

DOA

sixth form

A-Level • Vocational • Leadership
Enrichment • Oxbridge

COURSE BOOKLET
2024-25

APPLICATIONS AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applications for September 2024 entry are open to both NOA students and external applicants. Forms will be available online from **November 16th 2023**. The **deadline for applications is Friday 26th January 2024**; applications received after this date will be considered depending on course numbers.

Guidance meetings will happen weekly from January—March 2024.

Courses offered at NOA Sixth Form require students to achieve a minimum of five 9-5 in their GCSEs including English and Maths. Students wishing to pursue courses from the vocational courses (BTEC and OCR) will also require a minimum of a Merit grade in that subject at level 2.

To study at A Level:

- 5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above including English and Maths.
- Students will need to achieve specific grade for some STEM and Hums courses (below)
- Students who do not achieve a 4 grade in English **and** Maths GCSE will not be accepted

The subjects below have a specific entry criteria for which students need to meet to enable them to study:

Subject	Minimum Entry Requirement
Art	5 in Art, demonstrable ability will be considered if not studied at GCSE
Biology	6 in Biology (or 6-6 in Combined Science) & 6 in Maths
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry (or a 6-6 in Combined-Science) & 6 in Maths
English Language	6 in English Language and/or Literature
Englis Literature	6 in English Literature
French/Spanish	6 in French/Spanish
Further Maths	9 in Maths
Geography	6 in Geography (if taken) or 6 in English
History	6 in History and 5 in English Language/Literature
Maths	7 in Maths
Media	5 in English Language/Literature
Politics	5 or above in English Language/Literature and a Humanities subject
Physics	7 in Physics (or 7-7 Combined-Science) and 7 in Maths
Psychology	6 in English Language/Literature, 5 in Maths and 6-6 in Science
Sociology	5 in English and 5 in Humanities subject (if taken)
EPQ	5 GCSE's grade 5 or above including English at grade 6.

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

To study Applied General:

5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above to study Applied General Subjects, plus the specified entry requirements below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry Requirement</i>
CTEC Business	L2M (if studied at Level 2) plus/or 5 in Maths and English
BTEC Engineering	L2M (if studied at Level 2) plus a 6 in Maths
BTEC Health and Social Care	L2M (if studied at Level 2) plus a 5-5 in Science and English
BTEC Sport	L2M (if studied at Level 2) plus a 6 in Biology or 6-6 in double science and 5 in English
BTEC Music	Grade 6 in Music GCSE at Level 2

Application Process

- ✓ Students apply online via the Microsoft Form
- ✓ Students will receive confirmation they have applied and will receive a date for a guidance meeting to discuss options
- ✓ Based on the guidance meeting, students will receive a conditional offer base don subject choices
- ✓ Students are required to attend an induction day. This is part of their conditional offer and is an important part of the application process.
- ✓ Students gain GCSE results and confirm their place in sixth form (if they have met their offer) in August
- ✓ Students start sixth form in September 2024

External Applicants

We will require all external applicants to attend an interview with their parents. We will also request a reference from the student's school to assist in the application process.

Parent Information Evening (July 2024)

For parents and carers we will offer a KS5 Parent Information Evening after the induction day which will clarify next steps in the application process and will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

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Course Details

The A Level course in Art and Design is structured over two years. In both years you will produce creative portfolios for a coursework and examination component. The exam is a practical exam and will last for 10 hours in which time you are expected to produce a high quality final outcome.

In your second year you will also produce a significant contextual study of 2,000-3,000 words, this will be linked to your own work and look at the artists you have been inspired by within your coursework.

- Students who study this course develop their interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design.
- Students utilise their Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive approaches to produce innovative outcomes that are unique to them.
- Students Investigate, analyse, experiment use practical and technical skills to refine and develop their ideas in all aspects of their work.
- Students have a clear understanding of aesthetic, cultural, contextual meaning within art and are able to link this effectively to social contexts and perceptions.
- Students have a number of opportunities to be independent, to experience working with a broad range of media and to develop their own style and creativity to develop as an artist and practitioner in their own right.

Course Breakdown

60% of the course is coursework based, at least 2 projects will be dedicated to this. You will use sketchbooks to show your research, demonstrate your development, experimentation and refinement throughout the project. Your sketchbook will show your learning journey from your initial research to your final outcomes. Final outcomes are tailored specifically to you, they may include installation, photography, print, sculpture, mixed media, fine art or craft pieces.

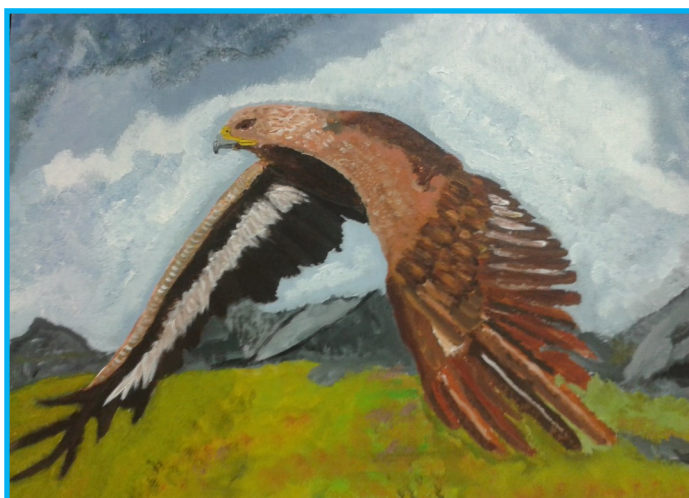
40% of the course will be based on an externally set exam focus, this will be released in February. Your final outcome will be produced within a 10 hour exam, for this you will use your explorations and experimentation within your sketchbook to plan your final piece before the exam.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students will finish the course with a diverse portfolio having taken part in the following activities: Producing sketchbooks showing research, development, experimentation and refinement, improving knowledge on artists and craftspeople by producing critical studies, educational visits, working with professionals and presentation

Progression

Art and design can lead to employment or further study in many areas including; fine art, 3D sculpture, ceramics, textiles, theatre design, photography, graphic design, architecture, fashion and many other related areas.



Biology

Course Details

The aims of the GCE in Biology are to enable students to:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, biology including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject
- Appreciate how society makes decisions about biology-related issues and how biology contributes to the success of the economy and society
- Develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of *How Science Works*
- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other.

Course Breakdown

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-level only)
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A-level only)
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A-level only)
8. The control of gene expression (A-level only)

Course Assessment

A-level

Paper 1

What's assessed? Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours 91 marks/35% of A-level

Paper 2

What's assessed? Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours 91 marks/35% of A-level

Paper 3

What's assessed? Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours 78 marks/30% of A-level

*You will also achieve practical endorsement if all practical are carried out to the required standard.

Enrichment Opportunities

- ✓ Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems.
- ✓ Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- ✓ Student trips to Universities and university lectures
- ✓ Comprehensive study of practical work and lab and providing numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need

Progression

Students looking to study medicine or biomedical sciences will need Biology as one of their courses. Combined with Chemistry or Physics, this course makes up one of the crucial courses for those looking to move into TSEM courses or jobs. Biology can open up lots of opportunities within academic research, teaching and medical pathways.

Chemistry

Course Details

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? Well, A-level chemistry will lead you to the answer! Chemistry is all around us and is absolutely fundamental to all we do. It will make you think, question and at times really challenge you, but then we love a challenge at NOA! A Level Chemistry is essential for certain career paths (such as forensic and veterinary science, medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and dentistry) but is also a valuable support subject for students studying Biology and can provide support for aspects of Physics and Geography.

Course Breakdown

Year 1 (4 units taught across year 12)

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Year 2 (2 units taught across year 13 after successful completion of year 12)

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Enrichment Opportunities

- ✓ Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems
- ✓ Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- ✓ Potential trips to chemical industry settings & Universities

Progression

Students who study Chemistry A level also tend to study at least another science which allows them to progress into STEM fields. Those looking to study Medicine would need to study Chemistry and Biology, for example. Students who wish to move into engineering could combine Chemistry with Physics. Chemistry is a valued A Level which opens many windows of opportunity across a range of STEM courses at university, but also apprenticeships.

Drama and Theatre

Course Breakdown

Year 12

Unit 1 – Exploration and Performance

You will study an extract from a play text and prepare this for performance in light of the work of a practitioner. You will work in a group to rehearse and refine your ideas for this performance. You will produce a portfolio of work that details your exploration, rehearsal and creation process and evaluate your contribution to it. (This will be between 2000-2500 words).

You will also prepare and perform a monologue or a duologue from a different play text.

Unit 2 – Theatre Makers in Practice

This is an externally assessed written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes based on detailed study of one set play text and one live theatre performance you have seen. Section A is based on the live theatre performance you have seen. Section B is based on a set text that you will study and questions will be based on the performance and the design elements of this text.

Course Breakdown A Level

Year 13.

Unit 1 – Devising

You will prepare a devised performance based on an extract from a play text and a practitioner. You will work in a group to rehearse and refine your ideas for this performance. You will produce a portfolio of work that details your exploration, rehearsal and creation process and well as the final performance. (This will be between 2500-3000 words).

Unit 2 – Text in Performance

You will create a performance from a play text, rehearsing and refining your ideas for this performance. You will also prepare and perform a monologue or a duologue from a different play text.

Unit 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice

This is an externally assessed written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes based on detailed study of two set play texts and one live theatre performance you have seen. Section A is based on the live theatre performance you have seen. Section B is based on one set text and you will answer questions based on performance and design elements of this play text. Section C is based on another set text and the focus of a practitioner; you will create a director's concept for a re-imagined production of the play.

Enrichment Opportunities

The great strength of this course is the practical involvement in acting and acting skills. The most obvious way that you can extend your coursework is through being involved in the many Academy shows and performances during the year. You might also think about being involved with a community drama group as an extension of your interest in the broad area of acting.

Progression

Progression in this course could lead to university courses, such as degrees, in various subjects, including Acting, Musical Theatre, technical theatre and management. It could also lead to a variety of jobs within professional theatre companies. It is also a good course to study to develop personal and interpersonal skills that are needed in many different job sectors.

English Language

Course Details

English Language A level enables you to acquire knowledge and understanding of many aspects of language including how the English Language works. You will learn how to convey meaning in different ways and how to analyse language in use. Topics include spoken and written language, how and why language has changed over time, how and why language varies according to the context in which it is used, the relationship between language and society and how children acquire language. Students will explore a range of texts from newspaper articles, magazine articles, leaflets and advertisements.

Course Breakdown

The AQA course explores:

- how language conveys representations and the ever changing dialects within communities.
- language change over time and language diversity
- child's language development.

The coursework tasks focus on linguistic research and creative writing. For this, students must complete:

- A language investigation (a 2000 word research project into an aspect of language use)
- 1500 word creative writing piece with an explanatory commentary. *These tasks allow students to work on areas of personal interest, whilst at the same time developing their skills of linguistic analysis and creativity.*

Enrichment Opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including seminars, symposiums, lectures and debates plus a trip to the British Library. In the past, the course has included talks from visiting speakers and trips to universities and other related institutions, including Warwick University. The English department also has an online blog which is written by sixth form students and all A Level students are encouraged to contribute.

Progression

In combination with other A levels, English Language A level can lead to study at university on a range of courses including English, linguistics, journalism and other language courses. English Language is a great



English Literature

Course Breakdown

We follow the AQA English Literature Specification B for Advanced Level, which is linear in structure with students sitting all examinations at the end of the Advance Level course. In addition, students are assessed via two pieces of Non Examination Assessment.

The course is designed around a distinct philosophy, which centres on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within a literary genre. In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways in order that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for exams, but also experience a rich, challenging, and coherent approach to English literature that provides an excellent basis for further study in the subject.

Students sit two examination papers of equal weighting.

For the first paper, 'Aspects of Tragedy' students study texts through the lens of tragedy. Currently these include:

- Othello by William Shakespeare
- Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller,
- Poetry of John Keats

The second paper, 'Elements of Social and Political Protest' is a study through the lens of social and political protest which currently include:

- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake.

In the second paper Advanced Level students also respond to an unseen text that is connected to social and political protest.

The final component of the Non-Exam Assessment: '*Theory and Independence*' is a chance for students to explore aspects of a chosen prose and poetry text through the lens of different critical ideas and to engage with the notion that meanings in literature are not fixed and are influenced by many external factors that may be brought to bear on texts.



Enrichment Opportunities

We seek opportunities to see texts in performance or, where these are not available, offer trips to see related productions to texts being studied. There are also opportunities for students to attend University and study days and on-line lectures and there is a sixth form book club.

Progression

Students who wish to study English Literature at university will need an English Literature A Level. Routes from here include: a scriptwriter, copywriter, journalist, playwright, English teacher, author, for example. English Literature is also considered for courses in Law as it is a facilitating subject.

Geography

Course Details

During Geography A level you will study a range of topics: Dynamic Landscapes, Dynamic Places, Physical Systems and Sustainability and Human Systems and Geopolitics. You will develop your analytical and critical thinking skills through answering questions such as ‘How does water insecurity occur and why is it becoming such a global issue for the 21st century?’

Course Breakdown

You will be assessed through examinations and coursework.

- The coursework is a written report of 3-4000 words and accounts for 20% of the A Level grade.

Dynamic Landscapes	Dynamic Places
Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of either 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change or 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change	Topic 3: Globalisation Topic 4: Shaping Places – a choice of either 4A Regenerating Places or 4B Diverse Places
Physical Systems and Sustainability	Human Systems and Geopolitics
Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	Topic 7: Superpowers Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – a choice of either 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention or 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Enrichment Opportunities

You will work practically and theoretically on compulsory residential.

Progression

A Level Geography gives students a good grounding for Higher Education and can lead to employment in areas such as the Media, Law, Research, Journalism and the Government.



History

Course Details

The A level course focuses largely on some of the key developments in the history of Britain and the USA over the last 150 years. The course provides students with an excellent opportunity to build on their knowledge and skills from GCSE History although this is not essential for study of A level History. If you enjoy the study of the past then History A level is for you. The study of History trains you to select relevant information, assess validity of an argument, think and write logically, make informed judgments about controversial issues and present a well ordered argument with supporting evidence. These skills will equip you for a wide variety of degree courses and careers.

Course Breakdown

Edexcel Route B: Religion and the State in Early Modern Europe.

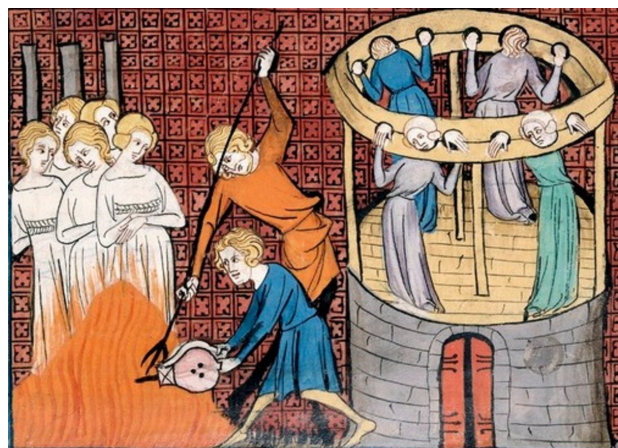
1B: England 1509-1603

2B: Luther

33: The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America B3

Progression

History is a highly respected subject and is considered a worthwhile A level subject for entry onto almost all degree courses. History is not only a subject valued by universities but employers too. The study of History is ideal for careers in law, involving the deployment of argument based on evidence. It is also ideal for jobs in the field of research, management, accountancy, journalism and marketing.



Maths & Further Maths

Course Details

Mathematics is a qualification highly valued by employers and higher education as it encourages logical and structured approach to problem solving. It also develops skills in analysis, effective and accurate communication, handling information and modelling practical solutions. Mathematics complements many other A Level subjects particularly Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Economics, biology, DT and Business Studies.

Students will also need to be studying A level Mathematics. Students who have gone on to study Mathematics, Physics or Engineering at university have found this course particularly invaluable. Students have also found that by studying Further Mathematics they improved their attainment in the main Mathematics A level.

Course Breakdown

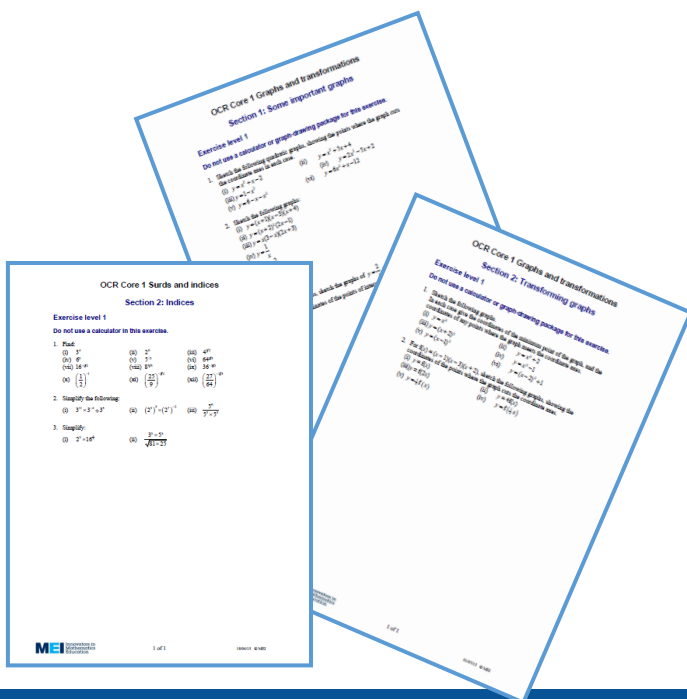
The mathematics course consists of units in pure mathematics and statistics and mechanics. All topics are assessed by exams at the end of each study year.

Enrichment Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Team Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, where students compete against teams from other schools and colleges from their region. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A-level curriculum.

Progression

Mathematics is highly valued by universities and employers and can lead to many rewarding career paths. It is essential for science degrees and is also useful for social sciences.



Media Studies

Course Details

The Media course is studied on the WJEC/Eduqas specification. This is split into 3 components which assess different skills. The exam consists of two exam papers, which are for Component 1 and Component 2. Component 3 is internally assessed and sent to the examiner.

Course Breakdown

Component 1: This is split into the study of Media Language, Representation, Audiences and Industries. These frameworks are studied with underlying theory which students apply to set texts ranging from print to moving image. These set texts are dated from 1950 to present day and explore political, historical, economic and social context.

Component 2: There are 6 set texts to study in this component which include texts from the following sectors:

- British and International TV Drama
- Mainstream and Independent Print Media
- Digital Media

Component 3: This is coursework and is worth 30% of the overall qualification. Students will pick from set briefs by the exam board and will need to complete research and a statement of aims to be submitted with their final product.



Enrichment Opportunities

AS and A Level students have the opportunity to cover school events using the equipment, which can be added to their portfolio. Visits from the BFI Film Academy and the BBC have provided media students with opportunities to develop practical skills. We encourage media students to develop skills in production through the Christmas and Summer shows.

Progression

The theory which students study in Media studies are the same as some of those from Business, Economics and Psychology. Media Theory is applied within marketing, advertising and business so skills be used within these sectors. The practical skills which students develop can be applied to design courses, graphics, media production or journalism. Media is a great subject as it looks at current affairs, politics, historical and political contexts and develops students debating skills. This is a skill which can be applied in any university course or apprenticeship.



Physics

Course Details

Physics, at A level, builds on topics that will be familiar from GCSE studies – taking them to the next level by looking at more in-depth theoretical explanations. The course balances classical physics content, like mechanics and electricity, with more modern topics such as particle physics. One common aspect is the use of mathematical models to help explain phenomena seen in the real world, so a good level of maths is crucial for anybody considering physics at A level.

Time in class will be spent both studying the theoretical aspects of Physics and investigating the practical aspects through experimentation. Individual work, group work, class discussion and personal research will all play important roles in developing students' understanding of the topics covered and of How Science Works – the exploration of how scientific knowledge is developed, validated and communicated by the scientific community.

This course pairs well with **maths**, thanks to the large number of equations that we use and the amount of calculation involved. **Engineering** is another complimentary subject; there are links through our study of materials and their properties, and electrical circuits.

This course is a good step towards university courses in physics, maths, various types of engineering (such as civil, electronic, mechanical or aeronautical) and economics or accountancy. A good physics A level shows universities that you have great mathematical skills, can think logically and are able to solve complex problems.

Course Breakdown

Year 1 of the course is compiled of the following modules:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity

The second year of the course includes:

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics (chosen option)

Enrichment Opportunities

- ✓ Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems
- ✓ Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- ✓ Student trips to physics settings & Universities

Psychology

Course Details

Psychology is concerned with answering questions about human behaviour. It focuses on the science of the 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.

Course Breakdown

The course is split into three units. The first two papers are made up of compulsory topics while the third paper has options to choose from. The units are all externally assessed through exams, with two papers being sat at the end of the first year, although if you progress on to second year these scores do not carry forward.

- Approaches
- Research Methods
- Attachment
- Memory
- Forensic Science
- Psychopathology
- Schizophrenia

Enrichment Opportunities

The course is taught in an interactive way in which pupils have the opportunity to carry out some experiments on each other in class. During class we have many debates over different topics within the course. In the past psychology trips have taken place which is something we would be looking at doing again in the future.

Progression

In combination with other A levels or vocational courses, Psychology A level can lead to study at university on a range of courses. A degree in Psychology can lead into many career areas such as Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Educational Psychology, Criminal Psychology or Health Psychology. Other careers that Psychology could lead to include health and social welfare occupations, or commercial, professional and managerial jobs.



managerial



Politics

Course Details

Government and Politics is an interesting course that allows you to develop and deepen your understanding of the political systems in the UK and globally. To understand politics helps you to understand the decisions made on your behalf by those in power as well as the tools to use your basic right to democracy to recognise when decisions are not being made fairly or for the best interests of the people. Taking this course will allow you to develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context. It will also allow you to develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions, and processes. Importantly, this course will allow you to understand of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups. A key skill you will also develop, which is attractive to universities and future employers, is the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements.

Course Breakdown

Paper 1

You will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Democracy and participation 2. Political parties 3. Electoral systems 4. Voting behaviour and the media

Component 2: Core Political Ideas

1. Liberalism 2. Conservatism 3. Socialism.

The assessment is 2 hours. Component A 60 marks Component B 24 marks.

Paper 2

Politics is ultimately about people, but most political decisions are made by a branch of government whose roles and powers are determined by a set of rules: the constitution. This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables you to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made.

Component 1: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

1. The constitution 2. Parliament 3. Prime Minister and executive 4. Relations between the branches

Component 2: Non-core Political Ideas

1. Feminism

The assessment is 2 hours. Component A 60 marks Component B 24 marks

Paper 3

The USA has been considered by some to be a 'beacon of democracy'. As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics.

Component 1: Government and Politics in the USA

The US constitution and federalism 2. US congress 3. US presidency 4. US Supreme Court and civil rights
5. US democracy and participation 6. Comparative theories

Enrichment

Students will visit the Houses of Parliament to experience the hub of UK politics. Students will also meet with the local MP to have the opportunity to question their policies and voting record. Students will also be encouraged to become active members of the community by engaging in local issues.

Progression

- university courses that relate directly to government and politics
- university courses that will benefit from the skills acquired from this course, for example law, economics, philosophy
- employment where analytical skills are essential, for example management, finance, government, industry, and business environments.

Sociology

Course Details

Studying AQA Sociology A Level is an extremely valuable experience that can provide a great deal of insight into our society and the way it operates. It's a fascinating field of study that explores the relationships between individuals and groups, as well as the structures and cultures that shape our lives.

By learning about sociology, we can better understand the complexities of our society, become more aware of our own beliefs and biases, and gain a better understanding of how social systems, organisations, and institutions work.

One of the most important benefits of studying sociology is that it allows us to understand how our culture, values, and beliefs shape our lives. By learning about the different societies around the world, we can gain an appreciation for how our own culture and values influence our behaviour and decisions. We can also gain a better understanding of how our beliefs and values shape the laws and policies of our society. By understanding how our culture and values affect our lives, we can be better prepared to make informed decisions about our own lives and the lives of others.

Sociology also helps us become more aware of social issues and inequalities. Through sociology, we can learn about the ways in which different social groups are disadvantaged and why some individuals have more power and privilege than others. We can also gain insight into the root causes of social problems such as poverty, discrimination, and inequality. By understanding these issues, we can be more informed and better equipped to make positive changes in our society.

Course Breakdown

Students study the following two core themes across their units:

- ✓ socialisation, culture and identity
- ✓ social differentiation, power and stratification

And within each of these core themes, students will explore sociological theories, perspectives and methods, plus the design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and limitations.

Paper 1

Education

Methods in Context

Theory and Methods

Paper 2

Families And Households

Media

Paper 3

Crime and Deviance

Theory and Methods



Sociology is a social science so lends itself to exploring social, political and cultural contexts which can work well alongside other social sciences such as Psychology and Geography.

Students with A level in Sociology can move onto university pathways studying Criminology, Sociology, Media, Psychology, for example and it is an accepted A Level at university.

Business Studies (CTEC)

Course Details

Students will study the Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical in Business at an Extended Certificate level. This course contains a wide variety of business themes, starting with an introduction to the *Business Environment* and *Customers and Communication* in the first year, and further topics such as *Marketing* and *Business Decisions* in the second year. The course involves both practical work assessed through coursework and witness statements, as well as externally assessed exams.

Course Breakdown

Business Studies is a vocational course, which also includes an examination component. The course will be broken down into units and will develop practical as well as academic writing skills.

Unit 1—The Business Environment (exam)

Unit 2—Working in Business (exam)

Unit 4—Customers and Communication

Unit 5—Marketing and Market Research

Unit 20—Business Events

Enrichment

There are opportunities throughout the year for Business students which allow them to apply their understanding to scenarios and mock interviews. Assessment centre days and apprenticeship interviews are offered through the PSHE curriculum and there are opportunities to liaise with local businesses.

Progression

Wherever you work in the future, you will be part of a business. Studying Business Studies can help with university applications and provides UCAS points towards an application. It also serves as a great foundation for applications to apprenticeships in a wide range of business functions, from finance to marketing and IT. Students who combine Business with Media find that the skills obtained in both subjects assist in progression on the course—Business incorporates many skills to facilitate applications for marketing, advertising, hospitality, travel, finance and Media sectors.



Engineering (BTEC)

Course Details: *Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Foundation Diploma in Engineering*

This course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the design, development and manufacture and maintenance of engineering products and systems. The course is practical; work related and follows a manufacturing pathway developed by BTEC. Learning is achieved through the completion of

Extended Certificate Single Engineering		360 GLH Equivalent to 1 A Level
Two-year course made up of three lessons. It will give a broad basis of study for the engineering sector.	Supports progression to higher education as part of a larger programme of study which includes other vocational or general qualifications, such as other BTEC subjects or A Levels.	

Course Breakdown

Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 a Levels)

Optional units may include:

- Computer Aided Design in Manufacturing
- Engineering Manteca
- Maintenance of Mechanical systems
- Fabrication Manufacturing Processes
- Power & Energy Electronics
- Work Experience in the Engineering sector
- Electronic Devices and Circuits
- Composites Manufacture and Repair
- Computer Aide Manufacture

The course will be developed so that students will be able demonstrate and use machines such as 3D printer, CAM Routers, Workshop machines and use CAD software such as Solidworks and Auto CAD efficiently.

Enrichment Opportunities

- ✓ 3D Printing Evening club manufacturing
- ✓ Links with businesses e.g. Banbury Bass performance, Mondelez & Lotus F1
- ✓ Apprenticeships fair
- ✓ Given access to the workshop in study periods to nurture their skills

Progression

Engineering is a huge job family with a lot of different jobs, but many of them involve machines and practical processes. So if you like working with your hands and understanding how things work you might want to consider this as a career. Entry level wage in this career is £25k, but can rise to £68k with work experience and further education. Locally, employment is projected to increase substantially over the next few years.

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

Course Details :

The Cambridge Extended Certificate and Diploma in Health and Social Care Level 3

This course will provide you with the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the health and social care sector.

Course Breakdown

To complete the Extended Certificate, you will study six units, three of which will be assessed through an external examination. The other three will be internally marked and then externally moderated.

In year 12 you will study the following four units:

Unit 1 Building positive relationships in health and social care

Unit 2 Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care

Unit 3 Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care

Unit 10 Nutrition for health (after summer exams)

In year 13 you will study:

Unit 10 Nutrition for health (continued)

Unit 4 Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

Unit 22 Psychology for health and social care

The units are graded **Pass, Merit and Distinction**.

This qualification is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

Progression

This course will enable students to progress onto an Apprenticeship in the sector such as Adult Care Worker, Healthcare Support Worker or Early Years Educator. It also offers UCAS points so could be taken alongside other academic subjects to support progress university. Those who take HSC, often combine with Psychology and Youth Work which allows them to look at teaching, child psychology as a degree or counselling.



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Music

Course Details

The Music course is for students interested in a career in music. The BTEC Level 3 Music Subsidiary Diploma specification enables students to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills. Students will develop:

- performance skills (solo and ensemble)
- knowledge and understanding of compositional processes
- knowledge of popular music history
- skills in organising and promoting a live music event

Course Breakdown

The course is split into six units. There are three compulsory units for the AS and three further units for the complete A-Level. The units are internally/externally assessed through coursework and exams over the two years.

Year 1

Unit 23 – Music Performance Techniques

Unit 24 – Music Project
(planning a live music event)

Unit 30 – Pop Music In Practice

Unit 40 – Ensemble Performance Skills

Year 2

Unit 4 – Aural Perception Skills

Unit 7 – Composing Music



Enrichment Opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including practical workshops, seminars, lectures and critical listening sessions. The course will include visits from speakers in the industry as well as trips to universities and other related institutions.

Progression

In combination with other vocational courses and A Levels, BTEC Level 3 Music (Performing) can lead to study at university on a range of courses. A degree in Music could lead to careers in teaching, professional musician, theatre and arts related careers, music industry management, music therapy and many more.

Sport (BTEC)

Course Details

This course is designed for those who wish to build on the learning and achievement of Key Stage 4 or Level 2 Sport. In order to take this subject, it would be beneficial if students had the following:

- BTEC First in Sport at Merit or above, or GCSE PE at grade 6 or above
- English Language Grade 5
- Science grade in Biology 5 or Double Science

An interest in and regular participation in a sport is also recommended.

Course Breakdown

Unit 1 & 2 are exam based, assessed externally and worth 67% of final grade.

Unit 3 & 4 coursework units are assessed internally worth 33% of final grade

Enrichment Opportunities

Worcester University visit, plus students will receive a NOA designed sports kit for their practical days. There is also the opportunity to join an extra session of physical education once a week to support in physical and mental health wellbeing within students.

Progression

This BTEC will lead to a nationally recognised vocational qualification developing a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for a career in sport or further study of sport, leisure or recreation at University. It is an introduction for those who wish to build a career in sport through exercise and fitness, coaching, sports development and the outdoor area. This is an area of employment that is continually increasing and will continue to develop as part of the legacy of the 2012 London Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Students that have followed this pathway have gone on to university to study sports management, sports journalism, sports coaching, PE teaching, sports science and physiotherapy. Other students have gone on to follow personal training and gym instructing routes or began placements in coaching companies within the Banbury and Oxford area.



Additional Courses—1 year programmes

These courses are additional courses which students may wish to take alongside their 3 other subjects.

EPQ

Extended Project Qualification runs from October in Year 12 to January of Year 13. Students are expected to complete a fully independent piece of research and this is supported with a supervisor.

There are 5 taught sessions at the start of the EPQ and then the sessions move into independent sessions where the supervisor will support with writing up the research dissertation.

EPQ is worth half an A Level (AS) and carries UCAS points. If achieving an A-B grade in an EPQ, students will impress top Russell Group universities as this qualification demonstrates ability to research, synthesise and analyse data whilst also referencing to degree standard.

Core Maths

This is an AS course and is taught in 1 year. The course carries UCAS points and is course which is an additional subject to take alongside core A Level subjects. Students who want to develop their mathematical skills for their A Level subjects (perhaps in the social sciences or STEM subjects) may want to take this subject to ensure they are constantly developing their math skills.

Entry requirements

These courses still have entry requirements and students will be expected to meet these to be able to select for their timetable.

Core Maths (AS - 1 year course)

To support students' learning on some of the toughest courses, it is important that students are developing their Maths if they are not already studying Maths A level. The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education. Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential.

Course Details

Core Maths has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. What students study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life.

Most Core Maths courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A level subjects, in particular with science, engineering and psychology.

Mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education - studying Core Maths will help students to keep up these essential skills.

*This course will only be studied for **1 year** in Y12 and students will be entered for an examination in June of Y12. There will be fewer lessons than their usual subjects, with Core Maths being run on 3-4 lessons over 2 weeks.*

Core Maths – building on GCSE mathematics

Students will build upon their skills from GCSE and will be able access their mathematical elements on other courses, such as the STEM, with added support. With an absence in learning over the last year, it is important that for our students we are supporting their transition into sixth form with Core Maths.

Extra Qualification

Core Maths will allow students to gain an extra qualification, equivalent to an AS level at the end of the year. It is also recognised by universities and UCAS (tariff table) so can contribute to applications for university. They will be entered for an examination which will be taken in.

Even though Core Maths is a new qualification, several universities have already come out in strong support of it. Employers from a range of sectors are also firmly behind the qualification. Many roles in the workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills and Core Maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

Incentive

Students will gain an extra AS Level qualification in addition to their other A Levels. It is also impressive for universities and apprenticeship companies to see Core Maths has been studied in addition to A Levels and Vocational subjects.

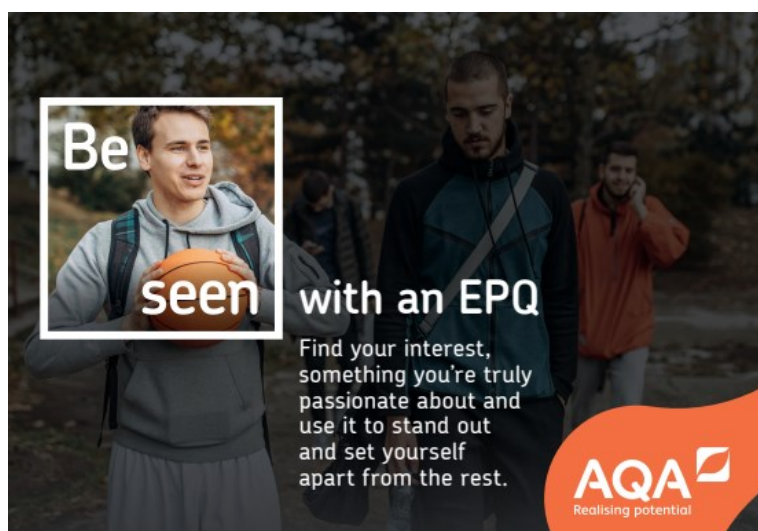
The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification . It can contribute to programmes of study as a stand-alone qualification. Students may choose to take the Extended Project Qualification as an extension from studies for any other qualifications at Level 3.

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student(s) and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification in centres will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by the student. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.



Students will express their interest in selecting EPQ in Term 1.

EPQ will be added to student timetables for starting in Term 2.

The EPQ timetable is put together based on supervisors availability.

Leadership and Character

The Sixth Form Experience

Students will have access to a wide range of opportunities in the sixth form which will support their personal development. We offer super curricular opportunities to ensure students are competitive against other applicants to top universities, plus we also offer leadership opportunities for students to develop their character and employability skills.

Opportunities which students can access include:

- Oxbridge and Russell Group Mentoring
- Career meetings
- Support with applications to summer school programmes
- University visits
- Access to online courses (MOOCs)
- UCAS application support
- Work experience
- Lesson support
- Mentoring
- Volunteering in the local community
- Action research projects
- External speakers and visitors from industry
- Personal statement workshops
- Geneva trip
- Head Team and Junior Head Team
- Year 7 camp





North Oxfordshire Academy

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Part of United Learning