

OUR LADY OF SION SIXTH FORM

WHY OUR LADY OF SION SIXTH FORM?

Our Lady of Sion is proud of its Sixth Form because it allows pupils to develop to adulthood within the security of a familiar community. The posts of responsibility held by members of the Sixth Form are valued not only by the School but by institutions of higher education and prospective employers.

The School is proud of its Catholic foundation but is, in fact, inter-denominational. The Sion ethos ensures that the School welcomes those belonging to different faiths and holding different world views. We encourage students to broaden their experience by contributing to the life of the community.

COME BECAUSE ...

✓ YOU WANT GOOD A LEVEL RESULTS

Our record shows that we have the teaching staff to let you compete on equal terms with any in the country. Our A Level pass rate was 99% last year, with 81.3% of results at grades A and B, and 91.7% at grades A-C.

The school is obviously very proud of its academic high-flyers, but in every year there are students who only just qualify for entry to the Sixth Form but nonetheless succeed in gaining very good results at A Level.

✓ YOU WANT TO BE TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Classes are small so there is close learning support from the staff. Progress is continually monitored on a monthly basis. The Resource Centre is used for Lower Sixth study. In addition, the Lower Sixth has its own Common Room and Study Room and the Upper Sixth share studies.

While Our Lady of Sion is a caring environment, you will have the freedom to develop as an individual. The final responsibility for your progress lies with you and coming to terms with this is an essential part of preparing for the outside world. We aim to produce independent, caring adults who are capable of thinking and working for themselves.

✓ OUR CAREERS SERVICE IS OUTSTANDING

At Our Lady of Sion we provide structured careers advice throughout the two years. You can be assured of assistance with choice of universities and the utmost care is taken over your UCAS references. The Careers Co-Ordinator and Head of Sixth Form will be on hand after the A Level results to help with any last minute changes of plan.

✓ **YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A STRONG TEAM**

There is plenty of scope to develop your leadership qualities. The House system at Our Lady of Sion depends on the abilities of the House Captains and Deputies, all of whom are drawn from the Sixth Form. The Heads of School and House Captains organise and run the Friday School Assemblies. The Sports Captains are involved in sport throughout the School as well as in arranging fixtures for the Sixth Form. If the prospect of being a prefect does not appeal, there are many other ways of developing your personal qualities. The Debating Society is run by a Sixth Form President and Vice-President. An Editorial Team produces the School Magazine. The Charity Prefects organise fundraising events throughout the School. The Sixth Form Committee organise a number of activities, which have included cake sales and a disco for pupils in Years 7 & 8, to fund the Leavers' Ball which is organised by the Upper Sixth at the end of the summer term. We will welcome your ideas for further societies and clubs.

✓ **YOU WANT TO GET OUT INTO THE WORLD**

All courses at Our Lady of Sion encourage you to look outward. We have organised team building and initiative courses in Year 12. Field trips in Geography are an integral part of the course and other subjects encourage theatre trips and conference visits. The Geography Department has taken groups to Snowdon and Barcelona. Students regularly attend pre-university courses in Mathematics, Biochemistry, Chemistry and Medicine at a variety of universities. Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in an outdoor pursuits' holiday in the Ardeche in France, as well as the World Challenge Expedition to Malawi-Mozambique which is planned for July 2013.

✓ **YOU WANT TO GIVE AS WELL AS TAKE**

The Outset Youth Action Programme has become an increasingly important part of the Sixth Form curriculum. Students are involved in a number of activities, including working in the local hospital, our Junior School, in charity shops and with handicapped children, the elderly, or with the terminally ill.

Mr Kevin Tilley
Head of Sixth Form

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ...

GCSE Level Results

C = 1	B = 2	A = 3	A* = 4
-------	-------	-------	--------

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – Our Lady of Sion Students

12 Points at GCSE required for 3 A Levels

If you wish to remain at Our Lady of Sion and continue into the Sixth Form you must have a good academic track record. More importantly, your commitment and attitude should have been positive and enthusiastic during the GCSE course and it is also expected that you will have achieved positive reports for behaviour. Students should achieve at least a 'B' grade in the subjects they wish to pursue at A Level and gained 'C' grades in English and Mathematics.

Please discuss your plans with the relevant Department Head in each subject before completing your application form since their agreement is necessary before you can be accepted for that course. The Department Head should be asked to sign your application form to indicate their approval.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – External Students

Students who wish to join Our Lady of Sion's Sixth Form from other schools should satisfy the minimum entry requirements for external students by achieving at least 24 points at GCSE. In addition, students should have gained 'C' grades in English and Mathematics, with at least 'B' grades in the subjects they wish to study in the Sixth Form. The offer of a place is dependent upon satisfactory GCSE results, plus a confidential reference from their previous Headteacher, including recent school reports and performance at interview.

ALL APPLICANTS

In the case of **ALL** applications to remain in, or join, the Sixth Form at Our Lady of Sion, the Headmaster reserves the right of refusal of any applicant.

Students are expected to share in the ethos of the Order of Sion, which is that of tolerance and bridge-building among all creeds, colours and nationalities. We feel it is very important for our sixth formers to be aware of God and of acceptable standards of morality and ethics. We hope they will also be concerned with the plight of others less fortunate than themselves, both here and throughout the world. All students are expected to attend Assemblies and Services throughout the year.

Catholic Holy Day Masses are held in St. Mary's adjacent to the School, while the School Chapel is always open to sixth formers for private meditation and prayer.

ENTRY FORMS SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL BY
THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2011

CURRICULUM 2008 AND BEYOND ...

From September 2008 significant changes were made to the 16+ curriculum. Most A Level syllabuses (specifications) comprise of four assessment units of study.

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) is a stand-alone qualification and is valued as half a full A Level qualification. It normally consists of two units (assessed at the standard expected for a student half-way through an A Level course) that contribute 50% of the full A Level.

The A2 is the second half of a full A Level qualification. It normally consists of two units (assessed at the standard expected for a student at the end of a full A Level course) that are worth 50% of the full A Level qualification.

Most units are assessed by examination, although some are internally assessed. The AS covers the less demanding material in an A Level course. The A2 covers the more demanding material. For example, in the A2 students might:

- specialise in an area they studied at AS
- extend their knowledge and understanding of the subject by studying new topics
- improve their skills

Also in the A2, students will combine knowledge, understanding and skills from across the A Level course through synoptic assessment.

A new A* grade was introduced in 2010. This is awarded to students who achieve:

- a grade A overall at A Level, and
- the A* on an aggregated A2, i.e. 180 out of 200 UMS for the combined scores of the two A2 units.

The A* grade is not awarded at AS Level because the more challenging material is introduced at A2 only.

THE MAIN PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The aim is to broaden the students' learning experience by encouraging them to study more subjects at AS Level (Year 12) - typically either 4 or 5 subjects - then usually 3 subjects to full A2 Level (Year 13). Successful completion of the AS Level (Year 12) is therefore required before students embark on the A2 Level.

ENRICHMENT

General Studies is used as a vehicle to broaden our students' general knowledge of current issues. Students will also enrich their learning experience in Careers, Games and Community Action.

THE OPTION BLOCKS

As a guide only, we hope to include the following subjects:

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Design & Technology
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German/Spanish
- History
- ICT
- Law
- Mathematics
- Music
- Music Technology
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology

The option blocks for September 2012 will be published in due course. It should be noted that for a course to be timetabled, there must be at least five applicants for that subject.

The following broadening studies are also taken by all students:

- General Studies (AS)
- Games/Community Action
- Careers

Students also have the opportunity to use the ICT facilities at any time.

THE CAREERS SERVICE ...

One of the most important factors in a Sixth Form experience is planning what to do when it ends! You can be sure that your (not quite) two-year course will fly by. Consequently, structured advice is essential and also available right from the start.

Careers Education and Guidance in the Sixth Form is delivered through a course which runs throughout the first four terms and in which all students will participate.

The course is largely practical and is made up of a series of 'workshop' activities. Although it will be tailored to meet individual needs, the following essential ingredients will be included:

- Consultation over choice of AS/A Levels to ensure that students have asked the right questions – e.g. Are you taking what you need? Are you taking what you enjoy most? Are you taking what you're good at? Are you taking enough subjects or too many? Does your combination of subjects 'hang together'?
- Participation in 'The Centigrade Scheme' – an in-depth computer analysis designed to indicate academic potential and opportunities beyond A Level.
- A visit to the annual 'Higher Education Fair' held locally where students can talk directly with university admissions tutors.
- Identification and investigation of skills and interests through workshop sessions, making full use of the wide range of specialist software. Also, extensive use of handout material to encourage self-evaluation and facilitate decision-making.
- Individual and group work on interview techniques leading to 'mock' interview practice.
- Action planning, job application, letter writing and construction of CV's.
- Introduction to UCAS in the Lower Sixth and ongoing assistance with the completion of university application forms in the fourth term.

In the fifth and final term of the course, careers advice will be available on an individual basis for any students who still need guidance at this time. Once the A Level results are published in August, further assistance will be available for anyone who needs help during this often crucial time.

In the uncertain job market of the twenty-first century, it is vital that all students plan carefully for their futures. Consequently, careers education and guidance has probably never been more important than it is today. The emphasis of the service at Our Lady of Sion is therefore on encouraging students to investigate fully the opportunities which exist for each and every one of them and to provide continuous structure and support throughout this period of self-discovery.

AS/A Level in Art ...

The A Level course supports a breadth and depth of study that builds on the skills of the GCSE course. It is an excellent preparation for students wishing to progress to Art College or to engage in careers involving the visual arts, with new technology involved where appropriate.

Analysing the work of artists and their own work in a contemporary, historical and cultural context is an essential part of the course.

Students will be assessed on 2 units at AS and 2 units at A2 - in each case 1 is coursework and 1 is examined (AS - 5 hours and A2 - 15 hours). Marks are awarded by a thorough and transparent moderation process.

Aims of the course

This course aims to encourage students to develop:

- intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers
- investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgment
- independence of mind in relation to developing own ideas, refining own intentions and personal outcomes
- an interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- the experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new media and technologies
- an understanding of the inter-relationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate
- experience of working within relevant and real frameworks and, where appropriate, make links to the creative industries
- knowledge, understanding and application of art, craft, design, media (traditional and new) and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures
- an awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design practice.

Entry requirements

Although no prior knowledge of the subject is required, students will find it difficult to follow the course if they have not studied GCSE Art and Design as the qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at that level. It is recommended that students have attained communication and literacy skills at a level equivalent to GCSE Grade C in English.

AS Units - Year 12

At AS, candidates should be introduced to a variety of experiences, employing a range of media, processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen area of study.

UNIT 1: Portfolio (80 marks) - 50% of AS marks (25% of total A Level marks)

- Candidates choose one of the endorsements for study throughout AS. The contents of the Portfolio will be determined by the nature of the course of study.
- Candidates should produce a collection of materials which exemplifies work carried out during the AS course.
- All the work produced for this unit will be marked as a whole.

Portfolio subject content

Candidates should submit:

- A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the depth and breadth of the course.
- At least one extended collection of work or project based on an idea, concept, theme or issue.

UNIT 2: Externally Set Assignment (80 marks) - 50% of AS marks (25% of A Level marks)

- Candidates select one of five starting points.
- The externally set assignment will last from 1st February until the deadline for receipt of marks.
- Supervised time: 5 hours.
- All the work produced for this unit will be marked as a whole.
- Internally marked and moderated by OCR.

Subject content

- Candidates may work in any appropriate form.
- Candidates may produce preparatory work and finished piece(s) or wholly developmental work.

A2 Units - Year 13

At A2, candidates are required to build upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in the AS with greater depth of study.

UNIT 3: Personal Investigation; Coursework (80 marks) - 25% of total A Level marks

- A personal investigation in which candidates develop work in response to an idea, issue, concept or theme of their choosing.
- Candidates are required to develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by 1000-3000 words.
- All the work produced for this unit will be marked as a whole.

UNIT 4: Externally Set Assignment (80 marks) - 25% of total A Level marks

- Assignment issued to candidates on 1st February.
- Supervised time: 15 hours.
- All the work produced for this unit will be marked as a whole.

Scheme of Assessment

The AS GCE forms 50% of the assessment weighting of the full Advanced GCE. AS GCE is assessed at a standard between GCSE and Advanced GCE and can be taken as a stand alone qualification or as the first half of the full Advanced GCE course.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/arts/art_noticeboard.php?id=06&prev=06

AS/A Level in Biology OCR ...

Biology and its potential

This course provides an opportunity to gain a sound understanding of Biology through the study of biological principles whilst exploring the modern applications of Biology. When studied to A Level it clearly provides an appropriate foundation for further study of Biology or related subjects in Higher Education. It has also proved to be a stimulating A Level for those wishing to study non-related disciplines at university, such as Law or English. It can lead to direct entry into employment, especially into the science and related sectors.

When taken to AS Level, it provides a worthwhile course for candidates from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education and lifelong learning. As such, it would form a valuable part of the post-16 curriculum.

Aims of the course

This course aims to:

- Sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, the study of living organisms.
- Recognise the value and responsible use of Biology in society.
- Promote an awareness of advances in technology, including IT, relevant to Biology in a changing world.
- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of biological concepts, and the skills needed for the use of these concepts in new and changing situations.
- To be a useful educational function for students not intending to study Biology at higher level.
- To be a suitable preparation for biological studies in higher educational establishments and for professional courses which require students to have knowledge of Biology when admitted.

Entry requirements

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at GCSE. Students should achieve a grade A or above at GCSE Level Science Dual Award or Separate Science Biology. Students must be able to:

- Work independently.
- Recall facts.
- Communicate effectively.
- Select, organise and present relevant information clearly.
- Apply biological principles in unfamiliar situations.
- Assess the validity of information and experiments.
- Devise and plan appropriate experimental activities.

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those who have an interest in, and enjoyment of, Biology.
- Those who wish to use Biology to support other qualifications or to progress onto further studies, not necessarily related to Biology.
- Those who wish to follow a career in one of the many fascinating biologically related fields.

Biology and Key Skills

This AS and A Level course provides opportunities for developing and generating evidence for assessing the Key Skills listed below:

- Communication.
- Information Technology.
- Application of Number.
- Working with Others.
- Improving Own Learning and Performance.
- Problem Solving.

The broad and multi-disciplinary nature of Biology that calls upon candidates' abilities to demonstrate the transferability of their knowledge, understanding and skills makes it an ideal vehicle to assist candidates to develop their knowledge and understanding of Key Skills and to produce evidence of their application.

Course structure, content and assessment

AS (H021)

F211: Cells, Exchange and Transport	1 hour written paper AS - 30% A2 - 15%
F212: Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health	1 hour 45 minutes written paper AS - 50% A2 - 25%
F213: Practical Skills in Biology 1	Internal Assessment AS - 20% A2 - 10%

A2 (H421)

F214: Communication, Homeostasis and Energy	1 hour written paper A2 - 15%
F215: Control, Genomes and Environment	1 hour 45 minutes written paper A2 - 25%
F216: Practical Skills in Biology 2	Internal Assessment A2 - 10%

For further information, visit the OCR Website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/science/biology/>

AS/A Level in Business Studies AQA 2130 ...

Business Studies and its potential

Students with AS or Advanced GCE Business Studies (AQA) have access to a wide range of possible careers and higher education opportunities. This subject combines well with a range of Science, Social Science and Humanities subjects to lead to university courses in areas such as:

- Accounting, Banking, Business, Economics, Geography or Politics.
- Higher National Diploma in Accounting, Business, Personnel or Marketing.
- The subject also provides students with an opportunity to access many of the Management Training Programmes that are offered by the Civil Service, Retail and Financial Services sectors.

Aims of the Business (AQA) course

The qualification aims to:

- Develop an understanding of relevant business concepts and theories and an ability to apply them to a range of real-world issues;
- Enable students to acquire the ability to make decisions in the light of evaluation, quantification and management of business information;
- Develop an awareness and understanding of business and economic behaviour from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customers, managers, creditors, owners/shareholders, employees and society;
- Enable students to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of business within a changing economic environment and the role of citizens, businesses and governments within it.

Entry requirements

Please note carefully:

- It is not essential for students to have studied Business at GCSE level. However, where they have, a grade B or better is desirable.
- Due to the nature of the content and assessment methods used, at least a B grade in English and Mathematics would be preferable.
- It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and economic affairs and a desire to explore new ideas and communicate them effectively.

Who is this course suitable for?

The qualification at AS and A2 is suitable for students who:

- Want to keep their options open - Business can be combined with a wide range of Science, Social Science and Humanities subjects.
- Enjoy reading and studying a subject that affects their everyday lives.
- Have completed GCSE courses Business and wish to further their studies.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/business/business_noticeboard.php?id=05&prev=05

AQA GCE (2420) Chemistry ...

Chemistry and its potential

The study of A Level Chemistry can prepare the student for the following options:

- To follow a degree course in Chemistry, Environmental Science, Veterinary Medicine, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy. These are a few of the courses with direct links, but the UCAS website (www.ucas.com) and handbook gives further guidance as to other possibilities.
- To follow a Higher National Programme in Chemical Science or other related programmes.
- To enter employment in the areas of Pharmacy, Biochemistry and Biotechnology and other related areas.

Aims of the Advanced Chemistry course

The qualification aims to:

- Stimulate and sustain students' interest in, and enjoyment of, Chemistry.
- Enable students to gain knowledge and an understanding of Chemistry appropriate to AS/A Level.
- Show the inter-relationship between the development of the subject and its application in society today (social, economic, environmental and technological).
- Recognise the value of chemistry to society and how it may be used responsibly.
- Develop students' skills in laboratory procedures and techniques.
- Develop students' ability to acquire knowledge by means of practical work, and to integrate theory and practical work.
- Provide opportunities for students to bring together knowledge of how different areas of chemistry relate to each other and to appreciate the interlinking patterns which are a distinguishing feature of the subject.

Entry requirements

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at GCSE. It is expected that students will have achieved at least a grade A at GCSE in Chemistry or Additional Science. Students will be expected to be able to work independently, communicate effectively, research and think critically about chemical problems.

Who is this course suitable for?

This qualification is suitable for students who:

- Have an interest in, and enjoyment of, Chemistry.
- Enjoy the application of imaginative, logical and critical thinking.
- Want to use Chemistry to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies.

Course structure, content and assessment

AS (1421)

UNIT 1: CHEM1 Foundation Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Amount of substance
- Bonding
- Periodicity
- Introduction to Organic Chemistry.

Examination paper: 1 hour 15 minutes, available January and June.

UNIT 2: CHEM2 Chemistry in Action

- Energetics
- Kinetics
- Equilibria
- Redox reactions
- Group II & VII
- Extraction of metals
- Further Organic Chemistry.

Examination paper: 1 hour 45 minutes, available January and June.

UNIT 3: Internal or External Assessment Investigative and Practical Skills in AS Chemistry

June entry.

A2 (2421)

UNIT 4: CHEM4 Kinetics, Equilibria and Organic Chemistry

- Kinetics
- Equilibria
- Acids & Bases
- Nomenclature and Isomerism in Organic Chemistry
- Further Organic Chemistry.

Examination paper: 1 hour 45 minutes, available January and June.

UNIT 5: CHEM5 Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry

- Thermodynamics
- Periodicity
- Redox Equilibria
- Transition Metals
- Aqueous Inorganic Chemistry.

Examination paper: 1 hour 45 minutes, available January and June.

UNIT 6: Internal or External Assessment Investigative and Practical Skills in A2 Chemistry

June entry.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/science/chemistry.php>

Design & Technology at A Level (3-D Product Design) AQA 2550 ...

AS Outline

At AS Level candidates should develop an understanding of a broad range of materials, with emphasis on the life cycle of products, manufacture and final disposal. This specification also considers the broader issues for the designer, including the environmental sustainability of products and consumer safety.

The AS has 2 units:

UNIT 1: Topic list

- Developing an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties in a broad range of materials and components
- The broader issues for the designer, including the environmental sustainability of products and their manufacture
- Methods in which materials and components can be manipulated to manufacture products
- Health and safety issues relevant to working with materials
- Computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM)
- Ergonomics and anthropometrics, inclusive design, and consumer safety
- The life cycle of products, including manufacture, use and functional aspects and final disposal.

Assessment

Written Exam: 2 hours

Weighting: 50% of total AS / 25% of total A Level marks

This paper is based primarily on Materials and Components, consisting of three sections:

- Section 1 contains compulsory limited response questions
- Section 2 offers a choice of one question from two
- Section 3 contains one compulsory question.

UNIT 2: Coursework Assessment

Coursework: Approximately 50 hours

Weighting: 50% of total AS / 25% of total A Level marks

This unit is in the form of a written design portfolio similar to the one completed at GCSE.

A2 Outline

At A2, candidates are offered the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and practical skills. Candidates will continue to develop a body of coursework alongside an understanding of the processes and procedures of commercial production and manufacture.

A2 has 2 units which build on the units from AS:

UNIT 3: Topic List

- The work of past and present designers
- Classifying materials and identifying, testing and comparing their application to product manufacture
- Risk assessment
- Examination of alternative designs and redesigning existing products
- Use of natural resources, materials utilisation, conservation, waste disposal/management, pollution, recycling
- Appreciation and understanding of the use of ICT applications in manufacturing
- Moral, economic, social and environmental responsibilities of the designer
- Planning production procedures and methods
- Control systems.

Assessment

Written Exam: 2 hours
Weighting: 25% of total A Level marks

This paper is based primarily on Design and Manufacture; it is the Synoptic paper. The paper consists of two sections with a choice of three questions from six. This written paper will include sufficient synoptic assessment to test the candidates' understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject and their holistic understanding of the subject.

UNIT 4: Coursework

Assessment

Coursework: Approximately 60 hours
Weighting: 25% of total A Level marks

This unit is a written design folder. Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial designing and making activity.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/technology/dt_product_3d_materials.php?id=07&prev=07

AS & A2: A Level in English Literature AQA 2745...

English Literature and its potential

English Literature at Advanced GCE opens doors, whatever career you may be considering. Not only does it provide a solid foundation for reading the arts at university, it is also respected highly by faculties of science and medicine. Careers in the media, journalism, business or law are all facilitated by study of English Literature at this level.

Aims of the English Literature course:

- to develop an informed response to a wide range of literary texts
- to sharpen awareness of writers' choices and their craft
- to hone critical acumen and enable lucid articulation of informed independent opinions and judgments
- to develop the ability to evaluate the contexts in which literary texts are written and understood
- to develop skills in independent study.

Entry requirements

Aspiring students should preferably have at least an A grade in both English and English Literature at GCSE.

Who is this course suitable for?

English Literature will suit students who:

- have a genuine interest in reading and enjoy texts of all periods and genres
- enjoy expressing opinions and justifying comments on texts
- are sufficiently motivated to commit to studying independently
- want to keep their options open for further study.

Course structure, content and assessment

AQA English Literature B

- Twelve texts [six at each level] including at least one from each of 1300 – 1800; 1800 – 1945; Post-1990 and a Shakespeare play.
- Four modules: two at AS; two at A2.
- AS: Unit 1, examination: Aspects of Narrative; Unit 2, coursework, two pieces [one of which can be re-creative]: Dramatic/Tragic Genres.
- A2: Unit 3, examination: Texts and Genres; Unit 4, coursework: Further and Independent Reading [at least one text will be the student's personal choice and studied independently].
- Coursework is compulsory at both levels.
- Two teachers deliver the course at each level.

This new specification started in September 2008.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/english/english-literature-b/english-literature-b-key-materials.php>

A Level Geography ...

We follow the AQA 2030 specification. Fieldwork is an important part of both courses.

The AS specification has two units:

UNIT 1: Physical and Human Geography

Topic list:

- Rivers, floods and management core topic
- Cold environments, coastal environments and hot desert environments and their margins *
- Global population change core topic
- Food supply issues, energy issues and health issues *

*One of these optional topics to be studied.

Assessment

Externally assessed Written Paper: 2 hours

Weighting: 70% of total AS / 35% A Level marks

UNIT 2: Applied Geography

Topic list:

- Basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills.
- Research skills and the assessment of AS fieldwork. This will be tackled in January of Year 12 based on the fieldwork completed in Snowdonia.

Assessment

Externally assessed Written Paper: 2 hours

Weighting: 30% of total AS / 15% A Level marks

A2 Outline

At A2, candidates will continue to study a combination of human and physical geography. The A2 specification has 2 units:

UNIT 3: Contemporary Geographical Issues

Topic list:

- Plate tectonics and associated hazards
- Weather and climate and associated hazards
- Challenges facing ecosystems
- World cities - evolution or revolution?
- Development and globalisation
- Contemporary conflicts and challenges.

Three topics to be studied: one physical and one human, plus one other to be selected.

Assessment

Externally assessed Written Paper: 2 hours
Weighting: 30% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions and an essay.

UNIT 4A: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

Assessment

Externally assessed Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes
Weighting: 20% of total A Level marks

Structured short and extended questions based on candidates' own fieldwork investigation. This will be based on fieldwork carried out in Snowdonia or Barcelona.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/humanities/geography_materials.php?id=10&prev=10

AS/A Level in History ...

The course in both Years 12 & 13 follows the **AQA** approved specifications:

Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

Advanced (A2)

In **Year 12** students will take **TWO** modules to **AS Level**:

UNIT 1: Understanding change over time

The chosen option is:

HIS1G Britain, 1815-65

UNIT 2: A short period of history studied in depth

The chosen option is:

HIS2L The Impact of Stalin's Leadership on the USSR, 1924-41

SCHEDULE & ASSESSMENT

Six periods per week (three for each unit) and assuming a maximum 30 week course in Year 12, allowing for study leave for both January and June modular exams.

UNIT 1: Understanding change over time

(worth 50% of AS and 25% of A Level)

Three periods per week throughout the year, leading to a modular exam in the summer. Assessment is by an exam lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Two questions to be answered from a choice of three two-part questions.

UNIT 2: A short period of history studied in depth

(worth 50% of AS and 25% of A Level)

Three periods per week throughout the year, leading to a modular exam in the summer. Assessment is by an exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. One compulsory two-part, source-based question and one structured two-part question from a choice of two.

SKILLS & STUDY METHODS

Students need to have an enquiring mind and a capacity for hard work. They also need to possess good written skills and be prepared to participate freely in class discussion. There is a lot of directed reading, note-taking, exam practice. This requires high levels of personal organisation and the ability to work independently and in groups.

In **Year 13** students will take **TWO** modules to **A2** (full A Level):

UNIT 3: Understanding breadth and depth

The chosen option is:

HIS3G British State & People, 1865-1915

UNIT 4: Coursework (analysis of an historical issue & change over 100 years)

The chosen option is:

The Civil Rights Movement in the USA, 1861-1980

SCHEDULE & ASSESSMENT

Seven periods per week and assuming a maximum 30 week course in Year 13, allowing for study leave for both January and June modular exams.

UNIT 3: Depth & breadth

(worth 60% of A2 & 30% of full A Level)

Four periods per week throughout the year, leading to a modular exam in the summer. Assessment is by an exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Two questions to be answered from a choice of three, one of which is synoptic.

UNIT 4: Coursework

(worth 40% of A2 & 20% of A Level)

Three periods per week throughout the year, leading to the completion of a 3,500-word essay. This will be an historical analysis of Civil Rights in the USA and showing understanding of change over a period of 100 years. The coursework will be marked by the school and moderated by AQA.

SKILLS & STUDY METHODS

Students will normally be expected to have gained a grade C at AS level before progressing automatically to the second stage of the course. A2 is a big step-up from AS. Students will build on their skills acquired at AS level and they will need to show both development and enhancement of their own study methods. This will be particularly evident in the coursework, which is intellectually very challenging.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/humanities/history_materials.php?id=10&prev=10

GCE (ICT) Information and Communication Technology ...

General

This new specification GCE ICT has been designed to help students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where understanding how ICT can be used in society and business, and the implications of its use, will be a valuable asset.

Among the many benefits, this new specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- work co-operatively and manage projects
- develop personal learning and thinking skills
- provide quality ICT-based solutions to a range of problems
- develop an awareness of developments in technology.

AS Outline

At AS Level, there are two units which are complementary and are concerned with applying ICT to solve problems and the study of the opportunities for, and affects of, using ICT in the world today.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute externally marked written paper.

UNIT 1: Practical Problem-Solving in the Digital World

This unit includes the practical use of ICT, identifying, designing, producing, testing, documenting and evaluating solutions. The more theoretical aspects covered include data entry, storage, output of information, use of software, current health and safety legislation.

Candidates will have the opportunity to put into practice a wide range of software and hardware to create solutions to solve problems, such as Web Site Design using Dreamweaver CS3.

UNIT 2: Living in the Digital World

This unit includes ICT systems, their components, their uses, their users, safety and security. Other topics covered are: networking, data & information, data transfer, legislation, backup & recovery, factors affecting the use of ICT and the consequences of using ICT.

A2 Outline

At A2 Level, there are two units:

UNIT 3: The Use of ICT in the Digital World

This unit includes developments in technology, information needs of organisations, ICT systems and the management of ICT. Further topics are the development of ICT systems, introducing large ICT systems into organisations and training and supporting users of ICT systems.

Assessment

Externally assessed Written Paper: 2 hours

UNIT 4: Coursework - The Use of ICT in the Digital World

This unit includes practical skills involved in managing the use of ICT in organisations, investigating, analysing, defining requirements, selecting and using appropriate technologies, designing solutions, methods for testing and installation, documenting and evaluating systems.

In Year 13 students will study the concepts associated with the use of ICT in the 21st century. They will also have opportunities for acquiring the skills needed in the IT profession, such as co-operative working and project management. These practical skills can be developed in areas of ICT that are of interest to them. Students can also use these newly acquired skills as a springboard into other qualifications and working environments.

A typical coursework project could be a Web Site Design for an Online Business using Dreamweaver.

Assessment

Coursework task that is marked internally and externally moderated

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/ict/ict_materials.php?id=04&prev=04

Languages in the Sixth Form Edexcel ...

Key principles

The assessment specification at GCE has changed for all subject areas and students had the first examination at AS Level in 2009 and at A2 in 2010. We are using the Edexcel Examination Board to assess Modern Foreign Languages, as it offers students a clear focus and control of assessment. The new specification will have a reduced number of units, with revised topic areas and grammar lists, seeking to provide a more logical progression from GCSE to AS Level. The A2 specification will in turn provide a realistic progression from AS and will reward advanced research and reading skills. The specification also acknowledges the importance of the knowledge and understanding of the target language culture in addition to literary study.

Assessment overview

		Tasks	% of AS/A2	% of Advanced GCE	Time
UNIT 1:	Spoken expression and response to target language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responding to set questionsDiscussion	30% of AS	15%	8-10 minutes
UNIT 2:	Understanding and written response in target language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listening and understandingReading and understandingWriting task	70% of AS	35%	2½ hours
UNIT 3:	Understanding and spoken response in target language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5 minutes speaking on chosen issue, adopting a stance and justifying opinionsDiscussion	35% of A2	17.5%	11-13 minutes
UNIT 4:	Research, understanding and written response in target language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Translation into target languageTarget language essayResearch-based essay	65% of A2	32.5%	2½ hours

General topic areas at AS

- youth culture and concerns
- lifestyle, health and fitness
- the world around us
- education and employment

In addition to these topic areas, **A2 students** will study:

- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events
- Literature and the arts

For further information, visit the Edexcel Websites:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/lang/french/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/lang/german/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/UA024855%20GCE%20in%20Spanish%20Iss2%20210510.pdf>

AS/A2 Level in Law OCR H134 (AS) OCR H534 (A2) ...

Why study Law?

Studying Law at A level is useful for anyone hoping to go to University to study subjects such as Politics, History, Government, Media, Law, Business and Social Sciences. The skills and knowledge acquired studying Law are useful in careers in the Civil Service, Business, Journalism, Politics, Law, the Police and in Management.

The AS/A2 Level Law course is varied and exciting. Students will learn about legal institutions, the relationship between the individual and the state, Law making by Government and the Courts, and legal principles generally. In the second year the focus is on the actual Criminal Law in England and Wales.

Aims of the course

- Develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning
- Develop techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to solve problems by analysing legal rules
- Develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and to utilise legal authority
- Develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

Course requirements

No previous knowledge of the Law is required. It is recommended that students have attained at least a grade B at English Language GCSE.

Exam requirements

The course is assessed through examination at the end of the period of study. At AS level there are two papers. There are two exams at A2, the second of which is the special study paper.

Course Content at AS Level

The first paper involves the study of:

- Police powers – stop and search, arrest, detention and treatment of suspects
- Criminal courts – bail, mode of trial, Magistrates Courts and Crown Courts
- Sentencing – aims, different types of sentence and the power of the courts
- Civil courts – County Court and High Court, procedure and problems
- Alternative Dispute Resolution – mediation, conciliation and arbitration
- Appeals – rights of appeal and the appellate courts
- Legal profession – training, work and regulation of barristers and solicitors
- Judiciary – selection, role and independence
- Magistrates – selection, training and role
- Juries – qualification, role in trials and alternatives to juries

The second paper focuses on the sources of Law

- Doctrine of precedent
- Acts of Parliament
- Delegated legislation
- Statutory interpretation
- European Law
- Law reform

Course content at A2 Level

The first paper covers the Criminal Law in England and Wales

- Actus reus – causation, omissions,
- Mens rea – intention, recklessness, foresight, malice,
- Strict liability offences
- Attempted crimes
- Offences against the person – murder, involuntary manslaughter, defences
- General Defences – insanity, automatism, duress, necessity, intoxication
- Non-fatal offences against the person – assault, battery, wounding, grievous bodily harm
- Defences – self-defence, mistake, consent
- Offences against property – theft, robbery, burglary

The second paper is the Criminal Law Special Study. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of specified areas of Law and to use legal methods and reasoning to analyse legal material.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions, complete set work, read articles and to do some guided research. There is plenty of practice at past exam questions and opportunities for presentations. The course encourages discussion and criticism of issues arising in the different topics. There are visits throughout the course; to the police custody suite, Crown Court, Parliament and the Old Bailey. We will also have guest speakers including a solicitor and barrister.

For further information, visit the OCR Website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/law/>

Mathematics in the Sixth Form Edexcel 8371 (AS) Edexcel 9371 (A2) ...

Year 12 Core Maths 1 & 2, Statistics 1
Year 13 Core Maths 3 & 4, Mechanics 1

We are sometimes able to offer AS Level Further Maths (also Edexcel)
Statistics 2, Mechanics 2, Further Pure Maths 1

Studying Mathematics at A Level

A Sixth Form course in Mathematics is suitable for students who:

- are interested in, and enjoy, mathematics
- need mathematical skills to support their work in other subjects
- wish to develop their ability to apply mathematical thinking.

At Our Lady of Sion we offer an AS in Mathematics in Year 12, which is usually continued into Year 13 to give a full A Level course. Students who are very interested in the subject, and may wish to study it at university, are afforded the opportunity to take extra units in Year 13 to gain an extra AS Level in Further Mathematics.

Course structure and content

Students will study three modules in Year 12; namely Core Maths 1 & 2, and Statistics 1. Students wishing to complete a full A Level in Year 13 will take three further modules, Core Maths 3 & 4, and Mechanics 1. Each examination is 90 minutes long and all modules are equally weighted.

Pure Mathematics

When studying pure mathematics at AS and A Level you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some brand new ideas such as calculus. Although many of the ideas you will meet in pure mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of mathematics, especially mechanics and statistics.

Mechanics

When you 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.

Statistics

When you study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it.

For further information, visit the Edexcel Website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/maths/Pages/default.aspx>

AS/A Level in Music Edexcel 8MU01 (AS) Edexcel 9MU01 (A2) ...

Aims of the Advanced Music course:

Music aims to enrich and develop your skills by:

- Extending knowledge and awareness of a wide range of music,
- Widening your experience of performing both solo and with various groups,
- Developing composition skills, both with and without technology.

Entry requirements

GCSE Music is desirable but not essential. More importantly, students should be working towards at least Grade 5 in their first instrument at the beginning of Year 12. By the **end** of the A2 course a **minimum** standard of Grade 6 is expected.

A Level Music can lead to:

- **Further study:** A University degree course in an increasing number of subject areas, including Music, History of Music, Media Studies and Performing Arts. History, Art, Languages, Computing and Psychology are all popular combinations with Music, and many others are possible.
- **Career opportunities:** Advanced Courses may lead to an exciting career in performing, recording, composing, music publishing, promotions and marketing, journalism, broadcasting, studio work including sound engineering, instrument making and repair, teaching, retail, arts administration, music therapy, etc.
- **Free travel opportunities** exist for young performers - for example, performing on cruise ships or in embassies, schools and colleges abroad.

For further information, visit the Edexcel Website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/music/music/Pages/default.aspx>

AS/A Level in Music Technology Edexcel 8MT01 (AS) Edexcel 9MT01 (A2) ...

Aims of the Advanced Subsidiary Music Technology course:

Music Technology aims to stimulate interest and enjoyment of music through:

- Developing skills in recording and sequencing a wide range of music,
- Extending the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to communicate through music,
- Listening to, and analysing, developments in technology.

Entry requirements

Students considering this course should have a good working knowledge of ICT and a strong interest in developing recording and sequencing skills. Some ability on a keyboard is desirable and students should possess a fair understanding of notation. The course is well resourced in the school, having three dedicated MIDI/PC workstations, state of the art digital recording equipment and a full Sibelius site licence.

A Level Music Technology can lead to:

Further study: A vocational or University degree course in an increasing number of subject areas.

Career opportunities: Direct entry to studio work including including sound engineering, instrument making and repair, theatre technical crew, film work, rock band crew etc.

For further information, visit the Edexcel Website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/music/tech/Pages/default.aspx>

AS/A2 in Philosophy AQA 2170 ...

Why Study Philosophy?

There are many benefits to studying Philosophy. It encourages students to think for themselves, to develop reasoning and questioning skills and to present their own ideas coherently. The course allows for the examination of many modern ideas and theological issues.

Philosophy at A Level is useful for many courses at university including Law, Theology, Politics, History, English and the Social Sciences. Philosophy would benefit careers in Law, Politics, the Civil Service, Journalism and Education, or where an ability to relate the abstract to everyday experience is needed.

Aims of the course

- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of issues in texts as well as an awareness of central debates and philosophical positions.
- Interpret and analyse arguments, relate to examples through own experience and knowledge.
- Assess arguments to be able to form reasoned judgments.

Course requirements

Students should have achieved a minimum of a Grade B at English Language GCSE.

Exam requirements

The AS course is assessed through two Unit papers at the end of the period of study. The A2 course is examined through two papers, with the second paper being a choice of texts by different philosophers.

Course Content at AS Level

UNIT 1:

- *Reason and Experience - Study of how we gain Knowledge:*
Examines ideas from Plato, Hume, Kant and Descartes, as well as the key ideas in the theory of knowledge acquisition.
- *Why should I be moral? - Introductory study of Morality:*
Examines ideas of social contract, self-interest and duty, including a study of theories from Hobbes, Locke, Aristotle, Kant and Hume.

UNIT 2:

1. *Tolerance - An introductory topic of Political Philosophy:*
Defining tolerance, liberal ideals, tolerant individuals and a tolerant society.
A first introduction to Mill.
2. *Free will and Determinism - An exploration of the debate of whether we truly have free will:*
Looks at scientific determinism, fatalism, compatibilism and free agency.
Key Philosophers include Hume and Sartre.

Course Content at A2 Level

UNIT 3: Expands on the study done at AS level.

1. *Political Philosophy:*

A detailed examination of political ideologies, nation states, marxism and liberalism, conceptions of rights, liberty and justice.

A study of global justice and just war theory.

2. *Moral Philosophy - A thorough consideration of morality:*

The nature of moral truth, naturalism and the denial of moral truth through relativism, emotivism and prescriptivism.

Making moral decisions using utilitarian ideas, deontological ethics and wisdom.

UNIT 4: This is entitled Philosophical Problems and includes a study of a key text.

The study is of 'On Liberty' by J.S. Mill.

Students will be thoroughly prepared to answer an essay paper on this text.

Students will be expected to read a wide range of material, to précis their reading, critically analyse material and to relate material to everyday experience as well as important global issues. It is essential that students are willing to engage in all class discussions and that they complete regular set work including essays, reading and presentations.

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/humanities/philosophy_materials.php?id=10&prev=10

AS/A2 Level in Physical Education OCR H154 ...

Physical Education and its potential

- Today there are many careers in Physical Education, Leisure and Recreation. Completing the AS Physical Education course will enable students to enter this market or, alternatively, to go onto Further Education Colleges and Universities to study for HND's or Degrees.
- AS Physical Education embodies the students not only with extensive subject knowledge, but also other Key Skills essential for the world of work. For example, students will develop social and interactive skills, learning to work effectively as a member of a team, attaining targets and ultimately being successful.

Aims of the course

The main purpose of the course is to develop the students' theoretical knowledge and their ability to put the theory into practice.

Entry requirements

- The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at GCSE.
- It is expected that students will have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE and have a particular strength in the theoretical content at GCSE level.
- Students following this course are expected to participate at Club level in two sports and compete to a high standard in at least one of them.

Who is this suitable for?

Students who wish to undertake further studies in Physical Education in order to work in the Leisure, Recreation and Education industries. This may, however, mean gaining additional qualifications from Colleges and Universities. The course is also well suited to students considering the armed forces or public services as a career.

Course structure

The AS level course will involve:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Social studies in sport and physical education.

Assessment will be a written exam contributing towards 60% of the course. The remaining 40% is an assessment of two practical activities and an evaluation of a live performance showing a detailed understanding of the activity.

The second year of the course enables students to develop a detailed understanding of the sporting world. The content includes:

- Sport Psychology
- Exercise Physiology
- History of Sport.

Students will also be expected to specialise in their practical activity and will therefore only be **assessed in one sport**. It is therefore important that all candidates participate in a sport at Club level or higher.

For further information, visit the OCR Website:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/>

AS/A Level in Physics OCR Physics A ...

Physics could be described as the study of matter and energy. At its most fundamental level it attempts to explain how the Universe works. It encompasses phenomena on both a huge and minute scale; ranging from quasars to quarks, the Big Bang to bosons and from mass to energy (and back again).

All science is Physics or stamp collecting.

E. Rutherford

Aims of the course







The course aims to:

- Stimulate students' interest in, and enjoyment of, Physics.
- Enable students to gain knowledge and understanding of Physics.
- Encourage an understanding of the importance and *beauty* of science.
- Give students an appreciation of the social, environmental and economic effects of Physics, and its applications, on society.
- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievement in all the Key Skills.

Entry requirements

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed at GCSE. It is expected that students will have achieved grade A or A* in GCSE Physics or Science Dual Award.

The study of Physics, as with any science subject, requires many skills. These include:

-  Factual recall.
-  Understanding ideas.
-  Mathematical and data analysis skills.
-  Experimental skills.
-  Communication skills.
-  Organisation.

Who is this course suitable for?

The qualification is suitable for students who:

- Have an interest in, and enjoyment of, Physics.
- Enjoy both theoretical and practical investigation.
- Wish to progress on to further studies.
- Want to use Physics to support other qualifications.
- Would like to follow a career in one of the numerous Physics related areas.

*Only two things are infinite, the universe and stupidity,
and I'm not sure about the former.*

A. Einstein

Course structure

The AS course will provide a satisfying experience for the student who chooses to take Physics as part of a broad post-16 curriculum. At the end of the course they should know more of what Physics is about and its place in the world. At the same time, the AS course will provide a sound foundation for the student who wishes to go on to the second year and to take the A2 examination.

The AS course consists of 3 units:

- **Mechanics** [30% - 1 hour written paper]
- **Electrons, Waves & Photons** [50% - 1¾ hours' written paper]
- **Practical Skills** [20%]

The A2 course leads to an A Level Physics qualification which will enable the student to go on to study Physics or an associated course at university; at the same time it will provide an interesting and stimulating experience for the student who does not pursue the subject further.

The A2 course requires the study of:

- **Newtonian World** [15% - 1¼ hours' written paper]
- **Fields, Particles & Frontiers of Physics** [25% - 2 hours' written paper]
- **Practical Skills** [10%]

Experimental skills are developed throughout the course and are based upon **coursework investigations** assessed by the centre.

Key Skills

The specification also provides opportunities for students to develop and generate evidence for assessing all the Key Skills:

- ✓ Communication.
- ✓ Application of Number.
- ✓ Information Technology.
- ✓ Problem Solving.
- ✓ Working with Others.
- ✓ Improving Own Learning and Performance.

Text Books

OCR AS Physics Student Book	Heinemann	ISBN978-0-435691-82-0
OCR A2 Physics Student Book	Heinemann	ISBN978-0-435691-95-0

For further information, visit the OCR Website:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/science/physics_a/

*I saw a medley of haphazard facts fall into line and order...
"But it's true" I said to myself. "It's beautiful. And it's true."
C.P. Snow*

AS/A Level in Psychology AQA A 2180 ...

Psychology is a popular choice of subject for AS and A Level. Many of the students who take A Level Psychology go on to study the subject at university, including one student who went to Oxford University to read Psychology.

So what is Psychology?

Psychology is the study of behaviour. It is a subject that forms a link between the biological sciences and the social sciences. If you think that by studying this course you will be able to read people's minds or be a qualified psychiatrist after one year, then you will be disappointed. Psychology has recently been classified as a Science by the QCA, and it combines well with both Arts and Science courses at A Level.

Aims of the course

This course encourages students to:

- Study psychological theories, research, terminology, concepts, studies and methods.
- Develop skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation.
- Develop an understanding of different areas of Psychology, including the core areas of Cognitive, Social, Developmental Physiological Psychology and Individual Differences and Research Methods.
- Design and report psychological investigations and analyse and interpret data.
- Develop an understanding of ethical issues in Psychology, including the ethical implications of psychological research.

Entry requirements

It is not necessary to have studied the subject at GCSE. However, as this is a subject that needs competent written answers, then a grade B in English would be useful. At A2 Level, the entry assessment is by essays.

For AS, the 2 modules will be:

Module 1: PSY 1

Cognitive Psychology - Memory

Developmental Psychology - Early social development

Research methods

Module 2: PSY2

Biological Psychology - Stress

Social Psychology - Social influence

Individual Differences - Psychopathology

For A2, possible areas of study include:

- Addiction
- Aggression
- Gender
- Eating Disorders
- Paranormal Psychology
- Relationships

For further information, visit the AQA Website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/a-level/science/psychology-a/psychology-a-key-materials>