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Minerva Virtual Academy

SIXTH FORM 2024-2026

Course Guide

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Sixth Form at MVA

MVA offers a unique approach to Sixth Form education. You can fit your schooling around your passions, sport, job, interests or needs, preparing you for the real world, all whilst making sure you achieve the qualifications you need to progress to further study at university, or straight into the world of apprenticeships or work. With MVA, you gain the benefits of flexibility, personal mentorship, teaching from experienced, expert subject specialists, and being part of a diverse, global learning community.

Many students study three courses in Sixth Form – either all A Levels, or a combination of A Levels and our unique BTEC in Esports – though for those with heavy commitments in other areas of their life (e.g. elite sportspeople, working actors and musicians) or personal circumstances, it is possible to choose two subjects. Some students will decide to enhance their Sixth Form experience, and readiness for further study and the world of work, by completing the Extended Project Qualification in Year 12 (see page 11). Our Heads of Sixth Form lead a programme of enrichment (Symposia), careers and university preparation, support with UCAS and non-UK applications, and our Sixth Form Mentors provide ‘always there’, individualised guidance, help and encouragement.

Sixth Form Entry Criteria

In order to manage the demands and challenges of Sixth Form study, you will need to have a minimum of:

- Five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above
- Passes in English Language and Maths
- GCSE Grade 6 or above* in any subject you wish to study at A level (this doesn't apply to BTEC Esports, where five GCSEs at Grade 5 is sufficient)

**It is sometimes possible to study a subject at A level having achieved less than a Grade 6 at GCSE – individual circumstances are always considered and taken into account. You should discuss with your mentor, or the Admissions team at MVA, if you're worried about your current performance in any subject you're considering studying at A level.*

Live Lessons & Study Groups

In each subject you choose, you will attend 2 hours of live lessons per week as well as a third hour of ‘Study Group’. Teachers are not present at Study Group sessions, but they set work for you to complete with your classmates – sometimes collaborative, sometimes problem-solving, sometimes working together on a group presentation, and sometimes exploring different strands of the same topic to share. It is a way of working that encourages creative and critical thinking, resourcefulness and collaboration, and is excellent preparation for university-level study skills.

Choosing your subjects

Unlike at GCSE level, where there are some subjects you *must* take, you have free choice in Sixth Form – this is important, as you will be devoting a significant amount of time and effort to your chosen subjects for two years. The qualifications you gain at the end of Y13 will have a significant impact on your options for university study, apprenticeships or jobs. You should therefore discuss any ambitions you have for the future with your parents/guardians and mentor so they can support you in your decision-making. Fundamentally, the subjects you choose to study in Sixth Form should balance several things:

- If you have specific university or career plans, your combination of A Level/BTEC subjects need to prepare you for these
- It's important to think carefully about your *motivations* for any university or career plans – are your ambitions based on real understanding and true interest? You should feel positive and excited about your prospective A Level/BTEC courses – so if you're thinking about a university course or career that requires you to study subjects you really dislike or feel you don't have much aptitude for, you should examine all your options carefully and seriously
- You should aim to study courses in Sixth Form that you have performed well in at GCSE level, or which call on skills you've developed as strengths in a similar subject
- If you don't yet have specific university or career plans, consider what subjects or ways of working you enjoy and match your strengths, your own interests, and the type of skills each subject develops to help you narrow down your choices – do you prefer technical tasks to writing essays; reading and analysis to learning formulas; do you want to be skilled in a second language; is understanding how people think and their motivations important to you; do you want to understand the inner and outer workings of computers? Ask yourself lots of questions and...

...Use this course guide to help you gather the information you need to answer them!

Please note that CIE exam centres are not as widely found as Pearson Edexcel centres, and therefore partaking in the final A Level exams may involve heightened travel times

Biology

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Biology</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YBI11

About Biology A Level

A Level Biology is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Biology or Dual Award Science (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Biology by applying the concepts in the topics covered to a range of different problems, set in a variety of contexts. They will need to apply mathematical skills to the problems, and will also develop their practical skills during the course through a combination of online simulations and at-home demonstrations. Ultimately, students will develop:

- essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- a deep appreciation of scientific methods
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including an interest in further study and careers they may wish to pursue.

Content & Assessment

Unit	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Molecules, diet, transport and health	90 mins	20%
2	Cells, development, biodiversity and conservation	90 mins	20%
3	Practical skills in Biology I	80 mins	10%
4	Energy, environment, microbiology and immunity	105 mins	20%
5	Respiration, internal environment, coordination and gene technology	105 mins	20%
6	Practical skills in Biology II	80 mins	10%

Business

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Business</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9609

About Business A Level

A Level Business is suitable for any student with an interest in studying business, they do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE. The study of Business allows learners to take the first step towards a career in private or public organisations, or progress with confidence to a degree in business and management-related subjects. Ultimately, students will develop:

- the capacity to analyse characteristics and activities of business organisations and how they respond to the changing demands of their environments
- an understanding of how effective managers and leaders develop successful organisations in terms of customer focus and the products/services they offer
- the opportunity to reflect on how successful businesses engage in financial and accounting practices to maximise value for stakeholders
- knowledge that relates to strategic planning and decision-making to ensure business survival, change, and sustainable success
- a solid foundation for further study.

Content

Topic	Content
1	Business and its environment
2	Human resource management
3	Marketing
4	Operations management
5	Finance and accounting

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Business concepts 1 (short answers & essay)	75 mins	20%
2	Business concepts 2 (two six-part data response questions)	90 mins	30%

3	Business decision-making (five questions based on a case study)	105 mins	30%
4	Business strategy (two essay questions based on a case study)	75 mins	20%

Chemistry

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Chemistry</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YCH11

About Chemistry A Level

A Level Chemistry is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Chemistry or Dual Award Science (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Chemistry by applying the concepts in the topics covered to a range of different problems, set in a variety of contexts. They will need to apply mathematical skills to the problems, and will also develop their practical skills during the course through a combination of online simulations and at-home demonstrations. Ultimately, students will develop:

- essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- a deep appreciation of scientific methods
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including an interest in further study and careers they may wish to pursue.

Content & Assessment

Unit	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Structure, bonding and introduction to organic chemistry	90 mins	20%
2	Energetics, group chemistry, halogenoalkanes and alcohols	90 mins	20%
3	Practical skills in Chemistry I	80 mins	10%
4	Rates, equilibria and further organic chemistry	105 mins	20%
5	Transition metals and organic nitrogen chemistry	105 mins	20%
6	Practical skills in Chemistry II	80 mins	10%

Computer Science

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Computer Science</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9618

About Computer Science A Level

A Level Computer Science is suitable for any student with an interest in studying Computer Science, and while they do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE, some prior knowledge of computing theory would be advantageous. The study of A Level Computer Science prepares learners to meet the needs of higher education courses in the subject 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. Ultimately, through increasing their knowledge, understanding and competence in computational thinking, programming paradigms, communication, computer architecture and hardware, data representation and structures, students will become:

- confident, using a range of technology and programming paradigms
- responsible, using technology ethically
- reflective, 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.

Content

Topic	Content	Topic	Content
1	Information representation	11	Programming
2	Communication	12	Software development
3	Hardware	13	Data representation
4	Processor fundamentals	14	Communication and internet technologies
5	System software	15	Hardware and virtual machines
6	Security, privacy and data integrity	16	System software
7	Ethics and ownership	17	Security
8	Databases	18	Artificial Intelligence

9	Algorithm design and problem-solving	19	Computational thinking and problem-solving
10	Data types and structures	20	Further programming

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Theory fundamentals	90 mins	25%
2	Fundamental problem-solving and programming skills	120 mins	25%
3	Advanced theory	90 mins	25%
4	Practical	150 mins	25%

Economics

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Economics</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YEC11

About Economics A Level

The International A-Level Economics course provides a comprehensive study of how countries perform economically, including their global position and resource allocation for growth. It examines the interactions between individuals, businesses, and governments in markets, analyzing factors influencing demand and supply and how buyers and sellers respond to price changes across various markets. Additionally, students explore the broader financial and social landscape, including the role of government in shaping economic policies and achieving macroeconomic objectives such as stable prices, low unemployment, and sustainable economic growth. Throughout the course, students learn how economists make decisions, develop theories, and apply them in real-world scenarios. Therefore, achieving a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Maths is beneficial for students pursuing this subject at a higher level. Ultimately, students will develop:

- an appreciation of the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment
- analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life
- an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts
- an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics, and the capacity to think as an economist
- an understanding that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives
- their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including an interest in further study and careers they may wish to pursue.

Content & Assessment

Unit	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Markets in action	105 mins	25%
2	Macroeconomic performance and policy	105 mins	25%

3	Business behaviour	120 mins	25%
4	Developments in the global economy	120 mins	25%

English Language

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>English Language</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YEN01

About English Language A Level

A Level English Language is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in English (usually Grade 7 or higher). The study of A Level English Literature develops a set of transferable skills.

Paper 1 focuses on analysing how language varies depending on audience, purpose, and genre. You examine spoken and written texts using linguistic frameworks and often compare them to show how context shapes meaning.

Paper 2 explores how English has changed over time. You analyse texts from different periods and evaluate theories and influences behind language change, using both given material and your own knowledge.

Paper 3 is about producing your own writing for specific audiences and purposes, alongside a commentary explaining your linguistic choices and how they relate to context.

Paper 4 involves analysing language data in depth, applying theories, and constructing extended responses on topics such as language and identity, power, or technology.

Content & Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Language: Context and Identity	1hr 45 mins	25%
2	Language in Transition	1hr 45 mins	25%
3	Crafting Language (writing)	2 hours	25%
4	Investigating Language	2 hours	25%

English Literature

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>English Literature</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9695

About English Literature A Level

A Level English Literature is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in English (usually Grade 7 or higher). The study of A Level English Literature develops a set of transferable skills including critical analysis, constructing arguments and presenting knowledge and understanding in a balanced, articulate and fluent manner. Learners of English Literature will be well-equipped for progressing to higher education or directly into employment; finding that the skills needed will support them in a wide range of subjects and real-world situations. Ultimately, through increasing their knowledge, understanding and competence in language, form, structure, genre, context, style and interpretation, students will become:

- confident, exploring texts and ideas with self-assurance, intellectual freedom and personal insight
- responsible, committing to their learning and developing approaches to critical analysis to better understand ideas of culture, context and the community
- reflective, considering literary ideas and concepts that are presented in a range of ever-changing contexts
- innovative, approaching tasks and texts with a combination of creative, original and flexible thinking
- engaged, recognising and interrogating the role literature plays in matters of personal, social and global significance.

Content & Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Drama and poetry: William Shakespeare <i>The Tempest</i> and William Blake <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>	120 mins	25%
2	Prose and unseen: Kiran Desai <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	120 mins	25%
3	Shakespeare and drama: William Shakespeare <i>Hamlet</i> and Eugene O'Neill <i>Long Day's Journey into Night</i>	120 mins	25%
4	Pre- and post-1900 poetry and prose	120 mins	25%

EPQ

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>EPQ</u>	Level 3 (0.5 A Level equivalent)	Pearson Edexcel	500/2372/X

About the EPQ

The EPQ allows students to select a project topic which expands their learning in any chosen field of study, or related to their personal interests. With four possible pathways – encompassing a dissertation, investigation/field study, performance or artefact – the qualification is suitable for almost any student, regardless of the subjects studied at GCSE level and chosen for Sixth Form. They will be assessed on their ability to plan, manage, complete and review their project. The personal and skill development learners go through by completing the EPQ are excellent preparation for university level study, and as a result the qualification is very well-respected by universities. Key benefits of the EPQ include:

- students have significant input to the choice and design of their project
- students develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners
- students extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- students use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further study and/or career development.

The EPQ is offered at an additional cost of £1,250 and is studied in Year 12 only.

Optional Pathways (students choose one of the units)

Unit	Content	What is assessed
1	Dissertation – a theoretical written project on any topic, presenting an argument	5000–6000 word essay
2	Investigation/field study – a practical investigatory project involving the collection of data	4000–5000 word study
3	Performance – development of practical skills resulting in a performance	Performance + 1500–3000 words
4	Artefact – for example, making a painting or sculpture, designing a piece of furniture or garment, creating a website, solving an engineering problem	Artefact + 1500–3000 words

Skills & Assessment

Assessment Objective	Content	% of EPQ
AO1	Manage – identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives	17%
AO2	Use resources – 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	22%
AO3	Develop and realise – select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes	44%
AO4	Review – 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	17%

French

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>French</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YFR01

About French A Level

A Level French is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in French (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will further develop their key language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing – and will explore culturally sensitive and authentic texts. Ultimately, students will develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex texts for different purposes
- an understanding of standard spoken language, whether live or broadcast, on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of speaking contexts
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in French-speaking countries or where French is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts.

Content

Topic	Content
1	Youth matters
2	Lifestyle, health and fitness
3	Environment and travel
4	Education and employment
5	Technology in the French-speaking world
6	Society in the French-speaking world
7	Ethics in the French-speaking world

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Spoken expression and response	8-10 mins	15%
2	Understanding and written response	150 mins	35%
3	Understanding and spoken response	11-13 mins	15%
4	Research, understanding and written response	150 mins	35%

Geography

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Geography</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9696

About Geography A Level

A Level Geography is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Geography (usually Grade 7 or higher). The study of A Level Geography places students in a central position in understanding and interpreting issues affecting people, places and environments, and change in both space and time. As this is an inclusive international qualification, there is no requirement to undertake assessed fieldwork. Ultimately, through increasing their knowledge, understanding and competence in space, scale, place, environment, interdependence, diversity and change, students will develop:

- an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography
- an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments
- an awareness of the usefulness of geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems
- the ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information
- the skills to think logically, and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways
- an excellent foundation for studies beyond A Level Geography, in further or higher education, and for professional courses.

Content & Assessment

Paper	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Core physical geography: Hydrology and geomorphology, atmosphere and weather, rocks and weathering	90 mins	25%
2	Core human geography: Population, migration, settlement dynamics	90 mins	25%
3	Advanced physical geography (two topics chosen from): Tropical environments, coastal environments, hazardous environments, hot arid and semi-arid environments	90 mins	25%
4	Advanced human geography (two options chosen from):	90 mins	25%

	Production, location and change, environmental management, global interdependence, economic transition		
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History

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>History</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9489

About History A Level

To be best prepared for the A Level History course, students will need to have studied GCSE History or equivalent and obtained a minimum of a Grade 7. The study of A Level History prepares students to evaluate historical evidence, present clear and logical arguments, assess different interpretations of an argument and develop an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference, and continuity and change. Ultimately, through increasing their knowledge, understanding and competence in these, as well as significance and interpretation, students will become:

- confident, developing the ability to analyse, explain and evaluate historical issues and arguments
- responsible, acquiring knowledge and skills through independent reading and enquiry
- reflective, reflecting on their growing understanding of how history works and making links with new areas of study
- innovative, improving their historical understanding through dealing with sources and interpretations of past events from different perspectives
- engaged, developing their interest in history and broadening their knowledge and understanding of different perspectives.

Content

Paper	Content
1 & 2	European option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - France, 1774-1814 - The Industrial Revolution in Britain, 1750-1850 - Liberalism and Nationalism in Germany, 1815-71 - The Russian Revolution, 1894-1921
3	The Holocaust
4	Depth study 3: International History, 1945-92 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US-Soviet relations during the Cold War, 1950-91 - The spread of Communism in East and Southeast Asia, 1945-91 - Conflict in the Middle East, 1948-91

Assessment

Paper	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Document question	75 mins	20%
2	Outline study	105 mins	30%
3	Interpretations question	75 mins	20%
4	Depth study	105 mins	30%

Mathematics

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Mathematics</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YMA01

About Mathematics A Level

A Level Mathematics is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Mathematics (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Mathematics through the study of six equally-weighted modules, encompassing a strong core of Pure Maths combined with Mechanics and Statistics. Ultimately, students will:

- develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment
- develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs
- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in more difficult, unstructured problems
- recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between 'real-world' problems and standard and other mathematical models, and how these can be refined and improved
- acquire the skills needed to use technology such as calculators and computers effectively, recognise when such use may be inappropriate and be aware of limitations
- develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

Content & Assessment

Unit	Content	Exam	% of A Level
P1	Pure Mathematics 1: Algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, trigonometry, differentiation, integration	75 mins	16.66%
P2	Pure Mathematics 2: Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences and series, exponentials and logarithms, trigonometry, differentiation, integration	75 mins	16.66%

P3	Pure Mathematics 3: Algebra and functions, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods	75 mins	16.66%
P4	Pure Mathematics 4: Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, binomial expansion, differentiation, integration, vectors	75 mins	16.66%
M1	Mechanics 1: Mathematical models in mechanics, vectors in mechanics, kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line, dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane, statics of a particle, moments	75 mins	16.66%
S1	Statistics 1: Mathematical models in probability and statistics, representation and summary of data, probability, correlation and regression, discrete random variables, discrete distributions, the Normal distribution	75 mins	16.66%

Physics

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Physics</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YPH11

About Physics A Level

A Level Physics is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Physics or Dual Award Science (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of Physics by applying the concepts in the topics covered to a range of different problems, set in a variety of contexts. They will need to apply mathematical skills to the problems, and will also develop their practical skills during the course through a combination of online simulations and at-home demonstrations. Ultimately, students will develop:

- essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- a deep appreciation of scientific methods
- competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including an interest in further study and careers they may wish to pursue.

Content & Assessment

Unit	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Mechanics and materials	90 mins	20%
2	Waves and electricity	90 mins	20%
3	Practical skills in Physics I	80 mins	10%
4	Further mechanics, fields and particles	105 mins	20%
5	Thermodynamics, radiation, oscillations and cosmology	105 mins	20%
6	Practical skills in Physics II	80 mins	10%

Psychology

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Psychology</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9990

About Psychology A Level

A Level Psychology is suitable for any student with an interest in studying psychology, they do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE. The study of A Level Psychology prepares students to think like a psychologist. The course provides opportunities to explore key concepts and debates that underpin the subject of psychology and to develop the skills of interpretation, application, analysis and evaluation while studying a range of stimulating topics and real-world issues. Ultimately, through increasing their knowledge, understanding and competence in nature versus nurture, ethics, research methods, the concept that no single view in psychology is definitive, and the relevance of psychology in contemporary society, students will become:

- confident, communicating psychological ideas and arguments to others, and exploring contemporary social issues with maturity and insight
- responsible, considering the ethical and moral implications of what they learn and being able to apply it responsibly
- reflective, about one's own and others' behaviour and mental processes
- innovative, developing informed views about real-world issues, and an ability to think psychologically to understand problems and respond to different situations
- engaged, debating issues and using research findings to understand the world around them.

Content

Topic	Content
1	Biological psychology
2	Cognitive psychology
3	Learning psychology
4	Social psychology
5	Clinical psychology
6	Organisational psychology

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Approaches, issues and debates	90 mins	25%
2	Research methods	90 mins	25%
3	Specialist options: Approaches, issues and debates	90 mins	25%
4	Specialist options: Application and research methods	90 mins	25%

Religious Studies

including Philosophy & Ethics

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Religious Studies</u>	A Level (UK only)	OCR	H573

About Religious Studies A Level

A Level Religious Studies is suitable for any student with an interest in studying religion, they do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE. The A Level Religious Studies course asks the big philosophical questions, grapples with ethical issues and explores the Christian faith from different perspectives. This A Level is a wonderful opportunity to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as become immersed in some of the biggest questions and issues that humans have discussed throughout history. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas. Ultimately, students will:

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Content & Assessment

Topic	Content	Exam	% of A Level
1	Philosophy of religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophical language and thought: ancient philosophical influences; soul, mind and body - The existence of God: arguments based on observation; arguments based on reason - God and the world: religious experience; the problem of evil 	120 mins	33.33%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theological and philosophical developments: the nature or attributes of God - Religious language: negative, analogical or symbolic - Religious language: 20th Century perspectives 		
2	<p>Religion and ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normative ethical theories/religious approaches: natural law; situation ethics - Normative ethical theories: Kantian ethics; utilitarianism - Applied ethics: euthanasia; business ethics - Ethical language (meta-ethics): meta-ethical theories - Significant ideas: conscience - Developments in ethical thought: sexual ethics 	120 mins	33.33%
3	<p>Developments in religious thought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christianity – a study of foundations, insight, living, development, society and challenges: Augustine’s teachings on human nature; death and the afterlife; knowledge of God’s existence; the person of Jesus Christ; Christian moral principles; Christian moral action; religious pluralism and theology; religious pluralism and society; gender and society; gender and theology; the challenge of secularism; liberation theology and Marx 	120 mins	33.33%

Sociology

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Sociology</u>	International A Level	Cambridge	9699

About Sociology A Level

A Level Sociology is suitable for students who would like to learn about contemporary social, cultural and political issues. The course is heavily essay-based and conceptually dense. Students must achieve a minimum of Grade 5 in English Language to be eligible for this course.

The syllabus provides opportunities to explore key concepts and debates that underpin the discipline of sociology and to develop the skills of interpretation, application, analysis and evaluation while studying a range of stimulating topics and real-world issues.

They key concepts

- **Inequality and opportunity** – Inequality has a major influence on people’s opportunities and life choices. Sociologists study the different forms of inequality (age, ethnicity, gender, class), seeking to understand why inequality exists and how it affects different sections of society.
- **Power, control and resistance** – Power is important in understanding how order and control are achieved in society. There are many different theories about who holds power and how power is used to shape human behaviour. Sociologists are also interested in the ways people oppose and resist the exercise of power.
- **Social change and development** – Understanding how societies have changed and developed helps sociologists to make sense of the way people live today. The change from traditional society to modern industrial society is particularly important. The terms ‘modernity’ and ‘post-modernity’ are used to reflect on this transition and on contemporary issues, such as how societies are affected by globalisation and the digital revolution in technology.
- **Socialisation, culture and identity** – Sociologists believe that people learn how they are expected to behave through socialisation. The norms and values learned through socialisation may vary between cultures, impacting on social identity. The study of different social identities is central to contemporary sociology.
- **Structure and human agency** – A central debate in sociology concerns the relationship between the individual and society: is behaviour shaped by wider social forces or is the social world shaped by the actions of individuals? Structural theories focus on how people’s behaviour is constrained by social systems and institutions. Action theories emphasise how individuals establish

meaning through social interaction and how this impacts on the behaviour of social groups and institutions.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Socialisation, Identity and Methods of Research	1hr 30 mins	25%
2	The Family	1hr 30 mins	25%
3	Education	1hr 15 mins	20%
4	Globalisation, Media and Religion	1hr 45 mins	30%

Spanish

Course title	Qualification	Exam Board	Course code
<u>Spanish</u>	International A Level	Pearson Edexcel	YSP01

About Spanish A Level

A Level Spanish is suitable for students who have achieved a GCSE in Spanish (usually Grade 7 or higher) and who wish to continue their study of the subject at a higher level. Students will further develop their key language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing – and will explore culturally sensitive and authentic texts. Ultimately, students will develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex texts for different purposes
- an understanding of standard spoken language, whether live or broadcast, on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of speaking contexts
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in Spanish-speaking countries or where Spanish is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts.

Content

Topic	Content
1	Youth matters
2	Lifestyle, health and fitness
3	Environment and travel
4	Education and employment
5	Technology in the Spanish-speaking world
6	Society in the Spanish-speaking world
7	Ethics in the Spanish-speaking world

Assessment

Paper	Content	Length	% of A Level
1	Spoken expression and response	8-10 mins	15%
2	Understanding and written response	150 mins	35%
3	Understanding and spoken response	11-13 mins	15%
4	Research, understanding and written response	150 mins	35%