

Senior School and Sixth Form
**SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS**
2024-2025





Sixth Form Prospectus
2024-2025

Contents

Message from the Principal and Head of Senior School and Sixth Form	2
Message from the Sixth Form Leader	3
Enrichment and volunteering opportunities	3
Which subjects to choose?	6
Entry Requirements	10
Arabic	12
Art	13
Business	14
Biology	15
Chemistry	16
English Language and Literature	17
French	18
Geography	19
History	20
Mathematics	21
Physics	22
Politics	23
Psychology	24
Sociology	25



Dear Parents and Pupils,

I thank you for taking an interest in our wonderful Sixth Form. It is with great pride as the Principal of this school that I have the honour of leading the highest quality teaching staff. With our move to our new campus in September 2019 it now places us in the enviable position of our all pupils having access to state-of-the-art facilities to further develop their education and skills.

As each year goes past, our school grows stronger than ever, with our Sixth Form pupils leaving to attend the best universities in the UK and around the world. Under the stewardship of Mr Marsh, Headteacher of Senior School and Sixth Form, our Senior School continues to flourish with the commitment to high quality learning through small group sizes, thus ensuring the very best levels of support for each and every pupil.

I very much hope you will see that the close family support we offer every individual in our school, whether a current or new pupil, ensures that we nurture confident young individuals ready to leave us for the challenging world outside of school.

I look forward to you joining our Sixth Form in September.

Kind regards

Stephen Viner
Principal



Dear Parents and Pupils,

The Sixth Form is a vibrant and popular department which continues to grow and flourish. The vast majority of our pupils stay on in Year 11 to join our Sixth Form. However, we also welcome new pupils from other schools in KSA and around the world. The British International School Al Khobar provides an educational community with diverse and challenging learning experiences.

Our curriculum is modelled on the very best practice from the most prestigious schools in Britain, ensuring that we motivate pupils to develop the belief that they can succeed in life. Through its international environment, the school aims to inspire everyone to be positive global citizens by reflecting upon equality, community service, and peace. We recognise the academic potential of each individual through a personalised, inspiring, yet challenging curriculum in which pupils receive regular help, with precise feedback, in a safe and supportive school environment.

We strive to instill in our pupils the values of commitment, integrity and respect for themselves and others. Our Sixth Form is a unique environment where pupils work with our talented and dedicated staff. Pupil's potential is nurtured and developed to ensure that they develop the skills that will enable you to support their aspirations for the future.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Kind regards,

William Lee Marsh
Head of Senior School and Sixth Form



At BISAK Sixth Form our pupils take the next big step on their journey in education. It is a step towards university and, ultimately, a successful career in whichever field they choose to enter. Through a well-structured and systematically monitored pastoral system, running alongside lessons delivered by highly qualified and dedicated subject specialists, our A levels provide successful academic opportunities to suit the needs of any ambitious and motivated sixth form pupil. We are passionate about turning out well-rounded, young adults, who can achieve academic success through a process of outstanding teaching and individually tailored support for their independent learning.

We want our pupils to thrive once they leave our doors and make their way in the wider world, and so we offer a PSHE programme that provides key skills for dealing with life at university and the workplace beyond. A range of enrichment, guest speakers, university webinars and university visits all combine to ensure that we have done our utmost in establishing an environment in which all our pupils can get the very best out of their time with us.

Matthew Thorne
[Head of Sixth form](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Thorne', written in a cursive style.

Enrichment

An important aspect of Sixth Form life is making sure our pupils leave school with a wide range of skills and experiences, which is important both for university applications and a happy, healthy lifestyle. We have a great range of opportunities on offer at our school and welcome new ideas and opportunities from Sixth Formers.

We offer many sporting opportunities in school, and pupils can compete in national tournaments in football, basketball and volleyball. In addition, they can coach younger pupils, lead sporting activities such as sports days and be responsible for their own sports clubs.

We also have a music department with expert staff who can offer a range of instrumental lessons, helping pupils to work towards formal instrumental qualifications and the opportunity to perform in the school's orchestra, jazz band and rock band. The David Greetham Bursary Award provides free music lessons at the school and is open to Sixth Formers annually.

Sixth Formers can also gain production and directing skills by getting involved in organising school concerts. The school carries out auditions for yearly shows with roles in performance, lighting, set design, hair, makeup and other back stage work. This not only gives valuable work experience to those who want to enter the performing arts industry, but is also a great deal of fun and develops co-operation and teamwork skills.

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs at BISAK, such as the Business Club, which promotes entrepreneurial and collaborative skills. BISAK has been successful in running the internationally-recognised Model United Nations (MUN) organisation for young people around the world. Sixth Formers can also get involved in organising projects and events for their peers, charities or larger school events, such as International Day.



“We aim to inspire everyone to be positive global citizens by reflecting upon equality, community service and peace. All are valued as unique individuals.”



Volunteering

The volunteering programme gives each pupil an opportunity to use some of their time to support others in the school community. This helps them learn invaluable skills such as communication, organisation and work ethics in the safety of the school grounds. We have a wide range of roles that pupils can carry out such as science technician assistants, sports leaders, librarians, primary learning support assistants and supporting the human resources department.

Events & Contributions

Social functions and events are a feature of Sixth Form life and we value very highly the excellent relationships that exist between staff and pupils. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that each Sixth Form pupil leaves our school a happy, well-rounded, responsible, independent individual who has a clear sense of purpose and a love of learning.

Sixth Formers support many events for the whole school throughout the year but also organise specific Sixth Form events such as school balls, pizza nights, trips away and meals at local restaurants. We are always impressed by the contributions Sixth Form pupils make to support charities, by raising awareness and money for the causes they are concerned with.



Career & University Application Support

The website 'BridgeU' is another profiling and career support system that is used in BISAK, initially in Year 11 and can be continued into the Sixth Form. The programme supports pupils in accessing information about a range of careers, helps them write a personal statement (which can be used in university applications) and checks that they have made the right subject option choices for the career they have planned.

Pupils are extensively supported in the Sixth Form with their university applications. From the very first week, pupils are encouraged to start carrying out research into university courses and to list their personal achievements as part of the process of compiling their personal statements. Staff are willing to take the time to guide them through the whole process of their applications.

BISAK is a registered UCAS centre for Sixth Formers wishing to continue their higher education in the UK and we assist others applying for universities all over the world. We give support with writing references, personal statements, transcripts and careers advice. We organise a number of University Fairs where the Sixth Form get to meet universities from around the world.

Many universities visit the school throughout Year 12 and 13 and we also host university fairs at certain points during the year. There are also opportunities to attend regional university fairs.



Which subjects to choose?

BISAK Year 11 pupils will make their subject choices in the summer term, following the Sixth Form Options Evening. They will meet individually with the subject teacher and Sixth Form Leader to discuss which A level subjects are the best combination. When considering which subjects to select, pupils and parents should be mindful of several points:

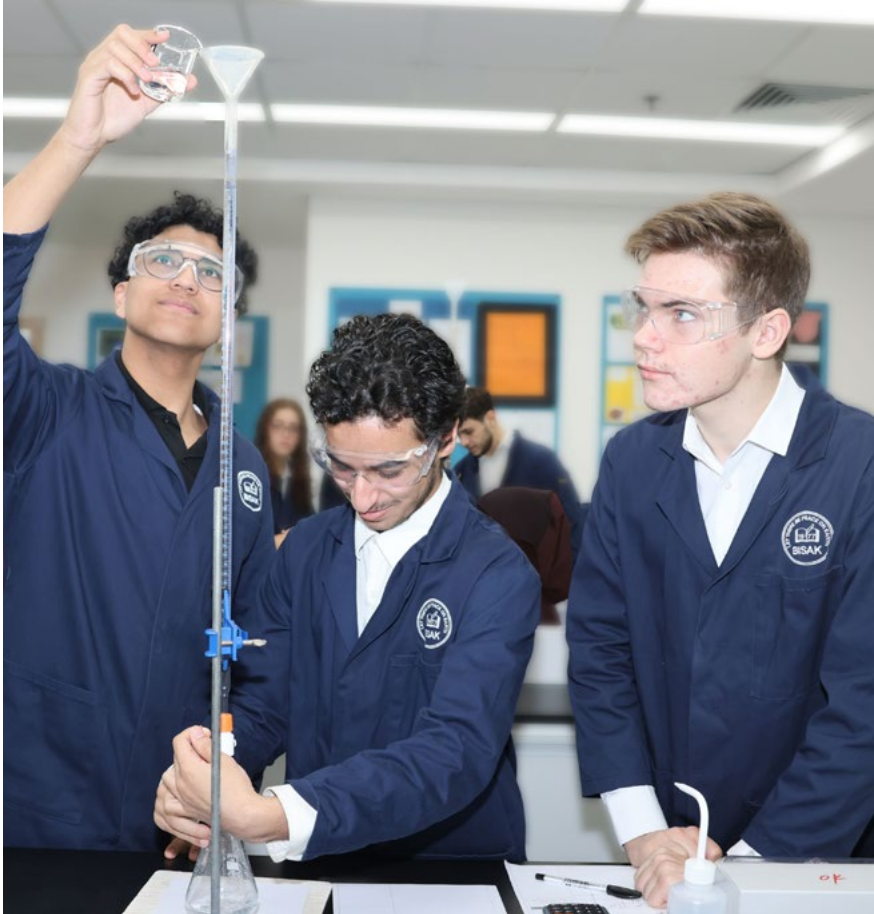
- What career and post-18 education are you most interested in?
- How will the choices (including the subjects that will no longer be studied) impact upon further education and career plans?
- Subjects should not be chosen on account of the teacher; he or she may not be available for the entire course.

- Subjects should not be chosen on account of what one's friends have chosen; pupils must focus upon their own needs and interests.
- Pupils should discuss their preferred options with the appropriate teachers before making their final decision in order to get a fuller picture of what will be required and expected if good grades are to be achieved.

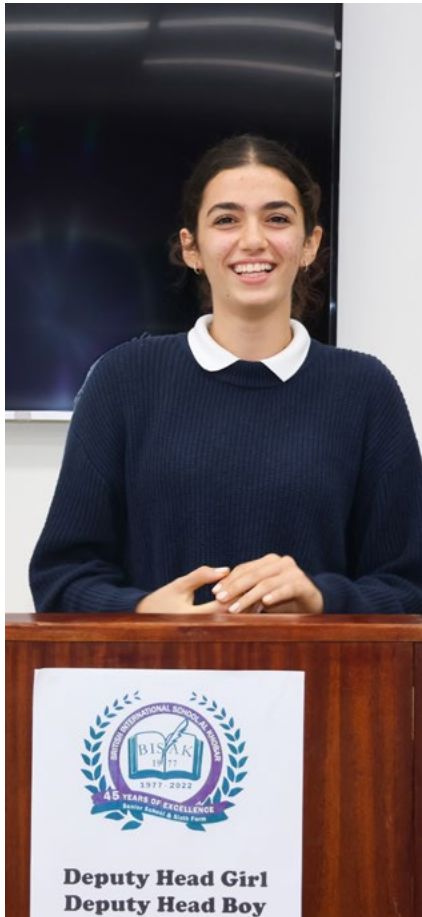
Pupils should try to choose subjects that they enjoy as these are the ones that are more likely to bring good results.

Pupils should also be aware that not all subjects have the same time demands and this is something that should be taken into account. Also, some subjects have a relatively even amount of time that needs to be devoted to homework throughout the course whilst others have periods of greater need such as when a deadline for a project needs to be met.





“the close family support we offer every individual in our school ensures we nurture confident young individuals ready to leave us for the challenging world outside of school.”





“The courses on offer are diverse to accommodate the wide range of pupils’ interests”



Information about studying A levels

Sixth Form is different in a number of ways from earlier educational stages, mainly due to greater specialisation in subjects and recognition of pupils' increasing maturity. Naturally, the move from GCSE to A levels requires an increase in the standard of work so pupils study fewer subjects but in greater depth. It is recommended that pupils select three or four IAS levels in Year 12 then focus on three IA when they progress to Year 13.



Examinations

We offer the following examination boards - Edexcel and Cambridge. They provide excellent resources and we are able to build in continuity from the courses from these boards that we offer at GCSE. Parents and pupils are encouraged to visit their websites at www.edexcel.com, www.cie.org.uk. On the following pages, there is a brief overview of each of the courses offered, along with a course number to enable you to find the specific course offered.

The Sixth Form is an important time in pupils' education, with a real focus on academic achievement in examination courses with a view to broadening opportunities for success in the future. It will involve a great deal of hard work and commitment, but the benefits in personal development and growth will be considerable.



Subjects on Offer 2024-2025

- Arabic
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- English Language & Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology

Although we are not-a-profit school, we can only run subjects if we have sufficient numbers of pupils on the courses. Some subjects may, therefore, be withdrawn before September.

Entry Requirements

Current BISAK pupils

The first entry requirement for our Sixth Form is a minimum of five grade 5s or above at GCSE or IGCSE. It is expected that pupils will have attained a grade 6 or above in Maths and a 6 or above in English Language or a 7 or above in English as a Second Language, as these will be required for entry to most universities. Pupils will be accepted into the Sixth Form if they achieve a grade 5 in Maths but will not be allowed to take it at AS level.

Non-BISAK pupils

Non-BISAK pupils who have been studying I/GCSEs have the same entry requirements as BISAK pupils. Please see above for details.

Non-BISAK pupils who have not been studying the British Curriculum and do not have GCSEs or their equivalent will be required to submit their results from the system they have been studying under. In the case of pupils studying the IB Middle Years Programme, a minimum expectation would be the achievement of a level 5 from at least five academic areas. Pupils applying from the American Diploma system will be considered according to their grade point average.



School reports and references need to be submitted, and these are also taken into consideration when reviewing applications. Once GCSE, IB MYP and American Diploma results have been released, pupils can be allocated firm places on courses depending upon their achievement in specific subjects. At this point a change in subject choice may be necessary.

The suitability of pupils to study A level subjects will be discussed with the Head of Senior School and Sixth Form and the Sixth Form Leader. To make an appointment to discuss a place, please contact the Senior School PA at seniorpa@bisak.org. After your meeting, please find full details of the application process on the school website at <https://bisak.org/admissions/>.

Non-BISAK applicants follow the standard admissions procedure, aside from the need for taking the Entrance Assessment. If the entry requirements are not met, the registration fee will be refunded.



SUBJECTS

► Arabic

IA Level - Pearson Edexcel (XAA01/YAA01)



Why Study Arabic?

- The IA level provides a logical progression from GCSE with a focus on language and reading skills
- It acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture
- It facilitates literary study.

Future Prospects

The Arabic language is the mother tongue of Saudi Arabia and some 24 other Arab countries. As such, proficiency in Arabic provides the potential of gaining employment in many Arabic-speaking countries. The course also develops pupils' understanding of Arabic culture, so if a pupil goes on to live in an Arabic country, their interactions with people in their community will be enhanced.

Arabic can be studied at degree level in most universities around the world and can lead to many careers that need strong communication skills, such as translation, PR and the media.

Course Outline

This specification aims to engage pupils so that they enjoy an advanced level of Arabic language learning and achieve their full potential in the subject. Pupils will also be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts.

Assessed via two external examination papers in a single tier covering the whole range of grades A* to E. Skills of reading and writing are tested in separate exercises in Papers 1 and 2.

The structure of these qualifications allows teachers to construct a course of study that can be taught and assessed as either:

- distinct modules of teaching and learning with related units of assessment taken at appropriate stages during the course; or
- a linear course assessed in its entirety at the end.

Subject content

Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment.

Assessment information

This qualification consists of two externally-examined units. The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2). Pupils wishing to take the International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete both units.

Unit 1: Understanding and written response

Unit 2: Writing and research.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

▶ Art

IA Level - Pearson Edexcel (9FA0)



Why Study Art & Design?

- Design education helps to meet the world's demand for innovation. In every aspect of government, industry, business and non-profit work, there is an ever-increasing demand for creative thinking and ingenuity.
- It establishes excellent foundations for a career in creative industries.
- Develops your ability to 'think outside the box' and the observational skills learnt through this subject are considered valuable in a whole spectrum of professions.
- It nurtures all-round problem-solving skills and facilitates the ability to find creative solutions.
- Consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation.
- Visually analyse critically their own work and that of others.
- Express individual thoughts and choices confidently.
- Take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes.
- Art & Design A Level introduces you to a wide range of media and processes, including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, photography, digital work, modelling, mixed media, sculptures and textiles.

Future Prospects

- Artist
- Animator
- Fashion designer
- Automotive designer
- Architect
- Arts Professional
- Graphic Designer
- Interior Designer
- Art Director
- Art Therapist
- Illustrator
- Photographer
- Art Teacher
- Web Designer UX Designer
- Game Designer
- Set Designer
- Digital Designer
- Advertising Designer

Course Outline

This qualification consists of two units. The course is the duration of 2 years, there is no AS level. Pupils wishing to take Art A level must complete the two-year duration. There are no exams in year 12.

Component 1: Thematic Unit= 60% coursework

The unit of work incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio development of work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18.

Component 2: Externally set assignment = 40% exam

Component 2 is an externally set theme based exam with a 15 hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions. Students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the externally set assignment.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

▶ Business

Edexcel International Advanced A Level Business Year 12 (IAS XBS11), Year 13 (IAL YBS11)



Why study Business?

Do you like current affairs? Why are McDonalds and Coca-Cola household brands? Should I buy an Apple or Samsung? Is Primark exploiting workers in low income nations? What is the minimum wage in the UK? What are trade barriers? Is the dollar strong? Is Saudi Arabia in a recession and how will that affect the rest of the world if oil prices drop further? What is international trade? How do I set up my own business?

If questions like these interest you, this might be the course for you. It also helps if you like to debate and very importantly you like to read!

Studying Business at AS and A level should enable pupils to:

- Develop a holistic understanding of business – the assessment culminates with a final paper that draws on the knowledge and skills pupils developed from Units 1, 2 and 3.
- Develop quantitative skills – pupils develop these skills throughout the content of the course and are required to apply these skills to relevant business contexts within the assessment.
- Develop an understanding of current global issues that impact on business, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.
- Develop a real-world business focus – pupils are encouraged to contextualise theory and respond to real-life international business case studies and stimulus material.

Course Outline

There are four main themes of the course, with two taken each year:

Year 12
Theme 1: Marketing and People
Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Year 13
Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy
Theme 4: Global Business

IAS Examination Ratings

- Theme 1 = 50% (Year 12)
- Theme 2 = 50% (Year 12)

IAL Examination Ratings

- Theme 1 = 25% (Year 12)
- Theme 2 = 25% (Year 12)
- Theme 3 = 25% (Year 13)
- Theme 4 = 25% (Year 13)

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► Biology

AS Level - Pearson Edexcel (WBI 11) and A Level - Pearson Edexcel (WBI 16)



Why study Biology?

Biology is the study of all life forms: from the smallest virus to the largest whale or tree, from the smallest bacterial population to a vast marine ecosystem. The diverse nature of the subject ensures that everyone can find an area of fascination to explore. The study of AS/A level Biology enables pupils to gain the following skills:

- Develop greater understanding of the biological concepts that form the blueprint for all forms of life.
- Develop greater expertise in the area of practical work and the link between theoretical and experimental contexts.
- Continue to enjoy and further develop a personal interest in the study of disease, physiology, genetics, ecology and biochemistry.
- A recognition of the responsible and ethical use of biology in society.
- Awareness of cutting edge biotechnology developments in the changing world.
- Develop skills in scientific method, involving planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation of biological investigations.

If you have an interest in living organisms and want to understand how life processes occur, then Biology is the subject for you. The subject will also support studies for other qualifications because of strong links with subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Mathematics and Geography.

Future Prospects

Biology is one of the most versatile subjects to study at A level. Together with Chemistry, it is an essential subject that is preferred for admission to most medical schools. Biology is also necessary for admission to Dentistry, Pharmacy and all other health sciences. Studying the subject does not confine you to only science-related degrees; Biology pupils can also go on to study Business, Law, Engineering or any other field of choice.

Course Outline

An AS course consists of three assessment units:

- **Unit 1:** Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health. 40% of IAS; 20% of A-level (120/300 UMS)
- **Unit 2:** Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation. 40% of AS ;20% of A-level(120/300 UMS)
- **Unit 3:** Practical Biology and Research Skills I. 20% of AS and 10% of A-level. (60/300 UMS)

The full A level qualification is made up of the AS units plus three more units which are studied at a higher level. You do not necessarily have to take the full A level qualification; you can get a qualification for the AS; your teacher will advise you on what is best. If you decide to take the second year of the course, it will cover the three units described below.

- **Unit 4:** Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity. 20% of A level (120/300 UMS)
- **Unit 5:** Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology. 20% of A level(120/300 UMS)
- **Unit 6:** Practical Biology and Research Skills II. 10% of A-level.(60/300 UMS)

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► Chemistry

Edexcel International AS Level (WCH11) and A Level (WCH16)



Why Study Chemistry?

Do you want to understand the world around you? Look no further: AS/A level Chemistry is ideal for pupils who have an interest in molecules, chemical reactions, energetics, analysis and its applications. Chemistry is often known as ‘the central science’ because it connects other sciences such as Biology, Physics and Environmental Science to each other.

Future Prospects

A level Chemistry leads to a wide range of degree courses and careers in Chemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Environmental Sciences, Dentistry and Engineering, to name but a few. The analytical skills and knowledge developed from studying Chemistry are equally valued for admission to non-science courses such as Accountancy, Law and Business.

Course Outline

An AS course consists of three assessment units:

- **Unit 1:** Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry (120/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- **Unit 2:** Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols (120/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- **Unit 3:** Practical skills in Chemistry I (60/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper based on practical work.

The full A level qualification is made up of the AS units plus three more units which are studied at a higher level. You do not necessarily have to take the full A level qualification; you can get a qualification for the AS, and your teacher will advise you on what is best. If you decide to take the second year of the course, it will cover the three units described below.

- **Unit 4:** Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry (120/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- **Unit 5:** Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry (120/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- **Unit 6:** Practical skills in Chemistry II (60/300 UMS)
This Unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper based on practical work.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► English Language and Literature

Edexcel A Level (9ELO)



Future Prospects

- A rounded choice of subjects makes pupils more attractive to universities.
- The cognitive, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills developed on this course are all useful for university as well as in the workplace.
- It opens up careers like law, marketing, journalism, researching, publishing, business, politics and education.

Why study English?

Do you have an opinion? Do you like to argue your opinion clearly to others? Do you like to analyse other people's ideas and views? Do you like reading – both non-fiction and fiction novels and texts? Do you enjoy the opportunity to watch words come to life from the page? Do you like writing stories, or are you considering starting your very own vlog or blog? If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions then English A level could be for the subject for you!

Words are a powerful resource in the 21st century. Mastering them and understanding the impact of manipulating them is a very important skill to have. Studying both Language and Literature allows you to continue your skills already achieved at IGCSE and develop them even further preparing you for the type of study that you will be expected to complete at university.

Future Prospects

- A rounded choice of subjects makes pupils more attractive to universities.

Course Outline

- This is a two-year course. There is no AS qualification at the end of the first year.
- It is a UK A level, not an International A level.
- Two examinations are taken at the end of the course which represent 80% of the final grade.
- There is one piece of coursework which allows you to study two texts of your choice around a theme or topic of your choosing. This is worth 20% of your final grade and is marked by your teacher.
- All texts will be studied fully in class and dramas will be watched as an audience where possible.

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

- The study of a set anthology of non-fiction texts covering a variety of genres and topics, along with one set modern drama text.
- 40% of overall grade
- Two tasks: comparative question on an unseen text and one from the anthology and an extract-based question from the modern drama text (open book).

Component 2: Varieties in Language & Literature

- The study of two texts based around a choice of four themes. We study around the theme of Encounters and study one anchor text and another set text from the set list which can be a play, a collection of poems or another novel.
- 40% of overall grade (open book)
- Two tasks: one question based around a non-fiction text that has the same theme as the texts studied and one that asks you to compare the two texts studied looking at a particular aspect of the theme studied.

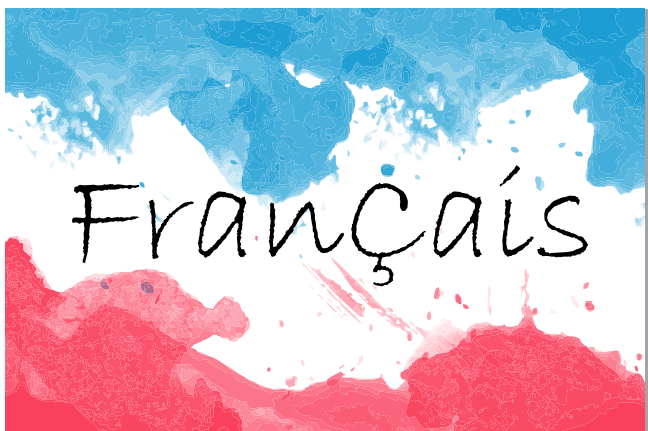
NEA: Investigating and Creating Texts

- For this final part of the course you will have a free choice to decide on a theme and two texts of your own interest. You will then need to complete two assignments based around your chosen non-fiction and fiction texts.
- 20% of overall grade
- Task one: to write a piece of fiction and a piece of creative non-fiction based on your
- study of the two texts of your choice.
- Task two: to write an analytical commentary of your own writing.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► French

IAS Level and IA2 Level - Pearson Edexcel (XFR01 and YFR01)



- French is considered to be a facilitating subject regardless of your degree choice for the Russell Group universities
- The cognitive, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills developed on this course are all useful for university as well as in the workplace.
- It opens up a lot of career opportunities including law, marketing, journalism, researching, publishing, business, politics, education.

Why study French?

The course reinforces the language skills pupils acquired in their GCSE French courses, as well as deepening and expanding their knowledge of French culture and society.

Future Prospects

Specialising in an additional language will not only widen personal culture and horizons, it will add a great deal to one's CV, making French A level pupils very attractive to potential employers. Being able to communicate in another language is a powerful tool for a range of careers, including those in diplomacy, politics, translation, international business management, literature and culture.

Course Outline

These are the topics and subject content covered in the course:

IAS:

- Youth matters
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment

IA2:

- All four topics from IAS
- Technology in the French-speaking world
- Society in the French-speaking world
- Ethics in the French-speaking world

Pupils can choose to sit AS or A Level, at the end of the first or the second year of the course.

The examination consists of two papers:

IAS Level:

- **Unit 1:** Spoken Expression and Response: Speaking (Internally conducted, externally assessed; between 8 to 10 minutes. 40 marks; 30% of the total IAS. 15% of the total IAL)
- **Unit 2:** Understanding and Written Response. (Externally assessed. 2 hours and 30 minutes; 90 marks; 70% of the total IAS; 35% of the total IAL. 3 Sections (Listening, Reading and Grammar, Writing 240-280 words)

IA2 Level:

- **Unit 3:** Speaking (Internally conducted, externally assessed; between 27 and 30 minutes, including a single period of 15 minutes' formal preparation time; 48 marks; 30% of the total IA2; 15% of the total IAL)
- **Unit 4:** Research, Understanding and Written Response (Externally assessed; 2 hours and 30 minutes; 90 marks; 70% of the total IA2; 35% of the total IAL. 3 Sections (Listening, Reading and Grammar, Writing (300-400 words) about a literary text or film)

[Click here to see the A level specification](#)

► Geography

Edexcel International AS Level (XGE01) and A Level (YGE01)



Why Study Geography?

The International A Level in Geography provides opportunities to build extensive knowledge of the world. It helps to explain much of what is going on in the world right now, from climate change, international politics and superpowers to globalisation and natural disasters.

Future Prospects

A Level Geography is what leading universities in the UK call a 'facilitating subject' that gives pupils more choices at degree level. It can support a wide range of degrees, from geography-specific courses like geology, town planning and environmental science, to courses such as law, medicine and business studies.

Geographers have embraced technology and various media in their fieldwork, making the knowledge and practical skills of the modern geographer very relevant to a wide range of employers. Some may go into geography-related careers such as marine geography, geo-politics, environmental science, urban regeneration, geology, cartography, archaeology, surveying or conservation. Others might apply their skills to a range of other industries including law, management consultancy, business and politics.

Course Outline

The qualification builds on the GCSE, covering topics such as environmental hazards, globalisation, coasts and urbanisation, but adding depth and additional topics of climate change, development and population. At A2 level, pupils can explore meteorology and ecosystems before choosing a research topic.

AS Level (Unit 1 and 2)

Unit 1: Global Challenges

World at Risk & Going Global

Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

60% of the AS or 30% of the A level

Unit 2: Geographical Investigations

Crowded Coasts & Urban Problems

Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

40% of the AS or 20% of the A level

A Level (Unit 1,2,3 and 4)

Unit 3: Contested Planet

Weather & Biodiversity Under Threat

Options from: Energy or Water Security and

Superpower Geographies or Development

Examination: 2 hours

30% of the A level

Unit 4: Researching Geography

Research project options: Hazards,

Feeding the World's People, Cultural

Diversity or Human Health & Disease

Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

20% of the A level

[Click here to see the specification](#)

▶ History

Edexcel International AS Level (XHI01) and A Level (YHI01)



International A-Level History

History is suitable for students who have enjoyed the subject at IGCSE level, are inquisitive and curious about the world around them, and want to develop their critical thinking and communication skills. History is an academic discipline, providing coherent knowledge and understanding of the wider world's past. History helps students understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies, relationships between different groups as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Course content - What will I learn?

You will develop an in depth understanding of how the past has been represented, interpreted, and accorded significance for different reasons and purposes. You will be able to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context. The IAL course has been designed to give students a deeper understanding of the modern world.

How will this course help me after my A-levels?

IAL History has always been highly regarded by universities. The History course is excellent preparation for a specific degree in History, but also for other subjects within the wider Humanities and Social Sciences.

Progression Routes

A qualification in History leads to degree courses not only in History, but also in Politics, Law, International

Course Outline

History, at AS and A level, covers a broad range of topics, including breadth, depth, thematic and international topics, set to engage and challenge pupils. Some of these will be familiar, and some will be completely new. It is divided into four units of work, to emphasise the key skills to be developed. Examples of topics, which are ever relevant to our world today, include:

- Germany 1918-45
- Russia: From Lenin to Yeltsin 1917-90
- USA: Race Relations: 1865- 2009
- Superpower Relations: 1943-1990

Year 12 pupils will sit two two-hour exams at the end of the year for the AS qualification. Pupils continuing their studies into Year 13 will sit two further two-hour exams for the A level qualification.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

Politics, Sociology, Business Studies, Management, Media Studies, for example. The skills fostered by the study of History are valuable in a wide range of careers and good History graduates enjoy excellent employment prospects. Apart from the more obvious careers such as teaching, archive and museum work, History graduates find employment in law, the media, publishing, public relations, management, and commerce. Their understanding of what 'makes people tick', the ability to research and synthesise information, to formulate logical arguments and present objective reports makes historians attractive to employers.

▶ Mathematics

Edexcel International AS Level and A Level (XMA11 and YMA11)



Why Study Mathematics?

As well as being a fascinating and intellectually stimulating subject in itself, it will also help you unlock the mysteries of science, technology and statistics. Studying Mathematics offers higher earning potential, exciting career opportunities and a grounding in important life skills.

Entry requirements:

1/GCSE grade 7 or equivalent or above in Mathematics.

Assessment

All units are examined by a 1 hour 30 minute paper.

Future Prospects

A level Mathematics is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that see Mathematics A level as an important qualification and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A level Mathematics or are strongly related include economics, teaching, medicine, psychology, architecture, environmental studies, engineering, computing and accountancy.

Mathematics also lends itself to more diverse careers and interests, such as forensic science, computer game design and sports coaching.

Course Outline

Pure (P1, P2, P3 and P4)

When studying Pure Mathematics at AS and A level, you will be extending your knowledge of topics like algebra and trigonometry, as well as learning some brand new ideas such as integration.

Statistics (S1 and S2)

If you choose to study Statistics, you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the Pure Mathematics course.

Mechanics (M1 and M2)

If you choose to study Mechanics, you will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from cars in the street to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Decision (D1)

In Decision, many different algorithms such as bubble sort, Prim's, first fit and more will be discussed to solve real-life problems. Have you ever wondered what the shortest route is for the postman to deliver letters or the best way to pack a ferry with vehicles?

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► Physics

Edexcel International AS Level (WPH11) and A Level (WPH16)



Why study Physics?

AS level Physics is suitable for pupils who have an interest in, and enjoy, Physics and its applications. Physics pupils want to find out how the physical world works and enjoy applying their skills and knowledge to solving problems and carrying out practical investigations. Others study Physics in preparation for one of a wide range of future study or career prospects.

Future Prospects

Physics leads on to a wide range of degree courses which prepare pupils for careers in many areas such as: pure Physics, engineering (mechanical, civil etc), communications, space Physics, nuclear Physics, cosmology, astrophysics, radiography, biotechnology, nuclear medicine, sports medicine, medicine, environmental sciences, education, dentistry, computer games programming and meteorology.

There are many career opportunities open to those with an A level in Physics. Pupils could end up working in a wide range of industries, including nuclear energy, oil & gas, medical, nanotech, renewable energy, space exploration & aerospace and telecommunications.

Course Outline

An AS course consists of three assessment units:

Year 12

- Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials (120/300 UMS)
- This unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- Unit 2: Waves and Electricity (120/300 UMS)
- This unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics I (60/300 UMS) Written alternative, which is an externally-assessed exam based on the practical work assigned by the exam board.
- The full A level qualification is made up of the AS units plus three more units which are studied at a higher level. You do not necessarily have to take the full A level qualification; you can get a qualification for the AS, and your teacher will advise you on what is best. If you decide to take the second half of the course, it will cover the three units described below.

Year 13

- Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles (120/300 UMS) This unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology (120/300 UMS) This unit is assessed by means of a written examination paper.
- Unit 6: Practical Skills in Physics II (60/300 UMS) Written alternative, which is an externally assessed exam based on the practical work assigned by the exam board.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

► Politics

Edexcel AS Level (8PL0) and A Level (9PL0)



Why Study Politics?

Politics is the art or science of influencing people on a civic or individual level. The course's main focus is democracy and the relationship between people and politics. We study issues concerned with who really has power.

If you have an interest in current affairs, enjoy debates, a desire to develop your own views based on ideological points, this course will interest you.

Future prospects

- Politician
- Teacher
- Researcher
- Working for the UN
- Ambassador
- Lawyer
- Diplomat
- Lecturer
- Political activist
- Journalist
- A well-informed global citizen

Course Outline

AS Level (Year 12)

- **Participation:** Democracy & Participation, Political Parties, Electoral Systems, Voting Behaviour and the Media
- **UK Government:** The Constitution, Parliament, The Prime Minister and the Executive, Relations Between Institutions.

A2 Level (Year 13)

- **Government & Politics of the USA:** US Constitution & Federalism, Congress, US Presidency, The Supreme Court & Civil Rights, Democracy & Participation, Comparative Approaches
- **Feminism**
- **Core Political Ideas:** Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism

AS level looks at politics and government in the UK. There are two exam papers. Paper 1 covers Democracy and Participation. Paper 2 covers the UK Government.

In the A2 course, we study government and politics in the United States, as a contrast to the UK, as well as ideologies such socialism, liberalism, conservatism and feminism. There are three exam papers. Paper 1 covers AS Democracy, Participation and Core Political Ideas. Paper 2 covers AS level UK Government and Feminism. Paper 3 covers USA Government and Politics

[Click here to see the AS level specification](#)

[Click here to see the A level specification](#)

► Psychology

Edexcel A Level (9PS0)



What's it all about?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. If you are interested in understanding why people behave in particular ways, then this may be the subject for you. This course aims to provide a broad balance and challenging introduction to a wide range of psychological theories, research studies and everyday applications.

Overview of the curriculum

Studying Psychology provides the opportunity to develop analytical and critical thinking skills, through the execution of written scientific reports and practical experiments. You will also need mathematical knowledge, a willing to work with scientific research methods including working with and collecting data.

Careers

- Clinical psychologist
- Counselling psychologist
- Education mental health practitioner
- Educational psychologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Health psychologist
- High intensity therapist
- Sports and exercise psychologist
- Border Force office
- Dance movement psychotherapist
- Market researcher
- Neuroscientist
- Play therapist
- Social researcher

Course Outline

How will you be assessed?

AS

Paper1

Topic 1	Social Psychology
Topic 2	Cognitive Psychology

Paper2

Topic 3	Biological Psychology
Topic 4	Learning Theories

AS Exam

Paper	Time	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	1 hour and 30 minutes	50%	1-2
Paper 2	1 hour and 30 minutes	50%	3-4

A Level

Paper 1

Topic 1	Social Psychology
Topic 2	Cognitive Psychology
Topic 3	Biological Psychology
Topic 4	Learning Theories

Paper 2

Topic 5	Clinical Psychology
Topic 6	Criminal Psychology

Paper 3

Topic 9	Research Methods
Topic 9	Issues and Debates

A Level Exam

Paper	Time	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	2 hours	35%	1-4
Paper 2	2 hours	35%	5-6
Paper 3	2 hours	30%	9

[Click here to see AS subject specification](#)

[Click here to see A Level subject specification](#)

► Sociology

Cambridge International Examination (CIE) AS and A Level (9699)



Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how membership of social groups influences behaviour in any given society. We study how society works and what are the different groups that make up our society.

You will learn a number of skills, including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, critical thinking, analytical skills and more.

As Sociology is relevant to the society you live in, you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are closely related to everyday life.

Future Progress

There are many careers that link with Sociology but many graduates typically pursue a career in the following areas:

- Community development worker
- Family support worker
- International development worker
- Social worker
- Further education teacher
- Youth worker

Course Outline

During the two-year course, pupils study:

- Socialisation, Identity and methods of research
- The Family
- Education
- Globalisation
- Media
- Religion

The course structure is below:

[AS Sociology \(Year 1\)](#)

Paper 1: Socialisation, Identity and Methods of Research.

Paper 2: The Family

[A2 Sociology \(Year 2\)](#)

Paper 3: Education

Paper 4: Globalisation, Media and Religion

[Click here to see the specification](#)

