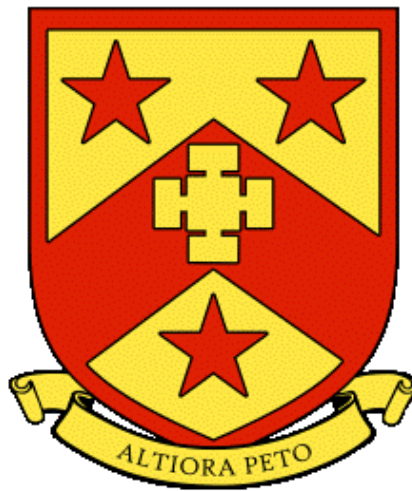


***NETHER STOWE SCHOOL***  
***SIXTH FORM***



**COURSE INFORMATION BOOKLET**

# BIOLOGY

## Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

Throughout Advanced Level Biology studies you will study and be assessed on the following content:

- Biological Molecules Cells
- Organisms Exchange Systems
- Genetic Information and Variation
- Energy Transfers between Organisms
- Organism responses to Environmental Change
- Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems
- The Control of Gene Expression

See AQA website for further detail of each section.

### Assessment

You will sit 3 papers at the end of the two year course of study:

#### Paper 1 and paper 2 (each 2 hours, 35% Weighting)

Written examination - Total 91 marks each

#### Paper 3 (2 hours, 30% Weighting)

Written examination—Total 78 marks, 25 mark essay question.

### Career Opportunities

The course provides a firm foundation for students if they wish to continue to higher education but is also held in high regard by many employers. In addition to the more obvious Biology-specific degrees such as Zoology and Genetics and Marine Biology, it is also a useful grounding (and sometimes an essential pre-requisite) for the study of many other degrees such as Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Equine Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Psychology, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy (specialists in the Science and clinical use of medications), Radiography (performing X-rays), Optometry (eye health) and Occupational Therapy.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 6/6 in Trilogy science or a grade 6 in GCSE Biology. We also require a grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics.

### Suggested Reading

Daniel Chamovitz: What A Plant Knows

Charles Darwin: The Origin of Species

Richard Dawkins: The Selfish Gene

Steve Jones: The Language of the Genes

Edward O Wilson: The Diversity of Life

# CHEMISTRY

## Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

In the first year, students explore the fundamental principles that form the basis of chemistry such as atomic structure, bonding, periodicity and an introduction to organic chemistry. In the second year, students will develop further principles and concepts such as equilibria, polymers, aromatic chemistry, thermodynamics, energetics and organic chemistry.

### Assessment

3 written exams at the end of a 2-year course. (35%, 35% and 30%).

Approximately 15% of the total marks will be for practical knowledge and understanding.

Students will also need to complete a minimum of twelve practical's set by the exam board.

### Career Opportunities

The course provides a firm foundation for students if they wish to continue to higher education (and not just science degrees) and is also held in high regard by many employers. In addition to the more obvious degrees such as chemical engineering, nanotechnology, environmental chemistry and biochemistry, it is also useful for materials science, forensic science, medicine, archaeology, pharmacology, geology, food technology, many types of engineering and many more including teaching. It is also a prestigious subject for non-science careers such as law, accounting and IT and for Oxbridge or Russell group university entrance.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 6/6 in combined science or a grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry. We also require a Grade 6 or above in GCSE maths.

### Suggested Reading

Aiming for an A in A Level Chemistry – Jim Clark

Calculations in AS / A Level Chemistry – Jim Clark

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out - Richard Feynman

Periodic Tales - Hugh Aldersey-Williams

The Disappearing Spoon - Sam Kean

Uncle Tungsten - Oliver Sachs

The Shocking History of Phosphorus: A Biography of the Devil's Element - John Emsley

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

You will study a very wide range of different texts from different time periods that are written in different genres (prose, drama and poetry). The text choices offer you a broad and in depth experience of English Literature that will benefit you in both your further and higher education. The wide selection of texts also ensures that you will be engaged, enthused and will enjoy your reading.

### Assessment

You will sit 2 exams; each worth 40%. One is a closed book exam and one is an open book exam in which you will be given extracts to enable you to answer the questions. The remaining 20% is a Non Examined Assessment for which you will produce an extended essay.

### Career Opportunities

A Level English Literature is a qualification that suggests that you have a high level of intellect, which in itself means that it offers you some excellent career opportunities. Nearly all employers view the qualification as a real asset but in particular the A Level is seen as desirable if you wish to go into a career in: law, teaching, advertising, media, public relations, journalism, marketing and many other creative fields. In terms of further education A Level English Literature is seen as desirable for anybody wanting to study English, humanities, law, business, politics, social sciences and marketing degrees.

### Entry Requirements

Students will need to achieve a Level 6 in both their English Language and English Literature GCSE and have an enthusiasm for literature and creative thinking.

### Suggested Reading

*The Great Gatsby* F.Scott Fitzgerald

*A Streetcar Named Desire* Tennessee Williams

*The Handmaid's Tale* Margaret Atwood

*Othello* William Shakespeare

*Skirrid Hill* Owen Sheers

Pre-1900 poetry

# FILM STUDIES

## Exam Board: EDUQAS



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### **Course Content**

You will study a very wide range of films from a variety of producers and directors, across a range of genres and created in differing contextual circumstances. The viewing and analysis of this wide range of films will allow learners to build a deep knowledge of film making, including writing screenplays and scripts, filming and camera work, lighting and sound and editing, as well as the distribution and marketing procedures.

### **Assessment**

You will sit 2 exams; each worth 35%. Paper 1 will focus on early Hollywood films alongside contemporary American and British films. Paper 2 will examine global and alternative film making. The final 30% of the overall A Level come from a Non Exam Assessment in which students will be given the opportunity to create a short film or write a screen play, alongside an evaluative analysis which is an essential element of this assessment.

### **Career Opportunities**

A qualification in film studies provides you with a combination of theoretical and technical skills that you can apply to a wide range of jobs in the creative industries including Broadcast presenter, Film director, Programme researcher in broadcasting/film/video, Television camera operator editor or producer. Students are encouraged to explore the possibility of work experience at local media outlets and cinemas and try contacting independent filmmakers to see what projects they can get involved in. Students could also approach the BBC, as well as independent production companies.

### **Entry Requirements**

Requirements to study Film Studies A Level include 5 GCSE qualifications at grade 5-9 including English language and literature.

### **Suggested Reading**

Pam Cook (ed.) *The Cinema Book* (3rd ed.) (BFI, 2007)

John Gibbs *Mise-en-scène: Film Style and Interpretation* (Wallflower Press, 2002)

John Hill and Pamela Church Gibson (eds.) *Oxford Guide to Film Studies* (Oxford University Press, 1998)

James Monaco *How To Read a Film* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Jill Nelmes (ed.) *An Introduction to Film Studies* (Routledge, 2007)



ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

# GEOGRAPHY

## Exam Board: AQA

### Course Content

#### Component 1: Physical Geography

Water and Carbon Cycles

Coastal Systems and Landscapes

Hazards (Y12)

#### Component 2: Human Geography

Global Systems and Governance

Changing places (Y12)

Contemporary urban environments (Y12)

#### Component 3: Geographical Investigation

Fieldwork will be carried out at Preston Montford Field Study Centre where students will choose their own particular field of study and create their own investigation.

### Assessment

#### Component 1: Physical Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 mins = 40%

#### Component 2: Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 mins = 40%

#### Component 3: Geographical Investigation (20%)

Students complete an individual investigation of 4,000 words, which must include data collected in the field.

### Career Opportunities

Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you will often work on group projects. You will also develop your research and analysis skills including in IT, lab and fieldwork, which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data. According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

### Entry Requirements

To study Geography you will need a grade 6 in GCSE Geography and a grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

### Suggested Reading

Fisher, A. 2001. Critical Thinking an Introduction. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Massey, D. 1994. Space, place and gender. Blackwell Publishers Ltd, Cambridge

Redfern, D. 2016. AQA AS / A Level Core Geography. Cross Academe Limited, Oxford

# HISTORY

## Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007, Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964 and currently a coursework element based around the Medieval Crusades.

#### Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964

- Trying to preserve autocracy, 1855-1894
- The collapse of autocracy, 1894-1917
- The emergence of a Communist dictatorship, 1917-1941
- The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941-1964

#### Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007

- The Affluent Society, 1951-1964
- The Sixties, 1964-1970
- The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970-1979
- The impact of Thatcherism, 1979-1987
- Towards a new Consensus, 1987-1997
- The Era of New Labour, 1997-2007

### Assessment

Component 1: Breadth Study (1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964)

Written exam: 2 hours 30 mins = 40%

Component 2: Depth Study (2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007)

Written exam: 2 hours 30 mins = 40%

Component 3: Historical Investigation

Students complete an individual historical investigation of a maximum 3,500 words = 20%

### Career Opportunities

History enables you to develop a variety of skills that will equip you for a successful future in a rapidly changing job market. History will help you to communicate and justify your own opinion, write coherently and clearly, research and synthesise information, interrogate evidence all while deepening your understanding of this fascinating subject. History is often regarded as a 'gateway' to many career opportunities. Whether you wish to work in Law, Accountancy, Armed Forces, Police, Heritage, Politics, the Civil Service, Teaching, Academia, Archival and Museum Careers, Marketing and Genealogy. So many employers prize a history qualification.

### Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in GCSE History or a Grade 6 in English Literature and Language

### Suggested Reading

C Rowe, The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007, Nelson Thornes, 2009

M Lynch, Britain 1945-2007, Hodder, 2008

S Waller, A Sixties Social Revolution? British Society 1959-1975, Nelson Thornes, 2008

C Corin and T Fiehn, Communist Russia under Lenin and Stalin, Hodder, 2002

J Laver, Triumph and Collapse: Russia and the USSR 1941-1991, Nelson Thornes, 2009

A Todd, The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe 1924-2000, CUP, 2012

S Waller, Imperial Russia, Revolutions and the emergence of the Soviet State 1853-1924, CUP, 2012

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## Exam Board: Edexcel



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

A level further mathematics is fun and rewarding. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking. You will be introduced to interesting new areas of pure mathematics and apply mathematics in a wider range of contexts. Studying further mathematics is likely to improve your grade in A level mathematics. The extra time, additional practise, further consolidation and development of techniques, contribute to improved results in A level mathematics. *“Those students who had studied further mathematics to A or AS-level standard reported coping better with the mathematical content of the degree,” Institute of Physics ‘Mind the Gap’ report 2010.*

You will study fascinating new areas of mathematics in core pure such as complex numbers, differential equations, and matrices. You will also study applied subjects such as mechanics or statistics in more detail, or decision mathematics, which uses algorithms and other methods to find efficient solutions to real life problems, such as finding the shortest route around a network. The exact subjects taken will be tailored to student’s interests.

### Assessment

#### **4 exams of 90 minutes each**

Each has 75 marks and is worth 25% of the total.

Papers 1 and 2 are Core Pure papers

Papers 3 and 4 will assess the optional subjects, which can be chosen from a wide range of modules such as decision maths, further mechanics, further statistics or further pure.

### Career Opportunities

Further mathematics gives an insight into real applications of mathematics including computer science (decision maths), population models (further statistics) and aerodynamics (further mechanics). Decision mathematics techniques are important in business, logistics and computer science. Studying further mathematics gives you advanced problem solving skills and fosters perseverance and logical thinking. You will learn to work with others to solve problems and to think independently. For most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree courses, A level mathematics is a requirement and AS or A level further mathematics is often a preferred subject. Anyone applying to study a degree in a STEM subject should consider taking further mathematics to at least AS level, as the additional content helps ensure a successful progression to university. Further mathematics is a highly regarded facilitating subject which will be an asset if you wish to apply to Oxbridge or other Russell group universities.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths.

### Suggested Reading

Euler: The Master of Us All (William Dunham)





**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

# **MATHEMATICS**

## **Exam Board: Edexcel**

### **Course Content**

During the two year course you will study pure topics such as calculus, proof, trigonometry, algebra and functions, exponentials and logarithms, and coordinate geometry. You will also study statistics topics such as data presentation, probability and hypothesis testing together with mechanics topics such as vectors, kinematics, forces and moments.

### **Assessment**

Two x 2 hour exam in Pure Mathematics

One x 2 hour exam in Mechanics/Statistics

### **Career Opportunities**

Whether it is conserving endangered species, designing computer games or helping solve crimes, people with a mathematical qualification are welcome in any career. The creativity and logical thinking skills you develop in mathematics are important in our rapidly changing world. Mathematics is also a strong indicator of problem-solving skills and self-discipline. Mathematics is a requirement for many degree courses including mathematics, physics, engineering, economics, computer science and accountancy. It is desirable for any science degree, and for medicine, social sciences, geography, geology, psychology, sport and business studies degrees. Mathematics is a highly regarded facilitating subject which will be an asset if you wish to apply to Oxbridge or other Russell group universities. Mathematics is also a valued A level for higher level apprenticeships in engineering, accounting, ICT or business.

### **Entry Requirements**

Grade 7 or above in GCSE mathematics.

### **Suggested Reading**

What The Numbers Say: A Field Guide to Mastering Our Numerical World (Derrick Niederman)

The Proving Ground - an introduction to mathematical proof e-book (Jonny Griffiths)

Alex's Adventures in Numberland (Alex Bellos)

A Concise Introduction to Pure Mathematics (Martin Liebeck)



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

# **MEDIA**

## **Exam Board: EDUQAS**

### **Course Content**

The course contains both theoretical elements such as media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. There will also be a focus on practical activities. This emphasis on practical and vocational tasks engages and motivates students. Students will have to research, plan and finally create and evaluate their own media products.

### **Assessment**

You will complete two examinations each worth 35%. Paper 1 covers Media language and representation along with Media industries and audiences. Paper 2 requires students to understanding television, magazines and media in context.

You will also be required to complete a NEA worth 30% based on a cross media production based through chosen brief.

### **Career Opportunities**

Whether it is working in the TV or film industries as a cameraman or a journalist, designing computer games or web-pages or applications for mobile phones, people with a Media Studies qualification are welcome in many careers. The creative, technical and logical thinking skills you develop are valuable in many wide and varied fields. Media Studies A-Levels qualify for UCAS points. They give students a wide choice of progression options into further study, training or relevant employment. Students who successfully complete the qualification will be well equipped to move onto degrees or BTEC Higher National Diplomas in related subjects.

### **Entry Requirements**

To study media you will need a Grade 5 in English Language.

### **Suggested Reading**

*Key concepts and skills for Media Studies*- James Baker

*WJEC/EDUQAS for A level Year 1* -Christine Bell and Lucas Johnson

I Daniel Blake (Film)

The Returned (Television)

Straight Outta Compton (Film)

Assassins Creed (Game)

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Exam Board: OCR



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

Physiological Factors - Anatomy & Physiology based. A detailed look into the Muscular, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems, including a section on the application of biomechanical principles in sport.

Psychological Factors - How we learn and improve both motor and perceptual skills and theories behind leadership and group dynamics.

Socio Cultural Issues in Physical Activity - Focussed around current trends in Sport and PE in the UK and world, including the modern technological influence on sport.

Practical Assessment 30% - Candidates are assessed in 1 approved sporting activity. It will be based on technical ability.

Coursework - There is one piece of coursework based on an approved sport. It will involve evaluating performance and planning for improvement.

### Assessment

Theory Exam 1 (2 hours) - Physiological Factors Affecting Performance 90 marks (30% Total A Level)

Theory Exam 2 (1 hour) - Psychological Factors Affecting Performance 60 marks (20% Total A Level)

Theory Exam 3 (1 Hour) - Socio Cultural and Contemporary Issues 60 marks (20% Total A Level)

Practical (15%) & Coursework (15%) - Performance in Physical Education 60 marks (30% Total A Level)

All components = 70% Theory, 30% Practical (of which 15% is Coursework)

### Career Opportunities

A-level PE is recognised as an academic A-level suitable for university, college or other higher education entrance. It is especially useful for careers or higher education courses in: PE/Sport, Sport Science, Science, Recreation/Leisure Management, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Teaching/Coaching, Public Relations, Health & Fitness Industry and

Professional Sport but is widely accepted for a lot of other courses/careers, i.e. Police Force, Armed Forces, Business Degrees, Science related degrees.

### Entry Requirements

Students wishing to take A Level PE need a grade 6 or above in GCSE PE. Additionally, students must be regularly taking part in or coaching at least one sport outside of school.

### Suggested Reading

J Honeybourne and S Powell (2016) OCR A Level PE for A Level Year 1.

# PHYSICS

## Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

Physics: A Greek word, φυσική, meaning nature. One does not need to look far into any science before we see the influence of Physics. From a plausible explanation of photosynthesis, to an understanding of chemical bonding: from climate change to stellar evolution: from geological change to the fate of the Universe, it is all captured by Physics. An understanding of Physics means we have a little more understanding of our Universe than we did before we studied it, which is what all Science is about.

#### **Year 1 (A1)**

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

#### **Year 2 (A2)**

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Turning points in physics

### Assessment

After two years the exams are as follows:

Paper 1 (2 hours) A1 topics + SHM

Paper 2 (2 hours) Thermal, Fields, & Nuclear

Paper 3 (2 hours) Practical + Data analysis

### Career Opportunities

As already stated, further study, beyond A Level, renders a Physics Graduate suitable for many professions. These include: Schools, Government funded labs, Medical physics facilities, High tech industries, Finance, Research, Engineering, NASA, ESA, and CERN, just to name a few! Finally..., We could list the famous people with an interest in Physics, just as we could tell you about dark matter, or string theory, or celestial mechanics, or..., however, it is more fun to find out for yourself, with a bit of guidance..., just like Physics!

### Entry Requirements

We would normally require: Grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics, Grade 6 at GCSE Physics (either Trilogy or Triple)  
However, each applicant will be considered on their own merit, individually.

### Suggested Reading

**Richard Feynman – Six Easy Pieces**

**Jim Al-Khalili – Quantum Mechanics, (expert series)**

# PSYCHOLOGY

**Exam Board: Edexcel**



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## Course Content

**Year 1:** (All topics include research methods.)

- Social psychology including obedience, prejudice and discrimination.
- Cognitive psychology including the structure and function of memory.
- Biological psychology including the structure and function of the brain.
- Learning theories including the role of conditioning in phobias and eating disorders.

**Year 2:** (skills including research and debates)

- One compulsory topic of Clinical psychology.
- A choice of one topic from Criminological psychology, Health psychology or Child psychology.

## Assessment

**Paper 1 (2 hours)** Social, cognitive, biological and learning theories.

**Paper 2 (2 hours)** Contains clinical and one topic from criminological, child or health psychology.

**Paper 3 (2 hours)** Contains methodology, review of studies and issues and debates in psychology.

## Career Opportunities

The study of psychology provides a useful foundation for further study at degree level. It is highly regarded by universities and employers because it develops skills of critical analysis. Psychology is particularly useful for careers such as Social work, Law, Teaching, Business, Marketing, Public services, Nursing and other health-related careers.

## Entry Requirements

Requirements to study psychology at A Level include 5 GCSE qualifications at grade 5-9 including English at grade 6, Maths at grade 6 and Science at grade 6.

## Suggested Reading

Freud for Beginners by Richard Appignanesi and Oscar Zarate

Introducing Psychology: A Graphic Guide to Your Mind and Behaviour by Nigel Benson

Mindwatching: Why We Behave the Way We Do by H.J. Eysenck and Michael W. Eysenck

Psychology: A Very Short Introduction by Gillian Butler and Freda McManus

Psychology of Mind, Science and Behaviour by R Gross (5th edition)

# SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA



ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

## Course Content

**Education with Theory and Methods** - Through this topic you will explore different sociological perspectives regarding the purpose of education, the reasons for differences in educational attainment and how social policies have changed our experiences of school. Methods in Context requires you to consider how sociologists would research issues in education.

**Topics in Sociology** - Topic 1: Families and Households accounts for 40 marks within this examination paper. Through this topic you will study the diversity of family forms and how societal changes have led to their emergence, such as cohabitation, divorce and the changes in childbearing. Topic 2: Beliefs in Society makes up the final 40 marks of this examination, in which you will study how various sociological perspectives view the function of religion in society, along with whether religion is as important today as it may have been in the past. The study of new religious movements will also be analysed to see the impact upon society and our belief systems.

**Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods** - You will be expected within this topic to be familiar with sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control, along with the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime. Within this examination you will also become familiar with how globalisation has impacted upon the types and frequency of crime within society. Theory and Methods will require you to be familiar with various research methods that sociologists may use along with answering question such as 'Can sociology be seen as a science' or 'Can sociologists be value free'.

## Assessment

**Paper 1** - 2 hour written examination on Education with Theory and Methods (33.3%)

**Paper 2** – 2 hour written examination on Topics in Sociology (33.3%)

**Paper 3** – 2 hour written examination on Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (33.3%).

## Career Opportunities

There are many different kinds of degree in this area, and it can be combined with other degree subjects as at A-Level. There are many graduate jobs related to Sociology, such as education, training and teaching, social/community work, social research, social worker and probation officer. If you do not go on to degree level in the subject, an A-Level will help get you a career in the areas of business, the public sector and the not-for-profit sector.

## Entry Requirements

Requirements to study sociology at A Level include 5 GCSE qualifications at grade 5-9 including English at grade 5, and Science at grade 5.

## Suggested Reading

Key Magazines – Sociology Review

Websites – [www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)

# BTEC National Extended Certificate in Art and Design

## Exam Board: Edexcel



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

### Course Content

The qualification gives an introduction to the study of art and design at this level. Learners develop art and design projects and gain an understanding of the creative process. They study visual recording and communication, critical analysis and production skills to produce art and design outcomes. The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the creative industries, as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

### Assessment

Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).

Three Mandatory Units

**\*Unit 1:** Visual Recording and Communication

**\*Unit 2:** Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design

**Unit 3:** The Creative Process

One Optional Unit

**Unit 4:** Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes

**\*Units 1 and 2 are externally set units**

### Career Opportunities

The BTEC level 3 Extended Certificate in Art and Design qualification is welcome in any creative environment. The creativity and practical skills you develop in art and design will enable you to use skills in an ever changing world in which we live in. These include; Advertising, Fashion, Architecture, Product Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Animation, and Sculptural Design. Art and Design can also lead onto a foundation course and degree courses in a variety of different skilled areas these include: Fine Art, Photography, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles and 3-Dimensional design.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art and Design or Merit at BTEC level 2 in Art and Design. However, If you do not meet the criteria exactly, we will consider your application on a case by case basis.

### Suggested Reading

Collage Sourcebook

Eye Witness Art: Perspective

Visual Elements In Art And Design

Secret Knowledge

Paper Pool

By Atkinson, J And Harrison, H

By Cole, A

By Palmer, F

By Hockney, D

By Hockney

# BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business Studies

**Exam Board: Edexcel**



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## **Course Content**

Students will undertake a variety of units that will provide an in-depth understanding of the principles of business. Topics will include: Exploring Business, Developing a marketing campaign, Personal and Business Finance, and Recruitment and Selection Process.

## **Assessment**

Unit 1 (Internally assessed coursework) – Exploring Business.

Unit 2 (Computer based externally assessed exam including a research project) – Developing a marketing campaign.

Unit 3 (2 hour external exam) – Personal and Business Finance

Unit 8 (internally assessed coursework) – Recruitment and Selection Process

## **Career Opportunities**

If you would like to study business, finance or management at university, BTEC Business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are also transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you will find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, You will probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help you achieve your potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that is the case, you will find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

## **Entry Requirements**

There is no requirement to have studied Business before however we do ask for 5 or more GCSE grades at 4 and above.

## **Suggested Reading**

Pearson BTEC National Business Textbook.

Local and National Newspapers.



# BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

**Exam Board: Edexcel**



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## Course Content

Students will undertake a variety of units that will provide an in-depth understanding of the Health and Social Care sectors. Topics will include the roles, responsibilities, skills and attributes of people who work within the health and social care sector, human development across the lifespan and how different factors affect development, including the impact of physiological disorders.

## Assessment

Unit 1 (90 minute exam) – Human Lifespan Development

Unit 2 (90 minute exam) – Working in Health and Social Care

Unit 5 (internally assessed coursework) – Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Unit 12 (internally assessed coursework) – Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

## Career Opportunities

Successful completion of the BTEC National Extended Certificate is the equivalent to 1 A Level. BTEC Nationals are valued by employers and higher education and a BTEC in Health and Social Care can lead on to; Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Primary Education, amongst others. BTECs also provide students with qualifications and essential skills should they wish to transfer directly to employment.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science, plus other supporting subjects

## Suggested Reading

- Keeping up to date with current affairs in relation to the Health and Social Care World. To include; care homes, laws and legislations and hospital ratings.
- [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) – Careers in Health in Social Care
- Pearson BTEC National Health and Social Care Level 3, Student Book.

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Exam Board: EDEXCEL



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## Course Content

Performing Arts is placed at the heart of school life. Students who take the course can expect to be challenged in a wide array of acting disciplines. In addition, students will have access to a purpose-built drama studio and a range of professional sound and lighting equipment. The course also offers students the opportunity to participate in many large-scale productions throughout the year, including musical theatre, Shakespeare, modern drama and variety shows. During the course, students will have tuition from specialist staff in acting. The skills that are learned and refined are then applied to productions and individual performances. The course is also designed to allow students to explore the reality of the performing arts industry; in order for this to happen students visit performing arts organisations and research theatre history as well as investigate modern theatre conventions.

## Assessment

The course is assessed through a combination of performances, portfolio-based coursework and two externally examined units. The externally examined units centre upon the creation of written work and practical performance and presentation; the work for both units is produced in controlled conditions over a designated period of time. The written elements of the course are heavily based on research with professionals and professional organisations, as well as charting the progress of individual students' progression.

## Career Opportunities

Whether it is working in the TV, film and theatre industries as a performer, director or writer or working in education as a drama/performing arts teacher, the **practical and creative** skills you develop are valuable in many wide and varied fields.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama would be beneficial. However, if you do not meet this criteria, applications will still be considered based on previous experiences of the performing arts.

Grade 4 or above in English is beneficial to aid the written elements of the course.

## Suggested Reading

Brown, J. (2001). The Oxford illustrated history of theatre. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.

Davies, D. (2011). The performing arts. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Whyman, R. (2014). Stanislavski. London: Routledge.

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

**Exam Board: Edexcel**



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## **Course Content**

Students will undertake a range of units which will give them broad and breadth knowledge across the sport sector with in depth understanding and knowledge of where they could take this subject further. They will complete units on anatomy and physiology which is all about the functions of various body systems and they will create a fitness programme and learn about training methods. They will also look at professional development within the sport industry and an optional unit will be chosen to complete the course.

## **Assessment**

**Unit 1 - Anatomy and physiology:** Exam of 90 minutes

**Unit 2- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being:** This unit will be assessed under supervised conditions. Learners will be given a case study one week before the supervised assessment period to carry out preparatory work. The supervised assessment period is a maximum of 2 and a half hours.

**Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry:** Internally assessed coursework

**Optional unit choice from:**

- Unit 4: Sports Leadership.
- Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing.
- Unit 6: Sports Psychology.
- Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance.

These are all internally assessed units through coursework.

## **Career Opportunities**

This course is geared for an individual who enjoys sport and would like to take it further into higher education and beyond. BTEC's are highly regarded as they are equivalent to A Levels. This course could lead you onto; Physiotherapist, Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Sport and Business and Teaching of PE.

## **Entry Requirements**

Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science, PE, plus other supporting subjects

## **Suggested Reading**

BTEC Level 3 National Sport Student Book 1

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism

**Exam Board: Edexcel**



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## **Course Content**

The travel and tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the UK. The value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £209 billion, and the sector employs around 4 million people. This qualification is perfect for students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the travel and tourism sector.

## **Assessment**

Unit 1 – The World of Travel and Tourism

Unit 2 – Global Destinations

Unit 3 – Managing customer expectations

Unit 4 - Optional Unit. Choice from -

- The airport experience
- Specialist tourism
- Visitor attractions
- Events conferences

The new BTEC Nationals use a combination of assessment styles to enable learners to showcase their skills and application of knowledge, so they can progress to higher education or employment. There are three types of assessment:

- Assignments – set and marked by the school (verified by Pearson)
- Tasks – set and marked by Pearson
- Written exam – set and marked by Pearson

## **Career Opportunities**

Successful completion of the BTEC National Extended Certificate is the equivalent to 1 A Level. BTEC Nationals are valued by employers and higher education and a BTEC in Travel and Tourism can lead on to employment in many of its connected industries. These include retail travel, visitor attractions, and accommodation, transport and tour operations amongst others. BTECs also provide students with qualifications and essential skills should they wish to transfer directly to employment.

## **Entry Requirements**

Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science, plus other supporting subjects

## **Suggested Reading**

BTEC Level 3 National Travel and Tourism Student Book 1 (Level 3 BTEC National Travel and Tourism)

# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Exam Board: AQA



**ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE**

## Course Content

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a major piece of individual research in which students have an opportunity to explore a topic or a question that is of particular interest to them. This could relate to future studies or career or just an area of interest. They are able to extend their knowledge and showcase their skills especially planning, research, critical thinking and evaluation. This course is an enrichment subject and should be taken alongside 3 other A Levels or equivalent subjects. Research has shown that a strong performance in EPQ correlates with a high degree award. To help prepare students to complete their project they receive taught skills sessions covering areas.

## Assessment

EPQ assesses across the key evidence submitted for the project. This must include:

- A completed log book which follows the 'journey' of the project.
- The project itself - usually a 5000 word report or an artefact, for example an art piece, computer program, event, plus a minimum 1000 word report.
- A presentation covering all aspects of the project process to a non-specialist invited audience.

There are four assessment objectives, which are assessed across all of this evidence, relating to:

- Managing the process
- Using resources
- Developing and realising the outcome
- Reviewing the process

## Career Opportunities

This qualification reflects the skills universities and employers demand such as independent working, planning and research skills.

## Entry Requirements

Good GCSE passes in all subjects.