EPSOM

COLLEGE

MALAYSIA

SIXTH FORM INFORMATION

2026-2027

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EPSOM

INTRODUCTION TO THE SIXTH FORM

Epsom College Malaysia Sixth Form is the journey from childhood to adulthood, a transformative period where students are empowered to take ownership of their learning, leadership, and life beyond school. We are committed to a culture of independence, resilience, and academic ambition.

Through meaningful challenge, purposeful leadership opportunities, and personalised support, we equip every student to both succeed in their chosen pathways and also grow into confident, responsible global citizens, ready to shape their own future success stories. Through a holistically supportive Sixth Form environment, we focus on 3 core principles to develop each individual:

3 core principles to develop the individual



Academic Excellence

Purposeful Leadership

Global Readiness

Life at Epsom College Malaysia Sixth Form is therefore an exciting two-year journey, representing the pinnacle of students' schooling. There are around 180 students across the two year groups which allows everyone to receive tailored individual attention while being part of a lively, varied and vibrant community.

Academic aspiration is the central focus and all students are encouraged to become inquisitive, independent learners who will prosper at university and beyond. To this end, every student has a personal academic tutor who monitors performance, agrees targets and ensures best working practices are being followed: there are frequent one-to-one conversations between student and tutor but, importantly, the student owns the process.

Standards are high with the overwhelming majority of students securing places at leading universities around the world. The details of the academic subjects available for formal study in the Sixth Form are contained in this booklet.

While academic study is a primary focus, we recognise that universities and employers are looking for well-rounded individuals. Each week all students engage in a rich array of activities that are timetabled Monday-Thursday 16:15-19:00. Sport is a big part of the College, with world-class golf and tennis facilities. We aim to stretch minds as well as muscles, therefore the choice is huge, with a wide variety of clubs, activities and societies to choose from throughout the year.

Our co-curricular programme gives Sixth Form students the chance to cement their position as leaders and senior members of the College community. The opportunities are there to lead groups, clubs and societies. Students can mentor younger students, and help to lead sessions or direct performances and productions. And if students feel that there's a gap in the programme, they can pitch their ideas to the Head of Sixth Form and we have a large number of student-led societies started this way.

As a boarding school, there are many events held in the evenings to further student's interests. This includes the Epsom Live Talks, which sees prestigious guest speakers attend the College to give inspiring talks and take questions from students.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Epsom College Malaysia is an inclusive school and we are therefore committed to finding the best pathway for each individual student. We have a wide range of subjects and courses that allow all students to thrive and succeed.

Entries to the Sixth Form are therefore assessed on an individual basis.

Certain technical subjects such as Mathematics and Science will have minimum IGCSE or equivalent grades, details of which can be found in the subject specific sections.

Sixth Form Leadership & Guidance

MR SAM PRESTIDGE

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Mr Prestidge oversees the running of the Sixth Form at Epsom College Malaysia and plays a key role in supporting students through this important stage of their education. He is responsible for ensuring a smooth transition from IGCSE to A-Levels or IBCP, helping students make informed subject choices and closely monitoring their academic progress throughout Years 12 and 13. He is available for students to discuss both academic and pastoral matters and works closely with Housemasters, Housemistresses and parents to address any concerns. Mr Prestidge is passionate about making the Sixth Form a place where students can explore and develop their interests beyond the classroom. Academic success is highly valued, but it is also seen as part of a broader education, one that encourages curiosity, independence, and engagement with the world beyond the College.



MR TOM RAWLINGS

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Mr Rawlings supports Mr Prestidge in the running of the Sixth Form as Assistant Head. He works closely with the Sixth Form team to provide further academic and pastoral support. Mr Rawlings has extensive experience of working with Sixth Formers in outstanding UK private schools and international schools and has worked in both the A-Level and IB systems. He is passionate about promoting academic excellence and fostering cultural understanding. A writer, academic, cook, explorer, musician, cricket player, History buff, Old English speaker, Shakespeare obsessive, and, not to forget, English Teacher, Mr Rawlings is keen that all our students develop a wide range of interests and have the chance to experience things they may never have considered before.



UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE TEAM

The Guidance team works within the Sixth Form, guiding and assisting students throughout the university application process. The team collaborates on organising university visits and fairs as well as helps students with researching and choosing courses or universities, writing personal statements, preparing for interviews and reflecting on future careers post-university.

MS ANNA MACLEOD

HEAD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms Anna Macleod graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a 1st Class Honours degree in French and Spanish. During her studies, she volunteered with charities and community groups in Glasgow. These experiences inspired her to pursue teaching as a meaningful way of helping young people broaden their horizons and achieve their goals. Ms Macleod joined the Teach First programme in 2019 and obtained a PGDE with Distinction in Education Leadership in Learning from Northumbria University. Before joining Epsom College Malaysia, Ms Macleod taught Modern Foreign Languages at Dyke House Academy in England. At Epsom College Malaysia, she has embraced a range of roles including Teacher of French & Spanish, Head of Department and Head of EPQ. Now Head of University Counselling, Ms Macleod is dedicated to ensuring students and their families have access to excellent guidance and are well-suppored in making decisions about future study and career pathways.



GEMMA MARSDEN

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Ms Gemma Marsden returns to Epsom College Malaysia as University Guidance Counsellor, drawing on nearly 20 years of international teaching and leadership experience across the UK, Spain, and Malaysia, including a previous role as the College's Head of Art (2023–2025). She holds a First-Class Honours degree in Design and Design Management from the University of Manchester, a PGCE, and a Master's in Education, alongside extensive experience teaching Art, Design Technology, PSHE, and Critical Thinking while mentoring new educators. In her counseling role, Ms Marsden helps students identify their strengths and navigate higher education choices, spending her time outside of school running, climbing, traveling with her family, and enjoying art, photography, and music.



PREFECT TESTIMONIALS

ANNABEL R. - HEAD OF COLLEGE

"I joined Epsom in Year 9 back in 2023, switching from the Malaysian national curriculum. What I like most about Epsom is the passionate and committed teachers as well as the inclusive and friendly student community that have made my time in Epsom so far very enjoyable. I currently take Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics for A-Levels including the EPQ, which is on the mechanisms of the placebo effect as it falls within the realms of Health Sciences, the course I want to pursue at university.

As a weekly boarder, I find it reassuring that we have subject tutors on duty in each of the houses as an outlet I can utilise when uncertainties in my studies arise. What I find very useful are the 'Walk and Talk' Mocks. These sessions involve our subject teachers walking through a full exam paper, sharing with us how they would approach a question, giving tips and cautioning us of mistakes that students often make. Every student in the Sixth Form is assigned a counsellor who will help us navigate our university applications from the beginning to the end. We have additional CCAs for supercurricular support as well as internship opportunities with the College's partner organisations."

KHANT MIN N. - HEAD OF COLLEGE

"I joined ECM in August 2025 for Year 12 on the Mandalay Award Scholarship. I chose ECM because of its holistic approach to education and I can honestly say it has lived up to that. The school invests in you as a whole person, not just as a student.

The boarding house has been a real highlight, with a real community built on strong friendships. The teaching staff really support us, not just with academics but with our wellbeing, which makes the school a positive environment to live and study in.

I study Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science and EPQ. It's demanding but I always feel supported. Teachers do guided past paper sessions during crunch time before exams and for university, you can book your counsellor whenever you need to. Unifrog also makes researching courses and universities a lot more manageable than it sounds."

KYI SHINN S. - DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE

"I joined Epsom College Malaysia in Year 12 on the Mandalay Award Scholarship, having completed my IGCSEs back home. I was researching schools to study A-Levels abroad and came across Epsom. Its boarding life and commitment to holistic education were exactly what I was looking for, and I was humbled to receive the scholarship.

What I love most about ECM is the boarding community. It builds a real sense of belonging that means so much when you're far from family. Having teachers and friends I can talk to even outside of school makes it all the more enjoyable. Epsom has also pushed me to try new things, from tennis and golf to house trip adventures.

I am currently studying Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and EPQ. The teachers are fantastic, and I feel very supported when it comes to exam preparation as we do extensive past papers and revision in class. The same goes for university guidance. From one-on-one counsellor sessions to university fairs and super-curricular support classes like SOFIA Scholars, the help available here has been invaluable."

JIT KAI JERYL C. - DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE

"I joined Epsom for multiple reasons but I think for me the most important reason is the boarding experience, which has definitely developed my self-awareness and independence. What I really like about the school is how accommodating it is towards new students.

I joined the school as a shy and very introverted person. The atmosphere, communities, and support from members of staff really helped me break out of my shell. Currently, I'm studying History, Politics, Economics, and Mathematics. Lessons have been varied and delivered by teachers who have extensive knowledge in their respective fields. We've also been given the opportunity to talk to guidance counsellors to help with all the important decisions involved with the next steps post Sixth Form."


Juniors Fiction
Juniors Fiction
ANTHONY HOROWITZ

WIDER LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

UNIVERSITY CHOICES

We support students to aim for the best tertiary institutions in the world. University choices need to remain realistic and predicted grades help students determine what options are open to them. Predicted grades are non-negotiable and are based upon student data from assessments, both internal and external, and the professional opinion of subject teachers. To help students make informed decisions, we organise an extensive programme of university fairs, talks from visiting lecturers and application workshops led by our university counsellors. Students are encouraged to meet with our university counsellors early in Year 12 and regularly thereafter. Our counsellors are available on a drop-in basis as well as by appointment. If students have not already taken it, there is an opportunity to take the Morrisby Careers Guidance Tests (similar to psychometric profiling used by graduate employers). All students are enrolled in this programme from Year 10. The Lower Sixth are also enrolled into MABECS SCAPE, a hybrid platform that supports students' research into the next stage of their careers, whether this is looking at universities, investigating scholarships or developing their academic understanding.

For those applying to universities in the US, weekly SAT sessions are offered in Term 1 and Term 2. This is designed for students who are new to the SAT and want to learn how to prepare for it. Students will have access to a wide range of resources and practice exercises to refine their skills. ECM is also an official SAT test centre, making it a convenient and supportive environment for students preparing for the exam.

Many universities require IELTS (International English Language Testing System) certificates for international students. Through targeted preparation classes, access to high-quality resources, and personalised guidance, students will be equipped with the skills and confidence to pass the exam. The programme includes focused support in listening, reading, writing, and speaking, as well as mock exams, speaking practice sessions, and advice on test registration and requirements.

SOCIETIES

There are a large number of student-led societies including the Medical Review Society, the Business Society, the Humanities Society and the Language Society. These are active groups that allow students to further their passions. Social events are held throughout the year and frequent talks are arranged to encourage students from across the school to present their own short and stimulating lectures.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

As a boarding school, House competitions and socials form a large part of the annual calendar. There are frequent opportunities to represent House in the Arts and Sport as well as charitable endeavours.

EPSOM LIVE TALKS

We regularly welcome esteemed guests to talk about their area of expertise. These include professionals and academics at the top of their fields and are aimed at student interests. These talks bridge the gap between academia and the corporate world, offering students the chance to engage directly with leaders, ask questions, and gain invaluable career insights. Students are also given the opportunity to develop their skills in networking.

CAREERS

There is a programme of career events to help prepare students for life beyond education. We work with a range of prominent international companies to offer valuable work experience. This includes valuable exposure to the fields of aviation, finance, Law and Medicine through partner companies such as AirAsia and the ECM Libra Foundation. Our students are therefore able to build a portfolio of evidence that will help them enter top universities around the world and then go on to secure employment thereafter.

SUPER-CURRICULAR

Epsom College Malaysia has the highest academic expectations of our Sixth Form students. For exceptional students, the super-curriculum is designed to support their journey towards entry into the world's leading universities.

SOFIA SCHOLARS

This includes SOFIA (Selective Opportunity for Intensive Academics) Scholars, where students will be exposed to the academic rigours of selective universities through weekly sessions. In Year 12, these sessions cover a wide range of areas such as university entry requirements, the application process, building research skills and developing a deeper understanding in their chosen fields. Support will be provided by subject specialists through smaller seminar style sessions and students will be given the opportunity to present findings and receive feedback on topics that relate to their chosen field. This allows students to demonstrate academic curiosity and a developed level of knowledge beyond the school curriculum, which is increasingly required by admissions tutors from leading universities. For those students in Year 13 who have taken the decision on applying, this club will complement the support provided by our University Guidance Team, as well as external admissions professionals where possible in crafting their applications and honing their interview skills.

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a stand alone qualification that allows Sixth Form students to explore a topic of their choice in depth. It involves researching and producing either a 5,000-word written report or a practical project with an accompanying essay and presentation.

The EPQ develops valuable skills such as independent research, time management, academic writing, and critical thinking. It is highly regarded by universities and can support applications by demonstrating genuine interest in a subject area.

Typically, students begin their EPQ in Year 12 and complete it in Year 13 alongside their A-Level or BTEC studies. Topics range widely from Science and Business to Global Issues, Arts, and Humanities, giving students the freedom to pursue their academic passions.

CORE CURRICULUM

All Sixth Form students will participate in the Core Curriculum that includes:

GAMES

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is important, and therefore two lessons a week are dedicated to Sixth Form Games. Students are given a range of sports and personal fitness activities to choose from. These are rotated on a termly basis to ensure there is a good level of variety throughout the academic year.

PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education is focused on preparing our students as they transition into adulthood, helping them develop the knowledge, skills, and values needed for life beyond the College. It covers key topics such as mental health and wellbeing, relationships, personal finance, digital literacy, and preparation for university, apprenticeships, or employment. Sixth Form PSHE also promotes responsible decision-making, resilience, and respect for others, empowering students to lead healthy, safe, and independent lives. Sessions are often discussion-based, relevant, and responsive to current issues, helping students navigate the challenges and opportunities of young adulthood with confidence.

SUPPORT FROM THE SIXTH FORM TEAM

The transition to a more independent way of working can be challenging. The Sixth Form Team is here to support every student on that journey. From tutors who will meet with students for regular one-to-ones, subject teachers who will guide academically, and Housemasters / mistresses who will support pastorally, students are surrounded by caring professionals. The Head of Sixth Form will always be available to help and will closely monitor students' progression. Tailored support will be provided that aims to help develop a greater level of learning independence. This can range from planning out study periods for more effective use, creating revision timetables or arranging mentoring from older students.

FORTNIGHTLY ROUTINE

The image below shows the structure of a typical two weeks in the Sixth Form for a Year 12 student studying Mathematics, Economics and Geography.

WEEK A

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 - 8:00	Squad / Academy Training / Private Study / Intervention					9:00 - 11:00 Games and Sports Fixtures
8:15 - 8:40	Tutor	Whole School Assembly	Tutor	Tutor	House Assembly	
8:45 - 9:35	Games	Economics	Mathematics	Study Period	Geography	
9:40 - 10:30				Mathematics	Study Period	
10:30 - 10:50	Break					
10:50 - 11:40	Mathematics	Mathematics	Economics	Geography	Mathematics	
11:45 - 12:35	Study Period	Economics		Study Period	Economics	
12:35 - 13:25	Lunch					
13:25 - 14:15	Geography	Study Period	Mathematics	Study Period	PSHE	
14:15 - 15:05		Mathematics	Study Period	Economics	Geography	
15:10 - 16:00	Study Period		Geography	Study Period		
16:20 - 17:05	Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) 1 / Prep					
17:15 - 18:00	CCA 2 / Academies / Squads / Prep / Dinner					
18:10 - 18:55	CCA 3 / Academies / Squads / Prep / Dinner					
19:00 - 20:00	Prep / Dinner					

**for illustration purposes only*

WEEK B

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 - 8:00	Squad / Academy Training / Private Study / Intervention					9:00 - 11:00 Games and Sports Fixtures
8:15 - 8:40	Key Stage Assembly	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor	House Assembly	
8:45 - 9:35	Games	Mathematics	Study Period	Geography	Geography	
9:40 - 10:30			Economics		Study Period	
10:30 - 10:50	Break					
10:50 - 11:40	Economics	Study Period	Geography	Mathematics	Study Period	
11:45 - 12:35			Economics	Study Period	Economics	
12:35 - 13:25	Lunch					
13:25 - 14:15	Mathematics	Economics	Mathematics	Study Period	PSHE	
14:15 - 15:05		Geography	Study Period	Economics	Study Period	
15:10 - 16:00	Geography				Mathematics	
16:20 - 17:05	CCA 1 / Prep					
17:15 - 18:00	CCA 2 / Academies / Squads / Prep / Dinner					
18:10 - 18:55	CCA 3 / Academies / Squads / Prep / Dinner					
19:00 - 20:00	Prep / Dinner					

**for illustration purposes only*

AS AND A-LEVEL COURSES

A-Levels provide an excellent foundation for going on to study at university. The curriculum structure at Epsom College Malaysia is tailored to each individual student. This can include:

- FOUR PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS TO A-LEVEL
- THREE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS TO A-LEVEL WITH ONE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT TO AS-LEVEL
- THREE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS TO A-LEVEL

Any of these combinations can be supplemented with an option from the Super Curriculum (EPQ / ESA) or IELTS.
There is no disadvantage to any of these routes and we work closely with Russell Group Universities and their clear advice is that three subjects is optimal. Universities in the UK base their offers on three subjects, and studying this allows students to develop a deeper understanding of their chosen subjects while also having time in the week to enjoy the breadth of opportunities on offer at the College. We, however, recognise the competitive landscape of university admissions and will support those who will benefit from taking a fourth subject to enhance their application. It is also advantageous for those applying to institutions in Singapore and Hong Kong.

A-Levels are typically taught by two teachers who each specialise in specific areas of the curriculum. This means students have on average 6.25 hours of contact time per subject per week. Therefore, all timetables will include a number of study periods, where students will be expected to conduct self-study. The study of A-Levels thus acts as a transition between the structured learning of IGCSE and the independence of tertiary education.

For some subjects the course consists of Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level and A2 examinations. If this is the case, students will sit external examinations at the end of Year 12 that will contribute to their overall A-Level grade, or will be a stand alone qualification, should the student no longer wish to continue studying that subject into Year 13. Exam boards that follow this structure, therefore offer students the option to resit examinations.

This is, however, not encouraged by the College as top universities are expecting students to attain good results in one sitting. Other subjects only complete A-Level examinations and therefore these are all sat at the end of Year 13 with no opportunity to resit.

It is also important to note that some subjects comprise Non-Examined Assessments, meaning students will complete coursework during the two-year period. Specific details on subjects can be found in the subsequent pages of this booklet.

A-LEVEL OPTION BLOCKS

A	B	C	D
Further Mathematics Mathematics Biology Chemistry Psychology Spanish EPQ	Further Mathematics Mathematics Biology Chemistry Business Studies Economics Physical Education Accounting History	Mathematics Physics Economics Politics Psychology Computer Science English Literature Art	Mathematics Chemistry Physics Business Studies Politics Music Geography Mandarin


KELUAR

COMMON SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

University Course	Common / Recommended A-Level Combinations	Key Notes
Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary Science	Biology + Chemistry + Mathematics Biology + Chemistry + Physics Chemistry + Biology + Psychology	Chemistry is essential for most courses. Biology is strongly preferred. A third Science or Mathematics is usually recommended.
Engineering	Mathematics + Physics + Further Mathematics Mathematics + Physics + Chemistry Mathematics + Physics/Chemistry/Biology + Computer Science	Mathematics and Physics are essential for most courses. Further Mathematics is highly advantageous for competitive universities.
Economics	Mathematics + Economics + Further Mathematics Mathematics + Economics + History Mathematics + Economics + Politics	Mathematics is usually essential or strongly preferred. Economics is helpful but not required.
Law	English Literature + History + Politics English Literature + History + Economics Any strong essay-based combination	No required subjects. Strong essay writing and analytical subjects are preferred.
Business / Management	Business + Economics + Mathematics Economics + Mathematics + Geography Business + Psychology + Mathematics	Business is not required. Mathematics and Economics are often most useful.
Computer Science	Mathematics + Further Mathematics + Physics Mathematics + Computer Science + Physics Mathematics + Computer Science + Chemistry	Mathematics is essential at most universities. Further Mathematics is highly recommended for competitive courses.
Biomedical Science / Pharmacy / Nursing	Biology + Chemistry + Mathematics Biology + Chemistry + Psychology	Requirements vary by university. Biology and Chemistry are usually essential.

University Course	Common / Recommended A-Level Combinations	Key Notes
Architecture	Mathematics + Physics + Art & Design Mathematics + Art & Design + Geography Art & Design + Maths + English Literature	A portfolio is very important. If you do not take Art & Design, you will have to spend a lot of extra time producing a portfolio in addition to your three A-Levels. Mathematics is often required or strongly recommended.
Psychology	Psychology + Biology + Mathematics Psychology + Economics + Geography Psychology + English Literature + Biology	Some universities prefer at least one Science or Mathematics.
History / Politics / International Relations	History + Politics + Economics History + English Literature + Geography History + Languages + Politics	Mathematics and Physics are essential for most courses. Further Mathematics is highly advantageous for competitive universities.
PPE / Philosophy / Liberal Arts	Mathematics + Economics + Politics History + Mathematics + English Literature Economics + History + English Literature	Maths is often preferred for competitive PPE courses. Taking a science subject alongside humanities subject keeps your options broadly open.
Natural Sciences / Sciences	Biology + Chemistry + Physics Mathematics + Physics + Chemistry Biology + Chemistry + Mathematics	No required subjects. Strong essay writing and analytical subjects are preferred.

KEY SUMMARY FOR STUDENTS

- Mathematics & Sciences are best for STEM, Medicine, Engineering, Economics
- Exampled subjects are best for Law, History, Humanities
- Balanced combinations are best for keeping options open
- Universities prioritise grades and subject relevance over quantity of subjects
- Use the **Informed Choices** (https://informedchoices.ac.uk/) website to help you understand how your choice of A-Level subjects influences the degree courses open to you at university

A-LEVEL BIOLOGY

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Course Code: YBI11 / XBI11

A-LEVEL BIOLOGY SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The Edexcel International Advanced Level Biology (IAL) is a two-year course in which students develop a deep understanding of biological systems, practical investigation skills, and the ability to analyse and evaluate data. In Year 12 (AS Level), students study foundational topics including biological molecules and cardiovascular health, before progressing to topics such as cell structure and conservation, while also building core practical skills such as experimental design and data analysis. In Year 13 (A2 Level), the course advances to more complex concepts such as photosynthesis and respiration, with a continued emphasis on practical work, synoptic thinking, and the application of knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. Students are assessed through a combination of written examinations that include structured questions, data interpretation, and extended responses.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

The course is particularly suited to students who enjoy exploring how living organisms function, from the molecular level through to whole ecosystems, and who are motivated by understanding real-world biological issues such as health, disease, and environmental sustainability. It is ideal for those with a strong interest in topics such as human biology, genetics, ecology, and biotechnology, and who are curious about how scientific knowledge is applied in Medicine and research. Students who succeed in this subject typically have strengths in analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. In addition, the course requires clear written communication for extended-response questions, attention to detail in practical work, and forming scientific conclusions.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health	Chemistry for Biologists, Mammalian Transport Systems, Cardiovascular Health and Risk	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	20%
Unit 2	Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation	Membranes and Transport, Proteins and DNA, Gene Expression and Genetics	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	20%
Unit 3	Practical Skills in Biology	Core Practicals	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	10%
Unit 4	Energy, Environment, MicroBiology and Immunity	Photosynthesis, Ecology, Environment and Climate Change	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20%
Unit 5	Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology	MicroBiology, Immunity, Decomposition and Forensics	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20%
Unit 6	Practical Skills in Biology II	Core Practicals	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	10%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Degree courses: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Biomedical Science, Genetics, MicroBiology, Environmental Science, and other Life Science disciplines, as well as related fields such as Psychology or Sports Science.

Career pathways: Healthcare (e.g. Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist), research and laboratory Science, Biotechnology, Conservation, and Environmental Management, as well as roles in Science Communication and Education.

Beyond subject-specific knowledge, students develop highly transferable skills such as data analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving, practical laboratory techniques, and clear scientific communication, all of which are valued across a broad range of university courses and professional careers.

A-LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Exam Board & Course Information

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Course Code: (WCH11-WCH16)

A-LEVEL (IAL) CHEMISTRY SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) Chemistry is a two-year course that provides students with a strong foundation in the key principles of Chemistry, including physical, inorganic, and organic Chemistry. The course develops an understanding of how chemical processes shape the world, from industrial applications to biological systems.

Students will explore foundational topics in IAS Chemistry (Year 12) such as atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, organic reactions, and analytical techniques such as Mass Spectrometry and IR spectroscopy. In IAL (Year 13) Chemistry, students learn advanced topics such as acid equilibria, redox equilibria, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and Gas chromatography. Practical skills are integrated throughout the course, with practical skills examined in Paper 3 in IAS and Paper 6 in IAL Chemistry, encouraging students to develop investigative and experimental competence alongside theoretical knowledge.

Students will write Papers 1, 2 and 3 at the end of Year 12 Chemistry and Papers 4, 5 and 6 at the end of Year 13 Chemistry. The course promotes logical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to apply chemical concepts to real-world contexts such as Medicine, environmental issues, and materials Science. Throughout both years, students are assessed through a combination of written examinations that include structured questions, data interpretation, and extended responses.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Have a strong interest in Science and how substances interact
- Enjoy problem-solving and working with numerical data
- Are curious about how Chemistry applies to real-world situations
- Are confident in mathematical and analytical thinking

Key skills developed include:

- Analytical and critical thinking
- Data interpretation and evaluation
- Practical laboratory and investigative skills
- Application of theory to unfamiliar contexts
- Structured scientific writing

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry	Atomic structure, bonding, energetics, alkanes	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	40% AS / 20% A-Level
Unit 2	Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols	Energetics, kinetics, equilibria, Group 2 & 7, organic reactions	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	40% AS / 20% A-Level
Unit 3	Practical Skills in Chemistry I	Core practical experiments, data analysis	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	20% AS / 10% A-Level
Unit 4	Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry	Kinetics, equilibrium, acids & bases, organic synthesis	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20% A-Level
Unit 5	Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry	Transition metals, spectroscopy, organic nitrogen compounds	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20% A-Level
Unit 6	Practical Skills in Chemistry II	Advanced practical techniques and analysis	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	10% A-Level

Assessment is entirely examination-based. Practical skills are assessed through written papers rather than coursework. Students are evaluated on knowledge, application, analysis, and experimental understanding.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

IAL Chemistry is highly regarded by universities and supports a wide range of degree courses and careers.
Degree Courses: Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Bio Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, Forensic Science
Career Pathways: Medicine and Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Consultancy, Research Science, Food Science, Teaching.

AS & A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge
Course Code: 9618

A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The course enables students to develop computational thinking skills and an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers. Students will also develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communication and people. The different methods of communication and the functionality of networks and the internet will be explored and students will gain the skills necessary to apply their learning to develop computer-based solutions to problems.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Cambridge International AS & A-Level Computer Science supports the development of learners who are:

- Confident, using a range of technology and programming paradigms
- Responsible, using technology ethically and reflectively,
- As programmers, improving their own programming solutions
- Innovative, creating efficient solutions to problems
- Engaged in technology, how it is built and how software solutions are developed.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Theory Fundamentals	Paper 1 will assess sections 1 to 8 of the syllabus content.	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	50% AS / 25% A-Level
Paper 2	Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills	Paper 2 will assess sections 9 to 12 of the syllabus content. Candidates will need to write answers in pseudocode.	Written paper	2 hours	75 marks	50% AS / 25% A-Level
Paper 3	Advanced Theory	Paper 3 will assess sections 13 to 20 of the syllabus content.	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	75 marks	25% A-Level
Paper 4	Practical	Paper 4 will assess sections 19 to 20 of the syllabus content, except for low-level and declarative programming. Candidates will submit complete program code and evidence of testing. Candidates will be required to use either Java (console mode), Visual Basic* (console mode) or Python (console mode) programming languages. Externally assessed. Candidates answer all questions on a computer without internet or email facility.	Practical exam	2 hours 30 minutes	75 marks	25% A-Level

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Degree Courses: Cambridge International AS & A-Level Computer Science encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in computer Science as well as twenty-first century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively, through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

Career pathways: Software Development & Engineering, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Cyber Security & Information Security, Systems Analyst & Network Engineer, IT Consultancy and Project Management.



A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Exam Board & Course Information

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Course Code: 9MA0 (Mathematics), 9FM0 (Further Mathematics)

A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS SPECIFICATION
A-LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Pearson Edexcel A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics are designed to build a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and their applications. It is a highly regarded "facilitating" subject that develops logical reasoning and the ability to process complex information.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: Cracking complex puzzles, discovering the "why" behind numerical patterns, and the satisfaction of reaching a definitive, proven answer.
- Are interested in: How the physical world is modelled through equations, the mechanics of motion, and how data can be used to predict future trends, and have strengths in analytical thinking, problem-solving, and mathematical fluency.
- Have strengths in: Here lies in structured, logical derivation and the precision of your work.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1	Written paper	2 hours	100 marks	33.33%
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2	Written paper	2 hours	100 marks	33.33%
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics	Written paper	2 hours	100 marks	33.33%

A-Level MATHEMATICS
*A-Level FURTHER MATHEMATICS

PAPER	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 3B: Further Statistics 1	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 3C: Further Mechanics 1	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

A-Level Mathematics is often a mandatory requirement for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degrees.
Degree Courses: Mathematics and Finance, Actuarial Science, Engineering, Physical Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), Computer Science and Economics
Career Pathways: Data Scientist or Analyst, Investment Banker, Actuary, Engineer, Research Scientist and Software Developer
By the end of this course, students will have mastered quantitative reasoning, logical deduction, and the ability to remain resilient when tackling multi-step challenges skills that are highly prized in any professional environment.

**Note: A-Level Further Mathematics should be considered as a fourth subject and is subject to students achieving at least a Grade 8 in IGCSE Mathematics or equivalent.*

A-LEVEL PHYSICS

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Course Code: YPH11 / XPH11

A-LEVEL PHYSICS SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The Edexcel International Advanced Level Physics (IAL) is a two-year course designed to develop a student's mastery of the Laws governing the universe, from the subatomic to the cosmological scale. In Year 12 (AS Level), students study foundational mechanics (motion, forces, energy) and materials, alongside waves and the particle nature of light. There is a heavy focus on developing mathematical literacy and core practical skills. As students progress into Year 13 (A2 Level), the course advances to complex fields including circular motion, oscillations, thermal Physics, and nuclear/quantum Physics. Students are expected to apply synoptic thinking to link different areas of Physics and evaluate experimental data through written assessments.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Scientific Curiosity: This course is suited for students who want to understand "how things work," from the behaviour of electrons to the expansion of the galaxy.
Mathematical Proficiency: Success in Physics typically requires strong analytical thinking and high-level problem-solving skills, particularly in applying Mathematics to physical contexts.
Technical Precision: Students must demonstrate attention to detail in laboratory work and the ability to communicate complex theories clearly in extended-response questions.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Physics on the Go	Mechanics and Materials	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	20%
Unit 2	Physics at Work	Waves and Electricity	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	80 marks	20%
Unit 3	Practical Skills I	Core Practicals (AS)	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	10%
Unit 4	Physics on the Move	Further Mechanics, Fields, and Particles	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20%
Unit 5	Physics from Creation to Collapse	Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology	Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	20%
Unit 6	Practical Skills II	Core Practicals (A2)	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	50 marks	10%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Degree Courses: Physics, Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Aerospace, etc.), AstroPhysics, Mathematics, Architecture, and Computer Science.
Career Pathways: Engineering, Data Science, Medical Physics, GeoPhysics, Renewable Energy, and Research Development.
Transferable Skills: Beyond Physics, students gain highly valued skills in quantitative analysis, logical modelling, and technical communication.

A-LEVEL ECONOMICS

Exam Board & Course Information

Exam Board: Cambridge International (CIE)
Course Code: 9708

A-LEVEL ECONOMICS SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Cambridge International A-Level Economics provides students with a strong understanding of how individuals, firms and governments make choices when resources are scarce. The course develops analytical and evaluative skills through both Microeconomics (markets, firms, market failure and labour markets) and Macroeconomics (inflation, unemployment, growth, international trade and development). Students apply economic theory to real-world issues such as taxation, globalisation, exchange rates, inequality and government policy, using diagrams, data and case studies to support balanced arguments and well-reasoned judgement.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: analysing why prices change and how markets work
- Are interested in: topics such as inflation, trade, development and government policy
- Have strengths in: data interpretation, diagrams and structured essays

Enjoy current affairs, politics, business and world events, debate, critical thinking and evaluating different viewpoints

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE 100% EXTERNAL EXAM BASED

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	AS	Scarcity, Choice and Opportunity cost, Demand and Supply, Elasticity, Government intervention in markets, National income, Inflation and unemployment, Fiscal, Monetary and supply-side policy and International trade and exchange rates	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	30 marks	33% AS / 17% A-Level
Paper 2			Written paper - Data	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks	67% AS / 33% A-Level
Paper 3	AL	Market structures (perfect competition, monopoly, oligopoly), Labour markets and wage determination, Market failure and externalities, Multiplier process, Banking and money supply, Phillips Curve and policy conflicts, Economic development and Globalisation and International Economics	Written paper	1 hour 20 minutes	30 marks	17% A-Level
Paper 4			Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	60 marks	33% A-Level

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

This subject can lead to:
Degree Courses: Economics, PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics), Finance / Accounting, Business Management, Law, International Relations, Data Science, Politics / Public Policy
Career Pathways: Economist, Investment Banking, Finance / Accounting, Management Consulting, Government / Policy Advisor, Business Analyst, Data Analyst, Entrepreneurship, Law

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Oxford AQA
Course Code: 9675

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Oxford AQA A-Level English Literature offers students the opportunity to engage in the close reading, critical analysis, and interpretation of a wide range of literary texts, including poetry, drama, and prose from different periods. The course develops an understanding of how writers shape meaning through language, structure, and form, as well as how texts reflect and challenge social, historical, and cultural contexts.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: reading and discussing a range of literary texts, including poetry, prose and drama.
- Are interested in: how writers shape meaning through language, as well as themes such as identity, power, love, and conflict.
- Have strengths in: analytical reading, constructing structured essays, and developing clear, well-supported arguments.

Key skills developed include critical thinking, close textual analysis, comparison of texts, evaluation of interpretations, and coherent academic writing.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Aspects of Dramatic Tragedy	Section A: One passage-based question on Elizabethan and Jacobean tragedy. Section B: One essay question on later dramatic tragedies.	Written paper (closed book)	2 hours	50 marks	50% AS / 20% A-Level
Paper 2	Place in Literary Texts	Section A: One essay question on prose set text. Section B: One essay question on poetry set text.	Written paper (closed book)	2 hours	50 marks	50% AS / 20% A-Level
Paper 3	Elements of Crime and Mystery	Students answer two essay questions on texts of choice.	Written paper (closed book)	2 hours	50 marks	30% A-Level

UNIT 4B	UNIT TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Coursework	Literary Representations	Study of two texts: one poetry text and one prose text. Two essays of 1,250-1,500 words, each responding to a different text.	Written paper (closed book)	50 marks	30% A-Level

Assessment is made up of three written examination papers and one coursework component.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Oxford AQA A-Level English Literature is a highly versatile subject that supports a wide range of university courses and careers.
Degree Courses: English Literature, English Language, Journalism, Media and Communications, Law, History, Politics, Education, and International Relations.
Career Pathways: Journalism, Publishing, Teaching, Law, Marketing and Advertising, Public Relations, Media and Communications, and Civil Service roles. The subject is highly regarded by universities due to its strong focus on critical thinking, Analytical Skills, and Communication.

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board & Course Information

Exam Board: Cambridge International (CIE)
Course Code: 9696

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

CIE A-Level Geography provides students with an understanding of both physical and human geography and the interactions between people and environments. The course develops knowledge of key global issues such as climate change, development, natural hazards, environmental degradation, energy use and global trade. Students are encouraged to apply geographical theory to real world case studies from a range of countries at different levels of development.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Are interested in: the world around them and current global issues
- Enjoy: analysing data, maps, and case studies
- Are confident in: extended writing and explaining ideas clearly
- Have an interest in: topics such as environment, development, and global change

Key skills developed include analytical thinking, evaluation, data interpretation, and structured essay writing.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Physical Geography	Hydrology, River processes and hazards Atmospheric processes and climate change Earth processes and mass movement	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks	50% AS / 25% A-Level
Paper 2	Human Geography	Population and migration Water resources and management Urban areas and management	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks	50% AS / 25% A-Level
Paper 3	Global Environments	Coastal environments Hazardous environment	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks	25% A-Level
Paper 4	Global Themes	Environmental issues and management Trade, aid and tourism	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks	25% A-Level

Assessment is entirely examination-based with no coursework component. Students are assessed on knowledge, application, analysis, and evaluation.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

CIE Geography is a highly versatile subject that supports a wide range of university courses and careers.
Degree Courses: Geography, Environmental Science, Geology, Urban Planning and International Relations, Economics, Law and Biology.
Career Pathways: Environmental Consultancy, Town and Transport Planning, Sustainability and Climate Policy, International Aid and Development, Law and Finance.

The subject is highly regarded by universities due to its combination of scientific, analytical, and essay-based skills.

A-LEVEL HISTORY

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: AQA
Course Code: 7042

A-LEVEL HISTORY SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

AQA A-Level History provides students with a broad and in-depth understanding of significant political, social, economic and cultural developments across different periods. The course explores key themes such as power and authority, change and continuity, opposition and ideology, using both British and international case studies. The course encourages students to engage with primary sources and differing historical interpretations, developing their ability to analyse evidence and construct well-supported arguments. Through an independent historical investigation, students apply these skills to a topic of their choice, fostering critical thinking, research skills and a deeper understanding of how history is written and debated.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Are interested in: exploring the past, examining different cultures and interpretations of the past
- Enjoy: debating ideas and forming arguments and thinking critically
- Have strengths in: constructing clear, well-supported arguments, evaluating evidence, critical thinking, breaking down events and explaining causes and consequences.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964	Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855-1894 The collapse of autocracy, 1894-1917 The emergence of Communist dictatorship, 1917-1941 The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941-1964	Written paper	2 hours 30 minutes	30 marks	40% of A-Level
Paper 2	The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007	The Affluent Society, 1951-1964 The Sixties, 1964-1970 The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970-1979 The impact of Thatcherism, 1979-1987 Towards a new Consensus, 1987-1997 The Era of New Labour, 1997-2007	Written paper	2 hours 30 minutes	30 marks	40% of A-Level
Paper 3	Independent essay (3,500-4,500 words)	Non-examined assessment on Tudor Rebellions	NEA			20% of A-Level

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

This subject can lead to:
Degree Courses: History, Politics / International Relations, Law, English / Humanities, Journalism / Media, Archaeology, Sociology
Career Pathways: Lawyer, Barrister, Journalist, Writer, Teacher, Academic, Civil Service, Government, Archivist, Museum Curator, Business / Management roles, Media, PR, and Communications.

The subject is highly valued by universities for its strong emphasis on critical thinking, analytical reasoning, independent research, and the ability to construct clear, evidence-based arguments.

A-LEVEL POLITICS

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Code: 9PL0

A-LEVEL POLITICS SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

A-Level Politics offers students a dynamic and intellectually challenging exploration of how power is exercised and contested in the modern world. In Year 12, students study UK Politics and Government, examining topics such as democracy, elections, Parliament and the constitution, as well as key political ideologies including conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism. In Year 13, students study US Politics and Government, focusing on Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court, and drawing comparisons with the UK system. Assessment is through three written examinations at the end of Year 13, each lasting two hours.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: debating ideas, discussing current affairs, and constructing well-supported arguments
- Are interested in: how Governments work, political issues in the UK and globally, and the impact of decisions on society
- Have strengths in: Critical thinking, analysis, extended writing, and evaluating different viewpoints

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	UK Politics and Core Political Ideas	1. Democracy and participation 2. Political parties 3. Electoral systems 4. Voting behaviour and the media 5. Liberalism 6. Conservatism 7. Socialism	Written paper	2 hours	84 marks	33.33%
Paper 2	UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas	1. The constitution 2. Parliament 3. Prime Minister and executive 4. Relations between branches 5. Feminism	Written paper	2 hours	84 marks	33.33%
Paper 3	Comparative Politics - USA	1. The US Constitution and federalism 2. US Congress 3. US Presidency 4. US Supreme Court and US civil rights 5. US democracy and participation 6. Comparative theories	Written paper	2 hours	84 marks	33.33%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

This subject can lead to:
Degree Courses: Politics, International Relations, Law, History, Economics, Philosophy (PPE), Sociology, Journalism and Public Policy
Career Pathways: Law, Government and the Civil Service, Diplomacy and International Organisations, Journalism and Media, Public Relations, Business and Consultancy, Teaching and Academia
Transferable Skills: Critical thinking, Analysis of Complex Information, Constructing and Evaluating Arguments, clear written communication, research skills and the ability to form balanced, independent judgements

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL)
Course Code: YPS01 (International A Level) / XPS01 (International AS Level)

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Edexcel International A-Level Psychology explores how and why humans think, feel and behave in certain ways. The course combines scientific research with real-world application, helping students understand key areas such as obedience and prejudice, memory, the biological basis of behaviour, learning, child development and mental health. Students learn classic and contemporary research, evaluate psychological theories and apply explanations to real-world scenarios. The course draws on multiple approaches in psychology, including social, cognitive, biological, behavioural and psychodynamic perspectives.

The qualification is modular. In Year 12 (Units 1 and 2), students build the foundations of psychology through social, cognitive and biological psychology and learning theories, along with core research methods and statistics; together these units form the International AS Level. In Year 13 (Units 3 and 4), students study applied areas – developmental psychology, one option from criminological or health psychology, and clinical psychology – alongside more complex research methods and broader issues and debates. Research methods are embedded throughout both years, enabling students to design investigations, analyse data and interpret findings using statistical tests.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Are curious about: human behaviour and mental processes
- Enjoy: analysing research studies and evaluating evidence
- Are interested in: topics such as mental health, the brain, and social behaviour
- Are confident in: extended writing and constructing arguments

Key skills developed include:

- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Understanding and applying scientific research methods
- Essay writing and structured argument development

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Unit 1 (WPS01)	Social and Cognitive Psychology	Social psychology, Cognitive psychology	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	64 marks	20%
Unit 2 (WPS02)	Biological Psychology, Learning Theories and Development	Biological psychology, Learning theories and development	Written paper	2 hours	96 marks	30%
Unit 3 (WPS03)	Applications of Psychology	Developmental psychology, plus one option (Criminological / Health psychology)	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	64 marks	20%
Unit 4 (WPS04)	Clinical Psychology and Psychological Skills	Clinical psychology, Research methods, Issues and debates	Written paper	2 hours	96 marks	30%

Assessment is entirely examination-based with no coursework component. Units 1 and 2 make up the International AS Level, and all four units make up the full International A Level. Exams are available in January and June each year. Students are assessed on knowledge and understanding (AO1), application (AO2) and evaluation (AO3).

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Edexcel International A-Level Psychology is a highly versatile subject that supports a wide range of university courses and careers.
Degree Courses: Psychology, NeuroScience, counselling, Psychiatry, Education, Criminology, Law, business, and Marketing
Career Pathways: Clinical psychologist, Therapist, Counsellor, Teacher, Human Resources, Marketing and Consumer Research, Law enforcement, Social work.

The subject is highly regarded by universities due to its combination of scientific research skills, critical thinking, and essay-based analysis.

A-LEVEL ACCOUNTING

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge International (CIE)
Course Code: 9706

A-LEVEL ACCOUNTING SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

CIE AS & A-Level Accounting links classroom learning to real-world business, helping students understand how accounting supports decision-making. It develops skills in analysing and evaluating financial information, providing a strong foundation for further study and careers. The course builds confident, ethical, and analytical learners who can apply accounting concepts across different business contexts.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Ideal for students interested in accounting, ethics, and decision-making, who want to build strong analytical and problem-solving skills for future study or careers.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Multiple Choices	Types of Business entity, the Accounting system, Accounting for non-current assets, Reconciliation and verification, Preparation of financial statements, Analysis and communication of accounting information, Costs and cost behaviour, Traditional costing methods.	MCQ	1 hour	30 marks	28% AS / 14% A-Level
Paper 2	Fundamentals of Accounting		Written paper	1 hour 45 minutes	90 marks	72% AS / 36% A-Level
Paper 3	Global Environments	Preparation of Financial statements, Regulatory and ethical considerations, Business acquisition and merger, Computerised accounting systems, Analysis and communication of Accounting information.	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	30% A-Level
Paper 4	Global Themes	Activity based costing (ABC), Standard costing, Budgeting and budgetary control, investment appraisal.	Written paper	1 hour	50 marks	20% A-Level

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Degree Courses: Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Economics, Banking and Finance, Auditing, Financial Management, Data Analytics, Business Analytics, FinTech, Supply Chain Management, Entrepreneurship, Management, Actuarial Science, Sustainability/ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Management.
Career Pathways: Accountant, Auditor, Financial Analyst, Investment Banker, Tax Consultant, Management Accountant, Finance Manager, Risk Analyst, Compliance Officer, Business Analyst, Data Analyst, FinTech Specialist, Financial Consultant, Entrepreneur, Start-up Founder, Operations Manager, Supply Chain Analyst, Corporate Lawyer (with further study), ESG/Sustainability Analyst.

A-LEVEL BUSINESS

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge
Course Code: 9609

A-LEVEL BUSINESS SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Cambridge International A-Level Business develops students' understanding of how organisations operate and make decisions in a dynamic and competitive environment. The course explores key functional areas including Business and its Environment, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Operations Management, and Finance and Accounting, enabling students to see how different aspects of a business are interconnected.

At AS Level, students build a strong foundation in core business concepts, focusing on how businesses are structured, how they respond to internal and external influences, and how key decisions are made. At A-Level, this understanding is extended through a greater emphasis on strategic decision-making, requiring students to evaluate complex business scenarios, assess risk, and consider long-term planning.

Throughout the course, students develop essential skills in analysis, application, and evaluation, applying theory to real-world business contexts. They learn to interpret data, construct balanced arguments, and make justified recommendations.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

A Level Business is well suited to students who:

- Have an interest in how businesses operate, grow, and compete in real-world contexts
- Enjoy analysing data, problem-solving and applying theory to practical situations to make informed decisions
- Are curious about current affairs and the global economy
- Have strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Are able to think logically and evaluate different viewpoints
- Have an interest in areas such as marketing, finance, entrepreneurship, or management

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Examination Papers:

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	WEIGHTING
AS Level PAPER 1	Business Concepts 1	Enterprise, Business Structure, Size of Business, Business Objectives & Stakeholders in Business, Human Resource Management, Motivation, Management, The Nature of Marketing, Marketing Research, Marketing Mix, The Nature of Operations, Inventory Management, Capacity Utilisation, Outsourcing, Business Finance, Cashflows, Cost and Budgets	Section A: Answer 4 short questions (20 marks) Section B: Answer 1 out of 2 essays (20 marks)	1 hour 15 minutes	40 % of AS Level 20 % of A-Level
AS Level PAPER 2	Business Concepts 2		Answer 2 Data Response Questions (60 marks)	1 hour 30 minutes	60 % of AS Level 30% of A-Level
AS Level PAPER 3	Business Decision Making	External Influences (PEST), Business Strategy, Corporate Planning & Implementation, Organisational Structure, Business Communication, Leadership HRM Strategy, Marketing Analysis, Marketing Strategy, Location and Scale, Quality Management, Operations Strategy, Financial Statements, Analysis of Published Accounts, Investment Appraisals and Accounting Strategy	Answer 5 Questions based on a case study (60 marks)	1 hour 45 minutes	30 % of A-Levels
AS Level PAPER 4	Business Strategy		Answer 2 essays based on a case study (40 marks)	1 hour 15 minutes	20 % of A-Levels

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Related degree courses include Business Management , International Business, Human Resource Management , Marketing, Accounting & Finance.

A-Level Business does not limit students to one pathway. It opens routes into both specialist careers such as Finance, Marketing and Accounting as well as broader fields including Management, Law, and Consultancy.

A-LEVEL ART & DESIGN

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge International (CIE)
Course Code: 9479

A-LEVEL ART & DESIGN SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Cambridge A-Level Art & Design develops students' ability to think and work like artists. The course focuses on practical exploration, independent enquiry, and critical understanding. Students investigate themes through drawing, painting, 3D work, digital media, and mixed processes, building a personal and meaningful body of work.

Students explore areas such as Fine Art, Graphic Communication, 3D Design, and Textiles, and learn how to communicate ideas visually through research, experimentation, and refinement.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Ideal for students who enjoy creative thinking, making, and experimenting with materials, and who are interested in artists, culture, and visual communication.

The course develops creativity, critical thinking, visual analysis, problem-solving, and independent research skills.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Component 1	Portfolio	Coursework	Ongoing	60	60% AS / 30% A-Level
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment	Practical + Exam	15-hour outcome	50	40% AS / 20% A-Level
Component 3	Personal Investigation	Coursework + Essay	Ongoing	75	50% A-Level

Assessment is entirely based entirely on coursework and practical work, with no traditional written exam papers.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

A-Level Art & Design supports a wide range of creative and academic pathways.
Degree Courses: Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Architecture, Fashion, Photography, Interior Design
Career Pathways: Artist, Designer, Architect, Animator, Creative Director, Art Teacher, Visual Communicator

A-LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: AQA
Course Code: 7582

A-LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

AQA A-Level Physical Education provides students with a broad and in-depth understanding of the factors that underpin physical performance and participation in sport. The course combines scientific theory with practical performance, covering areas such as applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport psychology, Biomechanics, and the socio-cultural influences on participation in sport. Students will develop their ability to analyse performance, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, and evaluate factors that impact sporting success at both elite and recreational levels.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Have a strong interest in: sport, performance, and physical activity
- Enjoy learning about: the Science behind human movement and performance
- Are confident in: both practical and theoretical learning
- Can analyse and evaluate: performance and apply knowledge to sporting contexts

Key skills developed include analytical thinking, evaluation, application of theory to practice, performance analysis, and structured extended writing.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Factors Affecting Participation in Physical Activity and Sport	Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society	Written paper	2 hours	105 marks	35% A-Level
Paper 2	Factors Affecting Optimal Performance in Physical Activity and Sport	Exercise physiology and Biomechanics, Sport psychology, Sport and society & technology	Written paper	2 hours	105 marks	35% A-Level
NEA	Non-Exam Assessment	Practical performance in one activity and performance analysis/evaluation (EAPI)	Practical & Written coursework	N/A	90 marks	30% A-Level

Assessment includes both written examinations and a Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). Students are assessed on knowledge, application, analysis, evaluation, and practical performance.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

A-Level Physical Education supports progression into a wide range of university courses and careers within sport, health, and beyond.
Degree Courses: Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching, Sports Management, Physical Education Teaching, Biomechanics, Psychology, and Health Sciences.
Career Pathways: Teaching, coaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Development, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Analysis, Health and Fitness Industry, and the Armed Forces.

The subject is highly regarded for its combination of scientific knowledge, Analytical Skills, and practical application.

A-LEVEL MUSIC

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge CIE
Course Code: 9483

A-LEVEL MUSIC SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

A-Level Music is a creative and academically rigorous course that develops students' skills across a wide range of musical activities. Students explore music through listening, composing and performing, building both practical ability and analytical understanding. The course encourages students to engage with a broad variety of musical styles and traditions, helping them to make connections between different types of music and develop as independent and critical thinkers.

The AS Level Music course is built around three core components: listening, which develops students' understanding and appreciation of a wide range of musical styles; performing, which may include solo or ensemble work, improvisation, or the use of music technology; and composing, where students create and develop their own musical ideas. For those progressing to the full A-Level, the AS course forms the first year of study, after which students specialise by selecting two of the following options: Extended Performance, Extended Composition, or Investigating Music.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: Performing or composing music. If you have a skill and are passionate about music, it makes sense to convert your interest into an academic qualification that can take you into higher education and beyond.
- Are interested in: Finding out more about the music you enjoy. Much of the A-Level course relies on students' own research through listening and reading.
- Have strengths in: Performing, composing or writing about music. You do not need to have Grade 8 in Music but a good standard of performance is desirable. Similarly, a GCSE Music of grade 5-6 (ie B) or above, or equivalent, is desirable, but there are always exceptions, especially if a student can demonstrate their suitability for the course.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1: Listening	Section A: Compositional Techniques and Performance Practice Section B: Understanding Music Section C: Connecting Music	2 hours	100 marks	60% AS / 30% A-Level
Practical Music (performance & composition)	Performance (60%): Candidates perform a selection of contrasting music of their choice in a programme of 6 to 10 minutes. Composition (40%): Candidates must create two contrasting compositions in any tradition (Western and/or non-Western) in a style or genre of their choice. Each composition should be 1-2 minutes long. The combined duration of both compositions should be 2-4 minutes.	N/A	100 marks	40% AS / 20% A-Level
Students choose two components from Components 3, 4 and 5.				
Extended Performance	Candidates must perform music on a single instrument or voice that reflects a single focus from any tradition. The focus may be one substantial piece or two or more pieces related by a common theme, style or purpose.	N/A	100 marks	25% A-Level
Extended Composition	Candidates must compose a single composition, which may comprise parts, lasting 6-8 minutes.	N/A	100 marks	25% A-Level
Investigating Music	An evaluative essay of 2500-3000 words on the music of interest for students.	N/A	100 marks	25% A-Level

Assessment breakdown (e.g. 100% exams / coursework split):
For AS: 60% exam /40% coursework
For A-Level: 30% exam /70% coursework

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Degree Courses: Music as a subject at university or music conservatory. Music is also a strong supporting subject at A-Level and supports applications to a wide range of degree courses.
Career Pathways: Beyond Music, other careers include Sound Technician, Community Musician, Music Therapist, Teacher, or in the Arts/Creative Industries such as work in Film, TV, Theatre, Radio, Arts Administration, or Creative Education.

A-LEVEL CHINESE

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Cambridge International Education (CIE)
Course Code: 9868

A-LEVEL CHINESE SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The A-Level Chinese Language & Literature course is designed to develop students' ability to communicate with sophistication in Chinese and to foster a deep analytical understanding of contemporary society and classical literary works.

A-Level 中文语言与文学课程旨在培养学生使用中文进行深度沟通的能力，并引导学生对当代社会问题及经典文学作品进行深层分析。

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Reading diverse texts from news reports to classical novels, and engaging in intellectual debates. Analytical thinking, evidence-based argument, creative writing, and high-level Chinese character formation.

阅读从新闻报道到经典小说的各类文本，并参与理性的观点辩论。分析性思维、循证论证、创意写作以及高质量的汉字书写 。

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	FORMAT	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Reading	Multiple-choice, matching, and gap-fill exercises based on authentic texts about Culture, Health and well-being, Education and future plans, Community and society, Our responsibility for the planet, Science and technology. 基于真实文本的选择题 。	Written paper	1 hour 30 minutes	40 marks	33.3%
Paper 2	Writing	Two essays (350-500 characters each): one argumentative/discursive and one narrative/descriptive. 两篇作文（各350-500字）：	Written paper	2 hours	40 marks	33.3%
Paper 3	Literature	Literary texts reading and appreciation (poems, drama, or novels) 基于指定文学作品（诗歌、戏剧或小说） 撰写两篇分析性论文 。	Written paper	2 hours	40 marks	33.3%

Assessment is entirely examination-based with no coursework component.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

Career Pathways: Diplomacy, International Law, Global Marketing, Journalism, Translation, and Cultural Consulting.
Transferable skills: High-level linguistic flexibility, critical evaluation of complex ideas, and cross-cultural communication expertise.

A-LEVEL FRENCH

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Code: 9FR0

FRENCH A-LEVEL SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The new Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in French has been developed to inspire all students who have an appreciation of the language, Literature, film and culture of the French-speaking world. Students will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, the culture of France and other Francophone countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.

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The A-Level covers four engaging themes - Les changements dans la société française; La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones; L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française; L'Occupation et la Résistance. The four themes are studied alongside two works (either two literary texts or one literary text and one film) assessed through two externally-examined papers (Papers 1 and 2) and one teacher-examiner conducted speaking assessment (Paper 3).

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Are working at: B1 level or above in French and would like to improve to C2 level.
- Enjoy: learning new vocabulary and applying grammar in new contexts, including current affairs and social issues in Francophone countries.
- Are interested in: the History, society and culture of France and Francophone countries
- Have strengths in: literary/film analysis

Skills developed include: general language-learning skills; autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking; linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will benefit students in further study or employment.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Listening, reading and translation	Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts, text types and genres, and translate an unseen passage from French to English.	2 hours 30 minutes	80 marks	40%
Paper 2	Written response to works and translation	Students translate an unseen passage from English into French, and write two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the prescribed list available in the specification. The literary texts listed include a range of novels, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.	2 hours 40 minutes	120 marks	30%
Paper 3	Speaking	Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes. Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied. Students will be assessed on their ability to use a range of language accurately, communicate and interact effectively, summarise and analyse findings from written sources relating to their research subject, and show knowledge and understanding about the culture and society where the language is spoken.	21-23 minutes	72 marks	30%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

This subject can lead to:
Degree Courses: Modern Languages, Law, International Relations, many humanities studies include languages as an option, eg. Business and Management with a Language.
Career Pathways: Diplomacy and Civil Service, Media and Journalism, International Corporate Lawyer, High-end Brand Manager or Content Strategist.

A-LEVEL SPANISH

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Course Code: 9SP0

A-LEVEL SPANISH SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Pearson Edexcel A-Level Spanish seeks to significantly enhance students' linguistic skills, and promote and develop students' capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken. Students are challenged to use their spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language. They are also expected to engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context. In addition to the taught content, the course includes an Independent Research Project which asks students to develop as independent researchers in the medium of Spanish.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Are working at: B1 level or above in Spanish and would like to improve to C2 level.
- Enjoy: learning new vocabulary and applying grammar in new contexts, including current affairs and social issues in Spanish-speaking countries.
- Are interested in: the history, society and culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries
- Have strengths in: literary/film analysis.

Skills developed include: general language-learning skills; autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking; linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will benefit students in further study or employment.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

PAPER	MODULE TITLE	TOPICS	DURATION	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Paper 1	Listening, reading and translation	Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts, text types and genres, and translate an unseen passage from Spanish to English.	2 hours 30 minutes	80 marks	40%
Paper 2	Written response to works and translation	Students translate an unseen passage from English into Spanish, and write two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the prescribed list available in the specification. The literary texts listed include a range of novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.	2 hours 40 minutes	120 marks	30%
Paper 3	Speaking	The speaking assessment is divided into two tasks. Task 1: Discuss one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements. Task 2: Based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.	21-23 minutes	72 marks	30%

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

This subject can lead to:
Degree Courses: Modern Languages, Law, International Relations, and similar. Many courses of study may include a language as an optional module or minor subject, eg. Business/Management with a Language.
Career Pathways: Diplomacy and Civil Service, Media and Journalism, International Corporate Lawyer, High-end Brand Manager or Content Strategist.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Exam Board & Course Information
Exam Board: AQA
Course Code: 7993

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career.

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.
Students begin their EPQ in Term 1 of Year 12 and complete it in Term 1 of Year 13.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

This subject is suitable for students who:

- Enjoy: self-directed, independent learning
- Are interested in: developing academic interests more deeply, beyond the AL curriculum OR are eager to develop their understanding of something relevant to their desired future career e.g. Medical Ethics, Sustainability in Engineering
- are interested in: learning or developing their academic research, reading and writing skills ahead of undergraduate study

Students who take EPQ have the opportunity to become more critical, reflective and independent learners. Key skills developed include problem-solving, enterprise and creativity as well as planning, research, analysis, synthesis, essay-writing, presentation and evaluation skills.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

There is no exam. At the end of their project, students submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their achievement of the following Assessment Objectives:

- AO1 Manage (20%): identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives
- AO2 Use resources (20%): Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.
- AO3 Develop and Realise (40%): Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem-solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.
- AO4 Review (20%): Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format.

Students are awarded marks relative to the quality of the evidence they provide to demonstrate how they have met the criteria outlined in each AO. The portfolio of evidence typically includes their written report, their Candidate Record Form (like a project diary) and their presentation poster or slides. The portfolio may include other items as appropriate.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES & CAREER PATHWAYS

An EPQ project can enhance an application to almost any degree or career pathway.. The subject is highly regarded by UK and US universities as evidence of a student's independence of thought, intellectual curiosity and academic skillset. EPQ is not formally recognised in Hong Kong, Canada, Australia or other educational systems, but can still play a valuable role in enhancing a personal statement or interview discussion.



FAQ

Do Students need specific A-Level subjects to study Medicine?

Yes. For most UK medical schools, Chemistry is essential, and many also require or strongly prefer Biology. A third subject can vary (e.g. Mathematics, Physics, or another academic subject). Some universities may accept one Science plus Mathematics, but this is less common. Always check individual university requirements as published on the university websites. Internationally, requirements are often similar, though some countries (e.g. the US) do not offer Medicine as an undergraduate degree.

Are there subjects that are not suitable for Medicine?

There are no strictly "banned" subjects, but choosing too many non-Science or less academic options is likely to weaken an application. Three or four strongly academic subjects, with at least two Sciences, is typically expected.

Do students need A-Level Economics to study Economics at university?

No. Most UK universities do not require A-Level Economics. It can be helpful, but it is not a requirement. This is also true for many international universities. Economics can be studied as either a BA or a BSc subject. For BSc courses, Mathematics is often essential, and Further Mathematics is desirable at more competitive universities.

Is Mathematics important for Economics degrees?

Yes. Strong analytical and quantitative skills are highly valued in Economics. In particular, if applying for a BSc in Economics Mathematics is often an essential subject. At more selective universities like LSE, Further Mathematics is desirable (meaning you are expected to have taken it, if available at your school). For BA Economics, critical thinking and writing skills are more important and thus Mathematics is not always required. Always check the official entry requirements for the universities you are considering.

Will only taking three A-Levels disadvantage students?

No. The standard UK offer is based on three A-Levels, and most universities expect this. Taking four subjects is not necessary and will not usually give an advantage unless all grades remain strong. Quality is more important than quantity.

Should students take four A-Levels?

Some students begin with four and then drop to three. This can be beneficial if you are unsure about subject choices, but universities will typically only consider your best three final grades.

Do universities prefer certain subject combinations?

Some courses (e.g. Medicine, Engineering, Economics) require specific subjects, while others are more flexible. "Facilitating subjects" such as Mathematics, Sciences, English, Geography, and History can keep more options open.

What are 'facilitating subjects'?

These are traditional academic subjects that are widely accepted by universities and help keep degree options open, because of how they allow students to develop transferable academic skills including critical reasoning, evaluation, quantitative reasoning, and so on. Taking a facilitating subject alongside essential subjects demonstrates academic well-roundedness. Examples include Mathematics, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, and a Modern Language.

Do universities care About AS-Levels?

This depends on the school and exam board. Some UK universities may consider AS results as evidence of progress, but most offers are based on predicted and final A-Level grades.

How important are predicted grades?

Predicted grades are very important for UK university applications, as offers are usually conditional on achieving these grades. Strong, realistic predictions are key. It is important to note that universities also consider the personal statement, interviews, and admission test scores alongside predicted grades when deciding whether to make an offer.

Do students need to take an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)?

An EPQ is not required but can strengthen an application by demonstrating independent research skills and academic curiosity. Some universities may make slightly lower offers to students who achieve a strong EPQ grade, for example A in EPQ + BBB instead of ABB.

What extra activities should I do for competitive courses?

Super-curricular activities (e.g. wider reading, lectures, MOOCs, relevant work experience) are more important than general extracurricular activities. Students should seek to demonstrate genuine interest in students' chosen subject by engaging with it beyond the taught curriculum. This applies to competitive courses in all destinations.

Do personal statements matter?

Yes. In the UK, the personal statement is an important part of the application, particularly for competitive courses. It should focus on your academic interest and engagement with the subject.

Are requirements different for universities outside the UK?

Yes. For example:

USA: Broad applications, including essays, extracurriculars, and sometimes standardised tests. Admissions teams look for fit to institution and fit to major across all components of your application.
Canada: Typically grade-focused, sometimes with a short personal statement.
Australia: Largely grade-based admissions.
Europe/Asia: Requirements vary widely; some may require entrance exams or interviews in addition to a personal statement.

Do universities prefer certain A-Level subjects over others?

For specific courses, yes (e.g. Mathematics for Engineering, Chemistry for Medicine). For more general degrees, a wide range of subjects is acceptable, though academic rigour is important.

Can students change their subject choices later?

Some flexibility is possible early in Year 12, but changes become more difficult as the course progresses. It is important to choose carefully from the start.

Do all universities interview applicants?

No. Interviews are mainly used in the UK for highly competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, and Oxford and Cambridge courses. Interviews are common practice in Hong Kong too. Most other courses make offers based on the student application alone, although interviews are becoming increasingly common.

What if students don't yet know what they want to study at university?

Choose a balanced combination of subjects that student enjoy and perform well in, ideally including at least one or two facilitating subjects to keep options open.

Do universities look at IGCSE results?

Yes, most universities will see student IGCSE/GCSE results as part of the application. In the UK, they are not usually the main deciding factor for offers (which are based on A-Level predicted and final grades), but they are still important. Strong IGCSE results, particularly in English and Mathematics, help demonstrate academic consistency and can be especially important for competitive courses such as Medicine, Law, and Engineering. Some universities may also use them as a tie-breaker when deciding between similar applicants.

Why do some subjects have AS-Levels but others do not?

Some subjects were reformed so that AS and A-Level content became fully separate qualifications, while others remained more linear (no separate AS exam).

In general:

- **Reformed subjects (most GCE A-Levels primarily delivered in the UK but also internationally):** AS is optional and does not contribute to the final A-Level grade.
- **International A-Levels primarily delivered outside of the UK:** AS-Levels may still exist as part of a modular system e.g. Cambridge International A-Levels and Pearson Edexcel International A-Levels.

Schools may also choose not to enter students for AS exams even where they exist, in order to focus Teaching time on full A-Level preparation.

Who should I speak to for advice?

Students' subject teachers, Head of Sixth Form, and university/careers advisors are all available to guide students in making informed decisions about subject choices and university pathways.




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