PRIORY SCHOOL
EDGBASTON

A LEVELS
AT
PRIORY SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS



September 2027 Year 12 Intake

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the interest you have shown in Priory School Sixth Form. We are very pleased to receive applications from students who are keen to follow the A Level courses we offer. We look forward to welcoming you and to working with you on your progress.

Students at Priory School Sixth Form will benefit from:

1. The expertise of highly qualified and very experienced staff
2. Small teaching groups
3. A strong system of pastoral care
4. A wide range of subject combinations
5. Sixth Form only tutorial groups
6. Sixth Form privileges
7. Use of the Sixth Form common room with facilities for work and relaxation
8. The opportunity to help younger members of Priory School
9. An extensive programme of careers advice targeted at university entry and other professions
10. A Sixth Form with a separate identity to the main school, but all the benefits of the school facilities.

Guidance and Support

A Level studies demand that pupils take a much greater responsibility for their own learning, whilst introducing a degree of specialisation of study which is very different from the broad range of subjects taken at GCSE. In addition, the UCAS applications system and the university lifestyle, upon which many students will ultimately be embarking, require considerable personal and intellectual advances. The support offered to Priory School Sixth Formers is designed to guide them through this transition, increasing their skills and confidence in preparation for university and subsequent employment. As students progress through the Sixth Form, we will help with the provision of careers advice, organise visits to Higher Education events and discuss 18+ options, including gap year and Apprenticeship guidance. All students will participate in work placements during their Year 12 programme of study. This activity will provide an important amount of information for UCAS and other references.

Sixth Form Sports

It is important for students to both keep fit and play competitive sports. At Priory, all Sixth Formers participate in a sports session once a week. This session includes a rotation of activities including football, basketball, netball, badminton and tennis. with the additional privilege of accessing the Priory Club gym in non-contact time.

Community Work

There will be opportunities for students to make a positive contribution to the wider community. Year 12 students will commit to a programme of community work in an area where they will gain the most benefit and is often tied to taking up the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This might include regular commitments such as mentoring lower school students, or one-off activities such as fundraising. Most students will value and enjoy this opportunity, and it is easily drawn upon to support university, college and employment applications. Students are also encouraged to take up volunteering at the weekend or during school holidays.

OUR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. At least 6 GCSEs including English and Maths at Grade 5 or better, or higher if otherwise stated
2. GCSEs in chosen subjects at Grade 6 or better, unless otherwise stated
3. Strong reference including behaviour, attendance and contribution to school life

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

1. Read the subject/course descriptions that follow.
2. Consider the results that your subject teachers predict that you may get and the careers advice that you have been given.
3. Take your time to find out about all the subjects/courses that interest you and are relevant to your possible career.
4. Pick subjects/courses that you enjoy, that you are good at and that will lead you to a career that you are interested in.

Please do read through the courses on offer. We look forward to receiving your application.

Ms F Guiver (Deputy Head Teacher)

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Sixth Form Information Evening	**Thursday 12th November 2026, 4.15pm - 5.30pm** **Book your place at:** **https://priorysixthforminfoeve.eventbrite.co.uk**
Sixth Form Applications Open	**Thursday 12th November 2026**
Applications Deadline	**Friday 29th January 2027**
Reference Requests (External Applications)	**February 2027**
Interviews	**March 2027**
Conditional Offers	**By Easter 2027**

A LEVEL ART

What is Art and Design?

The Art & Design course provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms. To enable learners to develop, intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities. Learners can investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. Independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes. The experience of working with a broad range of media. An understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate.

Course Content

Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work associated with two or more of the endorsements:

- **Fine Art** including painting, drawing, mixed-media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, film, animation, television, video and photography: lens-based and/or light-based media.
- **Graphic Communication** including illustration, advertising, packaging design, design for print, communication graphics, computer graphics, multimedia, animation, web design, film, television and/or video.
- **Textile Design** including fashion, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles and installed textiles.
- **Three-Dimensional Design** including ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, body ornament, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental design and architectural design.
- **Photography** including portraiture, landscape photography, still-life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, experimental imagery, photographic installation, video, television and film.

Examination Board

OCR Art and Design H200-H600

Course Entry Requirements

Art GCSE at Grade 6 or higher and/or a portfolio of work which demonstrates a passion for the subject.

Additional Activities

Visits to Museums in the UK and abroad, art workshops, visiting artists

18+ and Career Pathways

A range of careers exist for those who study art and design, such as:

- Education and Health – secondary school teacher, museum/gallery curator and art therapist
- Community – community arts worker and arts administrator
- Business – advertising account executive, retail buyer, graphic designer, multimedia specialist
- Creative – fine artist, fashion designer, illustrator, print maker and textile designer

Relevant Websites

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015/

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

What is Biology?

The study of Biology has helped to find cures to diseases and its application saves lives through medicine. Biology also helps us to have a greater understanding on how the world's ecosystems operate and has an impact on many technologies such as the genetic engineering of new crop species, the production of biofuels and gene cloning for therapeutic purposes.

Course content

This specification is designed to encourage students to develop:

- an enthusiasm for Biology
- practical skills alongside understanding of concepts and principles
- an appropriate and relevant foundation of knowledge and skills for the study of biology in Higher Education

Unit 1: Biological molecules
Unit 2: Cells
Unit 3: Organisms exchange substances with the environment
Unit 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
Unit 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms
Unit 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
Unit 7: Genetics, population, evolution and ecosystem
Unit 8: The control of gene expression

Examination Board

AQA GCE 7402

Course Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in Biology or Combined Science. A Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.

Additional Activities

Students will complete field work in line with the required practical endorsement.

18+ and Career Pathways

A-Level Biology provides an excellent foundation for further study and careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, pharmacy, agriculture, forensic science, biomedical science and other life sciences. Students explore fascinating topics including cells, genetics, immunity, evolution, ecosystems and the control of biological processes. The course develops essential skills in scientific investigation, practical techniques, data analysis, problem-solving and critical thinking. Biology plays an important role in understanding diseases, developing new medicines, improving healthcare, protecting the environment and advancing biotechnology, opening doors to a wide range of university courses and career opportunities.

Relevant Websites

For further information please refer to A Level Biology 7402 | Specification | Specification At A Glance | AQA

A LEVEL BUSINESS

What is Business?

Business A Level is designed to enable students to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world. It will provide opportunities for research into topical business issues and offer opportunities for the development and application of a full range of academic skills. Students will explore real business situations, apply business concepts and understand the role of the entrepreneur and business in society.

Course Content

Business A Level consists of 4 main themes

1. Marketing & people
2. Managing business activities
3. Business decisions and strategy
4. Global business

Examination Board

Edexcel A Level Business (Specification code 9BS0)

Course Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in both Mathematics and English. However, no previous knowledge of Business is needed, though it would of course be an advantage.

18 + and Career Pathways

The most popular career pathway for Business students is into the world of business. Whether it's starting up your own company, working for a multi-national corporation, working in human resources or even turning to accountancy. All businesses (and other organisations like charities and hospitals) need sound business skills behind them.

Relevant Websites

For more information see the AQA website at A Level Business 7138 | Overview | AQA

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

What is Chemistry?

From the moment we are born, and throughout our life, we are surrounded by chemistry. It is the air we breathe, the food we eat and the clothes we wear. As a chemist you could make a medicine to fight cancer or Aids, develop exciting new ice-cream flavours or make new materials for computers or mobile phones

Course Content

Paper 1: Inorganic and Physical chemistry	+	**Paper 2: Organic and Physical chemistry**	+	**Paper 3: Practical skills, data handling and synopsis**
Content • Inorganic chemistry • Relevant practical skills • Relevant physical chemistry topics such as: – Atomic structure – Amount of substance – Bonding – Energetics – Equilibria – Acids and bases – Redox		Content • Organic chemistry • Relevant practical skills • Relevant physical chemistry topics such as: – Amount of substance – Bonding – Energetics – Equilibria – Kinetics		Content • Any content from the entire 2-year A-level specification • Questions heavily related into the 12 required practicals

Examining Board

AQA GCE A Level Chemistry 7405

Course Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science. A Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.

Additional Activities

Visit to Birmingham for Sixth Form lectures or Aston University Chemistry department.

18 + and Career Pathways

Chemistry A Level can give you access to a variety of degree courses from marine chemistry to chemical engineering, food chemistry to neurochemistry, environmental chemistry to biological chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences and beyond. It is an essential requirement for entry to a degree in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Careers range from the more traditional laboratory-based work through to photography, art restoration and music technology.

Relevant Websites

Further information is available from:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/a-level/chemistry-7405/specification/specification-at-a-glance

https://www.wmctc.co.uk/Programme%2026-27.html)

A LEVEL COMPUTING

What is Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

Course Content

- Computer systems component (01) contains most of the content of the specification and is assessed in a written paper recalling knowledge and understanding.

- Algorithms and programming component (02) relates principally to problem solving skills needed by learners to apply the knowledge and understanding encountered in Component 01.

- Programming project component (03 or 04) is a practical portfolio-based assessment with a task that is chosen by the teacher or learner and is produced in an appropriate programming language of the learner's or teacher's choice.

Examining Board

OCR Computer Science (H446)

Course Entry Requirements

Students need Computer Science GCSE and Mathematics at Grade 6 or higher.

18 + and career Pathways

A wide variety of opportunities are available for students following A Level Computer Science. These include university courses in or that have an element of computer science to them and apprenticeships with leading technology companies.

Relevant Websites

For further information please refer to https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/

A LEVEL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What is Design and Technology?

The modern world relies on products that have been designed to make use of today's technology. This Design and Technology course is designed to encourage pupils to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Course Content

Unit 1 - Principles of (either H404: Design Engineering / H405: Fashion and Textiles / H406: Product Design)

- Based primarily on technical principles
- Analysing existing products
- Demonstrating applied mathematical skills
- Applying technical knowledge to materials, manufacturing and product functionality

Unit 2 – Problem Solving in (either H404: Design Engineering / H405: Fashion and Textiles / H406: Product Design)

- Longer answer questions
- Demonstrating problem solving and critical evaluation skills
- Applying knowledge and understanding of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products

Unit 3 or unit 4 – Iterative design project in (either H404: Design Engineering / H405: Fashion and Textiles / H406: Product Design)

- Written (or electronic) design folder
- Iterative process
- Learners write their own design brief
- Create a real-time portfolio of evidence to demonstrate competence

Course Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in DT, Engineering, Art or similar discipline.

Additional Activities

Appropriate industrial visits are undertaken.

18 + and Career Pathways

Some designers work in technical areas such as engineering or industrial design, where they need to understand manufacturing processes. Others work on the artistic side, as textile or fashion designers, in graphic design or creative and media work. Product design and development also involve marketing and public relations staff.

Relevant Websites

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-h004-h006-h404-h406-from-2017/specification-at-a-glance/

A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

What is Drama and Theatre Studies?

This course offers the opportunity to examine all aspects of performance and theatre. It develops imagination, confidence, self-discipline and team-building skills and develops and improves performance, directing and devising skills. Students will learn how to research, rehearse and perform devised and scripted work; comprehending the context of multiple literary works. Students study a wide variety of theatrical skills, forms and practitioners, and will develop and extend their knowledge of theatre through developing a critical response to a wide range of live productions.

Course Content

Component 1 – Drama and Theatre • Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre • Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B • Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers
Component 2 – Creating Original Drama • Process of creating devised drama • Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
Component 3 – Making Theatre • Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play • Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3 • Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece • Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

Course Entry Requirements

You will need at least a Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature or English Language and the experience of performing either in productions or in drama classes. It is not essential, but it is recommended that you have studied GCSE Drama and, again, achieved at least a Grade 5.

Examining Board

AQA A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Additional Activities

Theatre visits and evening performances are an integral part of the course and all students must attend. Students will also participate in the school's productions and clubs, as a performer or technical crew, and stage productions of their own.

18 + and career Pathways

A qualification in Drama & Theatre Studies is recognised as a reliable indication of academic, social and personal development, and leads to a great variety of higher education courses. It teaches discipline, teamwork, empathy, confidence, cognitive abilities and the inter- and intra-personal skills necessary for a career in the modern world. It has the possibility to link into a wide range of careers, not only in the world of theatre, but in ICT or technical pathways, psychology, the media and journalism, law, politics, teaching, or advertising and marketing.

Relevant Websites

AQA subject website: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/a-level/drama-7262/specification

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

What is English Literature?

This qualification gives you the opportunity to study literature across the genres of prose, poetry and drama, and to read around concepts of literature and literary analysis. English Literature combines well with many other subjects - History, Classics and Modern Foreign Languages are particularly suitable, but it can also be a valuable contrast to scientific, technological and economics-based subjects.

Component 1	Shakespeare Drama and Poetry Pre 1900
Component 2	Close reading in chosen topic area (Dystopia, women in Literature, the immigrant experience or American Literature) Comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area
Component 3	Critical piece or re-creative writing piece with commentary A comparative essay

Examination Board
OCR English Literature

Course Entry Requirements
Potential candidates must foster an enjoyment of literature and have at least a Grade 6 at GCSE.

Additional Activities
Theatre trips and A-level conferences

18 + and career Pathways
The skills acquired in studying English Literature will be an asset to many career paths. If you are considering going on to Higher Education, the English Literature qualification provides a wide range of opportunities for degree courses in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The English Literature qualification is also welcomed for many different careers because it emphasises creativity, disciplined thought and communication, plus an ability to synthesise and contextualise ideas.

Relevant Websites

Examination Board: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/english/lit/index.html

Royal Society of Literature: http://www.rslit.org/content/home/

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

What is Geography?

Geography is a contemporary subject which engages with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their physical environment. It is relevant and up-to date and teaches us about the rapidly changing world around us. Skills in ICT, analysing data and statistics as well as graphical and cartographical resources are used to investigate issues at a local, regional H555 global scale.

Course Content

Component 1: Physical Geography
Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Either hot desert environments and their margins or coastal systems and landscapes
Section C: Either hazards or ecosystems under stress or cold environments

Component 2: Human Geography
Section A: Global systems and global governance
Section B: Changing places
Section C: Either contemporary urban environments or population and the environment or resource security

Component 3: Geographical investigation (preparation begins in Year 12)
Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Course Entry Requirements

To take Geography you will need to have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography.

Examining Board

AQA- Geography 7030

Additional Activities

Geography is taught using relevant, detailed and current case-studies. Appropriate fieldtrips will be taken with all students required to complete 4 days of fieldwork.

18 + and Career Pathways

Geography blends well with studies in Biology, Environmental Sciences, History and English. A Level Geography naturally leads to geography-based studies at degree level, yet the skills taught are valued in many wider careers. Employers value the computer, research, and analytical skills that geography students bring to work as employees. Future careers include urban planning, community development, cartography, GIS specialists, transport management, environmental management, disaster management, water resource development, engineering, writing, journalism and research, law and teaching.

Relevant Websites

For further information please refer to https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/a-level/geography-7037/specification

A LEVEL HISTORY

What is History?

History is so much more than the study of the past. History enables you to continue to explore how people thought, reacted and lived and use this to make informed judgements on the future. By choosing History at Priory School Sixth Form you will be studying some of the key political figures and events of the twentieth century, as well as examining the significant impact they have had on the world we live in.

Course Content

Component 1- HIS1C
Breadth Study
The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

Component 2 – HIS2O
Depth Study
Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945

Component 3- Historical Investigation
Coursework – 4,500 words historical enquiry essay based on a topic of the student's choice.

Course Entry Requirements

To take History you will need to have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE History and English.

Examination Board

AQA Specification 7042

Additional Activities

Students will have the opportunity to attend student revision and learning conferences, specifically tailored to achieving academic success.

18 + and Career Pathways

History at A Level is highly regarded by universities as a rigorous academic subject. The study of History opens doors to a range of careers in areas such as Law, Politics, Civil Service, Media, Business Management and Administration, Finance, Computing and Human Resources to name but a few.

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

What is Mathematics?

Mathematics at A Level is both challenging and interesting as it builds on the topics you have met at GCSE and develops these ideas further. It is particularly suited to people who enjoy problem solving, computation and logical reasoning. It is a highly sought after qualification in the workplace and in Higher Education.

A Level Mathematics is highly useful support for physics and other mathematics-based A Levels such as sciences, geography, psychology, and sociology.

Course Content

Pure Mathematics. The largest area of study, this makes up approximately two-thirds of the course. It develops the mathematical skills you have learned at GCSE and introduces more advanced topics such as algebra, functions, trigonometry, sequences, differentiation and integration. You will learn to solve increasingly complex problems and develop your ability to think logically and mathematically.
Statistics. This makes up approximately one-sixth of the course and involves collecting, analysing and interpreting data to understand the world around us. You will study probability, statistical distributions, sampling, and hypothesis testing, learning how mathematics can be used to make predictions and draw conclusions from data.
Mechanics: This makes up approximately one-sixth of the course and applies mathematics to real-life situations involving movement and forces. You will study topics such as speed, acceleration, motion, forces and Newton's laws of motion, developing mathematical models to describe and solve problems involving objects in motion.

Course Entry Requirements

Students will need a minimum of a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board

Pearson Edexcel GCE Mathematics

18+ and Career Pathways

At A Level, Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education, in addition to many areas of employment and vocational courses. Examples include Computing, Finance (including Accountancy, Actuary and Economics), Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Psychology, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Environmental Studies and of course Mathematics itself.

Relevant websites

- www.edexcel.com has more details about the examining board at ***A Level Mathematics Specification***
- www.mymaths.co.uk has an A Level Maths section covering most of the module
- www.mathsnet.net is an A Level specific website aimed at pupils taking AS and A2 Level Maths

A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

What is Media Studies?

Media Studies is becoming ever more relevant and is vital if we are to guide the adults of tomorrow through the minefields of modern socio-politics. It is designed to allow students to draw on their existing experience of and to develop their abilities to respond critically to the media. It enables students to explore a wide variety of media, including digital media technologies, drawing on the fundamental concepts informing the study of the media: texts, industry and audiences.

Media Studies also encourages creative work which enables students to gain a greater appreciation of the media through their own production work and to develop their own production skills. This includes the opportunity to research a topic which will then form the basis for their production, thus encouraging them to create productions informed by an awareness of contemporary media issues.

Course Content

The A Level syllabus covers:

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Component 2: Media Forms and Products In-Depth
Section A: Television in the Global Age
Section B: Magazines, Mainstream and Alternative Media
Section C: Media in the Online Age

Component 3: Cross-Media Production
An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

Course Entry Requirements

Students need a minimum of GCSE Grade 6 in English and should be proficient in ICT. Art and design skills are an advantage for production pieces.

Examination Board

WJEC Eduqas Media Studies GCE A Level

Additional Activities

Students will have the opportunity to take part in educational visits such as BBC Birmingham Mailbox and The Electric Cinema. Trips opportunities are reviewed annually and may differ from those stated.

18 + and Career Pathways

Media Studies is a basis for those who want to work in the Media industry. The course teaches transferable skills that can lead to careers in film and television production, PR and marketing, Advertising and events management, journalism publishing, and web design. Media studies complements studies in ICT, graphic design, art, business studies and English.

Relevant Websites

For further information please refer to http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/as-a-level/

A LEVEL MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

What is MFL?

Studying a language at A Level will involve understanding how to communicate both verbally and in a written context and will also enhance your understanding of different cultures and societies. The study of one or more foreign languages at A Level is an enjoyable, challenging and intellectually stimulating activity and is also a valuable additional skill when studied alongside any other combination of other subjects.

Course Content

There are five elements which make up the AQA A Level course.

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Two literary texts or one literary text and one film
- Individual research project

Course Entry Requirements

Students need a GCSE in that language, Grade 6 or better

Examination Board

AQA A Level French (7652)

AQA A Level Spanish (7692)

Additional Activities

The MFL department intends to arrange trips abroad and work experience opportunities.

18 + and Career Pathways

The ability to communicate in a different language will stand you in good stead for many career paths from business and finance to travel and tourism, journalism, science and the creative arts. Being able to speak a different language will also provide extensive travel opportunities. Using your languages at work doesn't mean being just a teacher, translator or interpreter (although these jobs make for an extremely interesting career). It can mean working in one of many industries in which your languages, combined with expertise in another field, can really help you to get on. It's a multilingual world and British companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of recruiting people with language skills.

The A Level qualification has value as an additional skill in any portfolio of subjects; however, it is also the passport to a great variety of university courses involving language study or sandwich course abroad. Language graduates are among the highest performers in terms of employability.

Relevant Websites

For further information, please refer to A Level French 7652 | Overview | AQA

A-level Spanish 7692 | Overview | AQA

You might also want to have a look at http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/

A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What is Physical Education?

The specifications will encourage students to become increasingly physically competent by:

- developing the skills and techniques they require to perform effectively in physical activities;
- applying and adapting a wide range of skills and techniques effectively in different types of physical activity;
- developing and applying their skills in different roles, such as performer, leader/coach and official within physical activities;
- applying their skills in different contexts within a physical activity.

The specification will enable candidates to be informed and discerning decision-makers who understand how to be involved in physical activity through helping them to:

- understand how they and others make the most of the opportunities and pathways available to be involved in physical activity;
- understand and critically evaluate how contemporary products and consumer-focused influences related to physical activity affect and inform young people's decisions about being involved in a range of physical activities;
- understand and critically evaluate current key influences that might limit or encourage young people's involvement in physical activity.

Course Content

Students will complete four units;
Unit 1: students will have the opportunity to cover physiological factors in sport
Unit 2: covers psychological factors in sports performance
Unit 3: looks at socio-cultural issues within physical activity
Unit 4: is a study of sports performance in one sport and a live analysis task of another performer's performance

Course Entry Requirements

GCSE or BTEC PE is advisable but not essential. In addition, at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Science is required, due to the scientific nature of the course. An interest in sport is mandatory along with being a competent performer in two or more sports.

Examination Board

OCR A Level Physical Education H555

18+ and Career Pathways

Related careers include Teaching, Physiotherapy, Coaching, Business in sport and the Leisure Industry.

Relevant Websites

For further information please refer to AS and A Level - Physical Education - H155, H555

A LEVEL PHYSICS

What is Physics?

The study of Physics develops in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Physics. Students will gain hands-on practical and data analysis skills. They will appreciate **how science works** and its relevance beyond the laboratory seeing how physics links to other sciences and how the subject underpins important technologies.

Course Content

Core Content

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics

Options

1. Astrophysics
2. Medical physics
3. Engineering physics
4. Turning points in physics
5. Electronics

Course Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in Physics or Combined Science. A Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.

Examination Board

AQA GCE A Level Physics 7408

Additional Activities

Students can visit the University of Birmingham for guest physics lectures.

18 + and Career Pathways

Studying A Level Physics opens the door to a wide range of exciting university courses and career opportunities, including engineering, medicine, astronomy, aerospace, computer science, robotics and scientific research. It develops essential skills such as problem-solving, mathematical thinking, logical reasoning and data analysis, which are highly valued by universities and employers. Physics also plays an important role in developing future technologies, renewable energy, space exploration and medical advances. It is a highly respected A Level that provides a strong foundation for many STEM careers and helps shape the future.

Relevant Websites

Further information is available from the AQA website: A Level Physics 7408 | Specification | Specification At A Glance | AQA

A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What is Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)?

A Level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics) enables students to enhance skills learnt at GCSE to address life's key questions such as: What happens when I die? Is there a God? How do I decide what is right and wrong?

During the course students will develop skills of investigation, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, communication and debate. Students do this through:

- developing their interest in a study of religion and its relation to the wider world
- adopting enquiring, critical and reflective approaches to the study of religion
- reflecting upon their own values, beliefs and influences

Course Content

Eduqas A Level Religious Studies develops students' knowledge and understanding of religion, philosophy and ethics. The course consists of three components: Study of Religion, Philosophy of Religion and Religion and Ethics, each worth one-third of the qualification. Students explore religious beliefs, practices, philosophical arguments and ethical issues, developing skills of critical analysis, evaluation and reasoned argument. Assessment is through three written examinations, each lasting two hours. Students are assessed on their ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding (AO1 – 40%) and analyse and evaluate religious and philosophical arguments (AO2 – 60%). There is no coursework.

Course Entry Requirements

You will need at least a Grade 6 in Religious Education at GCSE.

Examination Board

Eduqas A Level in Religious Studies A120PA

18 + and Career Pathways

Eduqas' A Level Religious Studies complements many other popular A Levels including History, Sociology, Government and Politics, Psychology, Geography and English Literature.

It also encourages candidates to develop their critical and evaluative skills which will enable them to go on to Higher Education and study a wide range of courses including Religious Studies, Islamic Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Medicine, Sciences, Journalism, Politics, Archaeology, Classical Civilisations, the History of Art and Social Sciences.

Relevant Websites

Further information is available from AS and A Level Religious Studies | Eduqas

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

What is Sociology?

In terms of the history of life on Earth, in what is really the blink of an eye, we have developed into a complex society with a wide number of problems and opportunities to live with. It is these factors that affect how our species, and the tribes and family groups within it, work on a day-to-day basis.

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, childhood and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "Why have we developed like this. Poverty, ignorance, crime, injustice ... shouldn't we have left them in the Stone Age?"

Course Content

- Education
- The Family
- Methods in Context
- Media
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods

Course Entry Requirements

To take Sociology it is recommended that you have achieved at least a Grade 6 at GCSE English.

Examination Board

AQA –Specification code: 7192

Additional Activities

Students will have the opportunity to attend student revision and learning conferences, specifically tailored to achieving academic success.

18 + and Career Pathways

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in several other careers, like marketing, advertising. PR, journalism, law or teaching.

The Sociology course helps students develop several new skills:

- How to use evidence to support your arguments
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view fluently
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning.

Students who take Sociology often also study Psychology, English Literature and Media Studies. Yet students who want a career in Law, marketing or business, will find an understanding of sociology useful.

Relevant Websites

For more information see the AQA website at A Level Sociology 7192 | Specification | AQA