on a weekly basis. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes. Also a GCSE Bitesize link has been provided. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects.

To aid with home learning and exam preparation exam questions completed in class are a primary focus for the student's development and understanding of the structure for the terminal GCSE exam ensuring that students fulfil their potential.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-b-9035/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>

Geography Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

Key Stage 5 – Geography

GCSE Geography is a vital qualification to a student in terms of how they perceive the world around them. It is a subject that is relevant, current and hands on. Students experience strands of both physical and human Geography.

At North Oxfordshire Academy our aim is to encourage students to strive to their full potential in this field with support and encouragement from a team of specialists who share a united passion in their subject area. The A Level course focuses largely on global issues. The course provides students with an excellent opportunity to build on their knowledge and skills from GCSE Geography though this is not essential for A Level study. A Level Geography gives students a good grounding for a higher education and can lead to employment in areas such as the Media, Law, Research, Journalism and the Government.

Currently the cohort undertakes the Edexcel syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here:

http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/UA035234_GCE_Lin_Geog_Issue_4.pdf

Students follow two units throughout the duration of the course: Unit 1: Global Challenges (Migration, Globalisation, Hazards and Global Climate Change); Unit 2: Geographical Investigations (Crowded Coasts and Re-branding Places).

Unit Title	Assessment
Global Challenges Topic 1: World at Risk Topic 2: Going Global	One hour thirty minute exam worth 60% of AS. The exam is in two sections: 1.Data response and short-answer questions 2.Choice of topic for longer/guided essay questions
Geographical Investigations Physical Topic: Crowded Coasts Human Topic: Re-branding Places	One hour exam worth 40% of AS. The exam is in two sections, 1.Physical and Human 2. Data Response, Investigation, Evaluation and Management issue Case Studies

All students attend a fieldtrip to the Margam Discovery Centre, Wales to collect data and conduct fieldwork methods relating to Unit 2 of the course. This is a compulsory requirement of the syllabus. All examinations are completed in the summer exam period.

Key Stage 5 Programme of study (Timeline)

Geography Key Stage 5 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
12	World At Risk	Going Global	Crowded Coasts Field Trip	Re-branding Places	Revision And Exam	

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department sets KS5 homework at least twice per week. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS5 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes.

To aid with home learning and exam preparation exam questions completed in class are a primary focus for the student's development and understanding of the structure for the terminal exam ensuring that students fulfil their potential.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/geography/Pages/default.aspx>

Core Textbooks:

AS Geography for Edexcel (Digby et al, Oxford) ISBN: 9780199134823

AS Geography (Warn et al, Philip Allan Updates) ISBN: 9780340949290

AS Geography, Edexcel

History Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 – History

At North Oxfordshire Academy the aim is to make History relevant and fun at Key Stage 3. A variety of teaching methods are used to sustain high levels of engagement and excellent progress. Students broadly follow the 2014 Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. Within this, students look at the change and development of British History from 1066 to the modern era. Students will also look at key benchmark events from around the world such as the Holocaust and Slavery and Civil Rights in America.

The focus of the teaching and learning is on key historical concepts such as causation, evidence handling, interpretations and change over time. The emphasis of this is to support students to form their strong opinions on what they are learning. Students are enabled to communicate this in a supported and sustained way, and develop their ideas, knowledge and understanding in preparation for GCSE.

Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (Timeline)

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	The Medieval Period; William The Conqueror	The Medieval Period; British Social History	The Tudors: The Rise Of Henry VIII	The Tudors: Changing Monarchs	The Stuarts: The Civil War	The Stuarts: Cromwell And Changing Britain
8	The Industrial Revolution	Age Of Empire	The Causes Of World War One	World War One And The British Soldier	Inter War Britain	World War Two And Britain
9	Slavery: Britain To America	The Struggle For Civil Rights	The Holocaust	Who Is Responsible For The Holocaust	Inter War America	Inter War America

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource.

The department sets one piece of homework per week. Tasks are focussed on preparing students for upcoming lessons or to consolidate key learning from the subject. If appropriate staff can set homework's over a two week period, but this must equate to the amount set over the two weeks. Usually these are used to prepare students for their assessments. Homework's are saved in class books and feedback is offered by staff.

History Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4- History

GCSE History is an important qualification to a student's profile. The course is highly popular at GCSE with several parallel classes running at Key Stage 4. Throughout this course students are enthused by a study of Germany 1919-1945 and local area studies such as Oxford Castle. At North Oxfordshire Academy we aim to share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject as well as push students to achieve their potential within the subject. Students are exposed to historical skills such as interpretation, change and continuity and source handling. Currently the cohort undertake the OCR History A syllabus. A link to the current specification can be found here:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-W-9140-SP.PDF>

Students follow the Medicine Through Time unit and the Germany 1919-1945 Unit. Students will also complete one controlled assignment over the course. The assignment is currently based on a study of the development of Oxford Castle. All examinations are completed in the summer exam period at the end of year 11. The controlled assignment is complete by the end of year 10.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline)

History Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
10	Weimar Germany	The Rise Of Hitler	Hitler Consolidates His Power	Nazi Germany	Controlled Assignment Oxford Castle	Controlled Assignment Oxford Castle
11	Medicine Though Time; The Ancient Period	Medicine Thought Time; The Dark Ages	Medicine Through Time; Into The Modern Era	Revision For Both Modules	Revision And Exam Sessions.	

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department set homework on a weekly basis. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes. Also a GCSE Bitesize link has been provided. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects.

Past Papers & Mark Schemes:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-a-9140/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

Please note- only look at the Medicine and Germany Papers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/>

History Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

A Level History contains two exciting modern History units. In the AS year students will examine the course of British politics from 1951-1994. The course allows students to analyse the changes in the political fortunes of the Conservatives and the Labour party. It gives students a great grounding in understanding the British political landscape today. In the AS year students also study the Cold War in South East Asia. Students deal with the political ideologies of the Cold War and analyse the role of the USSR and the United States in key events such as the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In the two units students develop their ability to present historical explanations and their source handling skills. A key difference from GCSE is the focus on interpretations in History. This is a theme that continues into A2. Students complete one 3000-4000 word investigation. This largely focuses on a topic chosen by the student. This gives students an exciting opportunity to research and analyse a period of history that interests them. In A2 student also study an examination unit looking the development of Civil Right in America over 100 years. This will assess students understanding in change over time as well as historical interpretations.

How you will study on the course

You will study the following units over the process of A2 History. Please use the links below for the specification to see further information.

Y143: British History Period Studies: British Politics: 1951-1994: Option B

Y253: European and World History Enquiries: The Cold War and South East Asia: Option B

Y319: Historical Themes American Civil Rights

Y100: Independent Investigation

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

Students are expected to complete a significant amount of independent research. It is essentially that students use home learning to carry out background reading to the topics. The course places a high expectation of depth of knowledge and successful students show a high level of reading around the subject. This shows in their assessment and exam work. Students are supported and directed in this by their class teacher. Each unit sets significant amounts of background reading each week. These are set to closely match the teaching in following lessons. Students are given reading materials or guided to specific resources to support them. Also students are asked to complete extended writing work outside of lessons. Students consolidate their learning by producing work that is then assessed by the teacher against exam board criteria

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-history-a-h106-h506/>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/58443-question-paper-unit-f961-option-b-british-history-period-studies.pdf>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/58443-question-paper-unit-f961-option-b-british-history-period-studies.pdf>

What will you need to study this course?

To study Mathematics A' Level, you will need 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, including at least a grade B in Mathematics GCSE.

Religious Studies Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4- RE

GCSE RE is a valuable qualification to add to a student's profile; it teaches students to reflect on personal and wider world issues and develops important critical thinking and skills of analysis and evaluation. It encourages students to challenge the status quo whilst maintaining a respectful appreciation of different world views.

At North Oxfordshire Academy we aim to share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject and through his challenge students to achieve their potential. Students are encouraged to improve their reading, interpretation and written skills, and develop to become successful debaters. OCR has provided a parent and learner overview of the course that you may find useful for reference. This can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/68516-parent-and-learner-guide.pdf>

The current year 10 and 11 cohorts are following the Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics - J621 specification, a link for which can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82571-specification.pdf>

The course is essentially in two parts. In year 10, students learn the ethics part of the specification and in year 11, they learn philosophy of religion. The breakdown of the units taught can be found in the table below. There is no coursework in this qualification. Students are examined through 4 papers in total, sat across two exam sessions. There are two ethics papers and two philosophy papers. In the exam, students are required to focus on one main religion. We have selected Christianity, although other religions are covered within the units where appropriate, and high achieving candidates are expected to show an awareness of how Christianity fits alongside other world faiths.

Key Stage 4 Programme of study (Timeline)

RE Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
10	Human Relationships	Medical Ethics	Poverty And Wealth	Peace And Justice	Religion And Equality	Religion And The Media
11	Belief About Deity	End Of Life	Good And Evil	Religion And Science	Revision And Exam Sessions.	

Further details of the content of these modules can be found in the 'support materials' section here on the OCR website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-applied-ethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department set homework on a weekly basis. The purpose of the homework is to get students be to ready for topics in their lessons or to consolidate key knowledge and skills. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. To enable students at KS4 to work in their own time please use the link below to provide access to past examination papers and mark schemes. A number of revision websites have been provided below, as well as links to past papers and mark schemes. This is great to support home learning or for independent work around the subjects and regular exam practice is essential for success.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/>

<http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/re/index.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGhj0aCyCzQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJbpcLW31SmLQ1h9VIW8C2A>

Past Papers & Mark Schemes:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-applied-ethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

Click on the 'past papers' and 'mark schemes' tabs to get a drop down of these documents from various years.

Religious Studies Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

Engaging, challenging and thought-provoking, Religious Studies builds on the work completed at GCSE but also involves a more in-depth look at the philosophical theories and ethical concepts that have shaped our society and the world, as well as covering new material. Religious Studies serves as very useful support for many other qualifications, as it places a huge emphasis on effective and persuasive writing skills, as well as thorough critical analysis and wide research through reading. As such, it is a qualification that adequately prepares students for entry to university, where these skills are essential. A useful parent and learner summary of the course, which details career options as well, can be found here for reference: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/70167-summary-of-specification.pdf>

How you will study on the course

Religious Studies is a new course at the Academy. Students are completing their AS qualification currently, with a view to completing their A2 qualification next year. In each year, there are 2 units studied, they are all 'optional', meaning there are no set compulsory units that must be studied. The units selected for the AS cohort are Philosophy of Religion, and Religious Ethics. The specification for the whole course can be found here: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/81960-specification.pdf>

Further detail about the content covered within this course can be found here:

Philosophy of Religion:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/77859-unit-g571-philosophy-of-religion-scheme-of-work-and-lesson-plan-booklet.doc>

Religious Ethics:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/75189-unit-g572-religious-ethics-scheme-of-work-and-lesson-plan-booklet.doc>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

Students are set regular, weekly homework, consisting of either one or two essay questions on the topic studied that week, as well as an additional task, which is usually centred around revision of what has been covered. The essays are graded and formal written feedback is provided detailing points for development. This is used to inform targets for the essays the following week.

During independent study, students are set a piece of text to read and analyse in preparation for lessons that week, to give them a general idea of the topic studied, or in order to cover extra philosopher's theories related to the topic.

What will you need to study this course?

To study Religious Studies at AS and A Level, you will need 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, including at least a grade B in English Language GCSE.

Psychology Key Stage 5 (AS/A2)

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind, behaviour and experience. It looks at how individuals think, what they do and the way they are affected by their biological make up and their wider social group. Students who study Psychology develop a broad range of scientific, numerical and communication skills. At AS level, the course focuses on developing a broad knowledge and understanding of the core topics of modern psychology. In the second year of the course students will cover subject areas including addiction, mental health, eating behaviour and aggression among others alongside current issues and debates in Psychology. By studying Psychology, you will learn to assess the strengths and weaknesses of research and methodology. You will learn through class discussions, video case studies, individual research and presentations.

Psychology students have a wide range of career paths open to them; these include working in mental health nursing, clinical psychology, counselling, social work, education and teaching, forensic psychology, the probation or prison service, working in personnel, management, public relations, Health and Social welfare and marketing.

How you will study on the course

At AS level students explore the following questions; how does the brain influence behaviour? Can experiments capture genuine behaviour? Why do people obey? Why do we forget information? How and why do we develop phobias?

Unit 1 – PSYA1 -Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology and Research Methods

Unit 2 – PSYA2 - Biological Psychology, Social Psychology and Individual Differences

At A2 level students explore the following questions; why are people aggressive? Why do relationships breakdown? Why do people become addicted to heroin? Are drugs effective? How are statistics used to analyse data? Do humans possess 'free will'?

Unit 3 – PSYA3 - Topics in Psychology

Unit 4 – PSYA4 - Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods

We explore answers to complex questions at both AS and A2 take a look at the specification:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/specifications/alevel/AQA-2180-W-SP-14.PDF>

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

You will be timetabled one extra independent study session per week and additional home learning. Students are expected to undertake a significant amount of research and reading around the study topics. Students will be supported in this by the teacher. Home learning students are given guidance on pre-reading for the next topic areas. Students answer examination questions, use past papers to revise and practice, create their own revision resources or plan and prepare PowerPoint presentations. The focus of the home learning is to enable students to prepare to tackle complex topics within or for the lesson or to consolidate learning from their previous lessons. Students regularly receive feedback on their home learning by the teacher using syllabus and exam criteria.

Past Papers and Mark Schemes:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-a-2180/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

What will you need to study this course?

To study Psychology A' Level, you will need 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, or equivalent, including at least a GCSE grade B in Mathematics and English and Science.