

BIOLOGY CHEMISTRY PHYSICS
ENGLISH ECONOMICS HISTORY TEXTILES
MATHS FURTHER MATHS
HISTORY
FRENCH BUSINESS
PHOTOGRAPHY PSYCHOLOGY SOCIOLOGY
ART LATIN
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION
ENGLISH LITERATURE
DANCE SPANISH
FILM STUDIES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

GEOGRAPHY
DRAMA
TECHNOLOGY
MUSIC

A LEVEL AND BTEC GUIDE 2024 -2025



**Kent
College**

ART

Course Content

The A Level course follows the OCR Fine Art specification comprising of two units across the two years.

- ➔ Personal Investigation (60%) including a written related study
- ➔ Externally set task (40%)

At A Level, students are expected to undertake independent, creative work, specialising in an area of study which includes painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Set in our impressive purpose-built studio space, the Art Department houses equipment and facilities to aid exploration in almost any medium or material.

Career Opportunities

Our Upper Sixth students consistently achieve superb results at A Level, with most candidates gaining entry to leading Colleges of Art and Design for Foundation Courses, and direct entry to art-based degree courses.

The most usual route for Kent College students planning a career in Art and Design is as follows:

- ➔ A good grade at GCSE level
- ➔ A Level Art
- ➔ A foundation course at an art college
- ➔ A degree course in a specific area of art or design
- ➔ Employment

Successful students go on to careers in areas such as fine art, graphic design, industrial design, fashion, textiles, furniture design, interior design, ceramics, illustration, film, animation, photography and architecture.

Students going on to Art and Design courses will be guided in their creation of a portfolio suitable to their application/course, application statement, reference and interview technique.





BIOLOGY

Biology A Level will give students the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, students bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Entry Requirements

A Level Biology builds on previous work completed in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Maths. The minimum entry requirement for the course is grade 7 or above at GCSE Biology or equivalent grade (7,7) at GCSE Double Award Science. Sound mathematical skills are also required, as is a working knowledge of Chemistry and Physics.

Topics Covered over the two years include:

First year of A Level	Second year of A Level
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Biological molecules2. Cells3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Energy transfers in and between organisms6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems8. The control of gene expression

Exams

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level Biology are based on what is learned in practicals. Exam questions include a mixture of short and longer answer questions, extended response questions and a comprehension question in Paper 2. In addition, Paper 3 contains structured questions, including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay from a choice of two titles.

Coursework no longer exists and has been replaced with a Practical Endorsement for Biology. Teaching of practical skills is an integral part of the course and throughout the two-year course, Sixth Formers' practical competence (use of apparatus and techniques) will be recorded and assessed internally, by staff at Kent College.

Career Opportunities

A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. Transferable skills like problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

BUSINESS

The course will give students the opportunity to:

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

Key Features

Students will be introduced to Business in Themes 1 (Marketing and People) and 2 (Managing Business Activities) to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 (Business Decisions and Strategy) and 4 (Global Business), requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues. Students will be encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Young Enterprise Scheme which will give them the opportunity to create and manage a new business they have created and developed as part of a team. The Young Enterprise Scheme allows participants to gain valuable practical experience, working and competing with groups of Sixth Formers from other local schools involved in the scheme.

Assessment

This is a 100% exam based subject where assessment will be by data response and extended open response questions. Students will sit three papers at the end of two years.

Career Opportunities

This course will prepare students for a wide range of any career choices, as today's society requires an understanding of the principles of business. This course is relevant to those interested in business management, marketing, advertising, media, financial management, accounting, business law, human resource management, banking or retailing in the public or private sector.

CHEMISTRY

The OCR (Specification A) A Level Chemistry course is designed to be a natural continuation of GCSE Chemistry and involves the study of the three major branches of the subject: organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. It is considered to be the central science because of its links with other scientific disciplines. As students learn to develop a logical, analytical approach to solving problems, it can be both an exciting and challenging subject.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement for the course is grade 7 or above at GCSE Chemistry or equivalent grades at GCSE Double Award Science. We would, however recommend a grade 8 or above. Sound mathematical skills are also required.

Course overview

Module	Content
Module 1	Development of practical skills in chemistry
Module 2	Foundations in chemistry
Module 3	Periodic table and energy
Module 4	Core organic chemistry
Module 5	Physical chemistry and transition elements
Module 6	Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment Overview

Paper	Assessment	Exam	Weighting
Paper 1	Periodic table, elements & physical chemistry (modules 1,2,3 & 5)	2hr 15	37%
Paper 2	Synthesis & analytical techniques (modules 1,2,4 & 6)	2hr 15	37%
Paper 3	Unified chemistry (all modules)	1hr 30	26%
Non-exam	Practical Endorsement for Chemistry: Reported separately (does not count towards the A Level)		

The teaching of practical skills is an integral part of the course and Sixth Formers will be required to develop their skills (planning, implementation, analysis and evaluation). Throughout the two year course, Sixth Formers' practical competence (use of particular apparatus and techniques) will be recorded and assessed internally as part of the Practical Endorsement for Chemistry.

Career Opportunities

Demand for people with qualifications in chemistry is high. Chemistry graduates are sought after to work on industrial and academic research, in the chemical industry, the financial world, in management and in many other areas where numeracy and other problem solving skills are valued.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Sixth Formers taking Classical Civilisation at A Level are given the opportunity to step into the fascinating past, examining the inspiring, influential and mysterious cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. This varied course gives pupils an appreciation and understanding of the origins of Western literature and drama, while fostering analytical skills and an intellectual flexibility that is vital in the modern workplace. The course is supported through trips to ancient sites, drama performances and seminars. A Level pupils do not need to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE.

Course Content

The World of the Hero (40% of total A Level)

In this component we will study selected books from Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as Virgil's *Aeneid*, developing an increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves, their style and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of the societies in which they were composed.

Greek Theatre (30% of total A Level)

This module examines drama (tragedy and comedy) and the theatre in ancient Athenian society, including:

- ➔ the structure of the theatre space, and how this developed;
- ➔ use of actors and the Chorus, masks, costumes and props;
- ➔ literary techniques, structure, and dramatic conventions in both tragedy and ancient comedy

We will study the following plays in depth: Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frogs*.

Greek Religion (30% of total A Level)

Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity, permeating all strata of society and all aspects of an individual's daily life. Among the topics studied are:

- ➔ ancient religious ritual and the role it played in society;
- ➔ the functions and layout of famous temple complexes;
- ➔ the nature of the gods and their relationship with mortals;
- ➔ the role and nature of hero cults;
- ➔ mystery cults, including the importance of initiation;
- ➔ oracles, priests and priestesses;
- ➔ the rise of philosophical thinking and how this was viewed within Greek society.

Career Opportunities

Classical Civilisation is a stimulating course which can be combined with any other subject. Most importantly it will enrich understanding of a wide range of disciplines, broadening education and career options for the future. Sixth Formers in the past have found their study of Classical subjects beneficial at university, particularly in fields such as law, history, art, architecture, classics, theatre studies, English, politics, economics and languages.

Employability skills such as critical thinking, presentation skills, and comparative skills will be developed during the course.

DANCE BTEC

Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performance – Equivalent to one A Level

Dance BTEC is an exciting course that develops technical and performance skills, choreographic craft and an ability to analyse a student's own work and that of professional practitioners.

The course is made up of five units, two mandatory and three chosen by the student. This allows flexibility to work within areas that interest students the most.

The course is equivalent in size to one A Level and is intended as a pathway to higher education and a career in the performing arts industry.

Assessment Structure (Dancing):

The course consists of five units, of which two are mandatory (one is externally assessed) plus three further optional units.

Mandatory Units:

- ➔ Group Performance Workshop – Externally Assessed
- ➔ Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance – Internally Assessed

Two Optional Units (taken from):

- ➔ Classical ballet
- ➔ Tap dance
- ➔ Jazz dance
- ➔ Contemporary dance
- ➔ Physical theatre
- ➔ Healthy Dancer
- ➔ Choreography for live performance
- ➔ Movement in performance
- ➔ Improvisation

There is no written exam.



DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies can be taken from either a performance or design point of view. The design route involves studying the set texts in Component 1 from a performance and/or design perspective; Component 2 Creating Original Drama and Component 3 Making Theatre can also be explored from a design point of view. Examples of design are lighting; sound; set; directing and costume.

Sixth Formers considering this area of study should have excellent performance skills and the ability to lead, guide and support group work. Alongside our usual tuition, we offer trips to the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. The A Level course is complementary to the GCSE Drama course but, as we have proven in the past, it is not necessary to have studied Drama at GCSE to be successful at this level.

Modules and Assessment

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Study of two set plays, including practical sessions, and analysis and evaluation of live theatre makers.

Written exam – 80 marks (40% of the A Level)

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (practical)

Process of creating devised drama. Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

Working notebook – 40 marks

Devised performance – 20 marks

60 marks in total (30% of the A Level)

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical)

Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play.

Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to extract 3.

Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Performance of extract 3 – 40 marks

Reflective report – 20 marks

60 marks in total (30% of the A Level)

This component is marked by AQA.

Career Opportunities

Kent College Sixth Formers have gone on to study a number of related university degree courses and then taken up careers in acting, lighting & sound design and stage management. Those who do not intend to pursue careers in the theatre will find the experience highly beneficial for employment in public relations, business, advertising and all careers which require strong presentation and communication skills.



ECONOMICS

Course Introduction

There aren't many A Level subjects as dynamic as Economics. Economics is the study of how societies, governments, businesses, households, and individuals allocate their scarce resources. At both local and global levels, economists study elements of geography, history, law, politics, psychology and sociology. Economics is typically divided into two categories, micro and macroeconomics. Economics is not simply all about numbers.

Key Features

The first year introduces students to the micro-economic part of the subject. They will learn about the problems that societies face because of the growing problem of scarcity of resources. Students will also learn how markets operate, what makes them efficient and also how they might fail. With regard to the latter they will learn that while competitive markets might make for successful economies, greedily striving for more wealth might also lead to problems such as poverty, inequality and environmental damage.

In the second year students will develop their understanding. Students will learn how and why earnings vary so greatly between different groups, such as males and females. Controversial issues such as the impact of the National Minimum Wage will be critically examined and the impact of organisations such as trade unions on the labour market will be assessed. The work also incorporates an overview of how markets are changing in the UK.

Assessment

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour (35% of total qualification)

Paper 1 will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.

Duration: 2 hours.

Paper 2: The National and Global Economy (35% of total qualification)

Paper 2 will assess Macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.

Duration: 2 hours

Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics (30% of total qualification)

Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes. Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

Duration: 2 hours

Career Opportunities

As well as being equipped to handle modern life with a broad knowledge of A Level Economics, there are a number of university choices and career options where having A Level economics is preferable or, in some cases, absolutely necessary.

Possible career choices A Level Economics can offer you include accountancy, stockbroker, banker and online financial and business-related careers, however most require a higher level of education. Your A Level economics can lead you to degrees in economics, business studies, social sciences and engineering.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What are the advantages of having an English A Level?

- ➔ English A Level is a facilitating subject, highly respected by the Russell Group universities.
- ➔ Students develop the ability to think creatively, a crucial skill in today's changing world.
- ➔ It encourages the skills of problem solving, analysis and reasoning.
- ➔ Students learn collaboration as well as developing better written and oral communication skills.
- ➔ The course develops independence through secondary reading and research.

Course Content

We follow Edexcel syllabus for A Level English Literature, chosen because it is a robust and engaging syllabus which allows students to read a wide variety of texts across the literary genres. The coursework component is an added advantage which encourages independent learning skills and a deeper appreciation of English Literature. The syllabus is made up of four components:

Paper 1: Drama (30% of total marks)

In this paper, students are required to write two essays, one on a Shakespeare play and one on another play. There is no element of comparison. In addition, they are required to refer to an anthology of critical material compiled by the examination board which includes essays on the set Shakespeare play.

Paper 2: Prose (20% of total marks)

In this paper, students are required to write one comparative essay on two novels. One novel must be taken from the pre-19th century selection.

Paper 3: Poetry (30% of total marks)

In this paper, students are required to compare an unseen poem with one of a selection of poems they will have studied in class. The second question on the paper requires them to write an essay on the poet/poetic movement they have studied during the two-year course.

Paper 4: Coursework (20% of total marks)

Coursework allows for students to work independently. Students are required to write about two texts.

Career Opportunities

An A Level in English Literature is highly respected by employers and universities. Almost all careers require employees to be able to analyse situations perceptively as well as express themselves in writing concisely and clearly. Careers which are directly related to the study of English include: journalism, teaching, writing, editing and publishing. Careers for which the skills taught in an A Level in English Literature course would be advantageous are: law, public service, financial services, public relations and marketing.

FILM STUDIES

The Film Studies A Level follows the EDUQAS syllabus and focuses on the craft of artistry of film. Sixth Formers on the A Level Film course take part in lively discussions with peers and independently reflect on the value of film as an artistic medium. In addition to celebrating students' own interests in film, the course is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. The two year course covers mainstream American films from the past and present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films, global films and a variety of film movements including silent film and experimental film. Students are treated as prospective filmmakers, with the aim of developing their own creative and artistic sensibilities through exposure to and critical engagement with different kinds of film and filmmaking practices.

Course Content

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking (Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes)

35% of the qualification

Section A: Hollywood 1930–1990 (comparative study)

Section B: American film since 2005 (two film study)

Section C: British film since 1995 (two film study)

Component 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives (Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes)

35% of the qualification.

Section A: Global Film (two film study)

Section B: Documentary Film

Section C: Film Movements (Silent Cinema)

Section D: Film Movements (Experimental Film: 1960–2000)

Component 3: Production (NEA/coursework)

30% of the qualification

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Students produce either a short film (4–5 minutes in length) or a screenplay for a short film and a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section.

Films studied on the course include: Vertigo, Do the Right Thing, Captain Fantastic, La La Land, Pan's Labyrinth, House of Flying Daggers, Fish Tank, Trainspotting, Memento, Amy, a selection of Buster Keaton shorts, and a selection of short films.

Career Opportunities

The A Level Film Studies course helps students to develop a number of skills which are highly sought after by both potential future employers and higher education institutions including critical thinking, analytical writing, reasoning, verbal communication, as well as technical skills. Many film students go on to forge successful careers in the arts and culture sector including the film industry, broadcasting, journalism, publishing, advertising and marketing, photography and design.





FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION (LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA)

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to learners who have studied Food Science and Nutrition.

Course content

You will complete three units: two mandatory and one optional, over the two years.

Unit 1: Meeting nutritional needs of specific groups will enable you to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on-going practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

Unit 2: Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat will allow you to develop your understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again, practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Studying one of the two optional units Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems or Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition will allow you the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to you, building on previous learning and experiences.

What skills will I develop?

You will build on and extend your practical food preparation skills and also each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose demands authentic work related learning in each of the available units. It also requires you to consider how the use and application of your learning impacts on yourself, other individuals, employers, society and the environment. The applied purpose will also enable you to learn in such a way that you develop:

- ➔ skills required for independent learning and development.
- ➔ skills to ensure your own dietary health and well being.
- ➔ a range of generic and transferable skills.
- ➔ the ability to solve problems.
- ➔ the skills of project based research, development and presentation.
- ➔ the ability to apply mathematical and ICT skills the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment.
- ➔ the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

Assessment:

The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment.

Career Opportunities

Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, such as AS and A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Sociology and Maths and/or Level 3 qualifications in Hospitality or Science, students will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as: BSc Food and Nutrition, BSc Human Nutrition, BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition and BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology.

FRENCH AND SPANISH

By studying French and/or Spanish, Sixth Formers develop the ability to communicate and comprehend language to a high level, together with an awareness of the society, history and culture of the corresponding countries. Beside opportunities to spend time abroad, we aim to foster an enthusiasm for language learning that goes beyond the classroom.

Students studying French will be offered the opportunity to take part on three day trip to Paris to explore some of the cultural topics covered in the French syllabus. Students taking Spanish may have the chance to take part in a cultural visit to either Seville or Valencia at the end of the Spring Term. The department encourages students to see plays and films in their chosen language(s) and we regularly attend the cinema A Level Days offered every year at the British Film Institute in the two languages.

During the two year AQA course, Sixth Formers study topics based around the society and culture of the relevant countries. They include, for example, the role of the media and the politics and economics surrounding issues such as migration and integration. In addition, Sixth Formers will study a historical or political topic, a literary text and a film:

French:

- ➔ The French political system and current political trends
- ➔ Literary text: No et Moi by Delphine de Vigan
- ➔ Film : Au Revoir Les Enfants, by Louis Malle

Spanish:

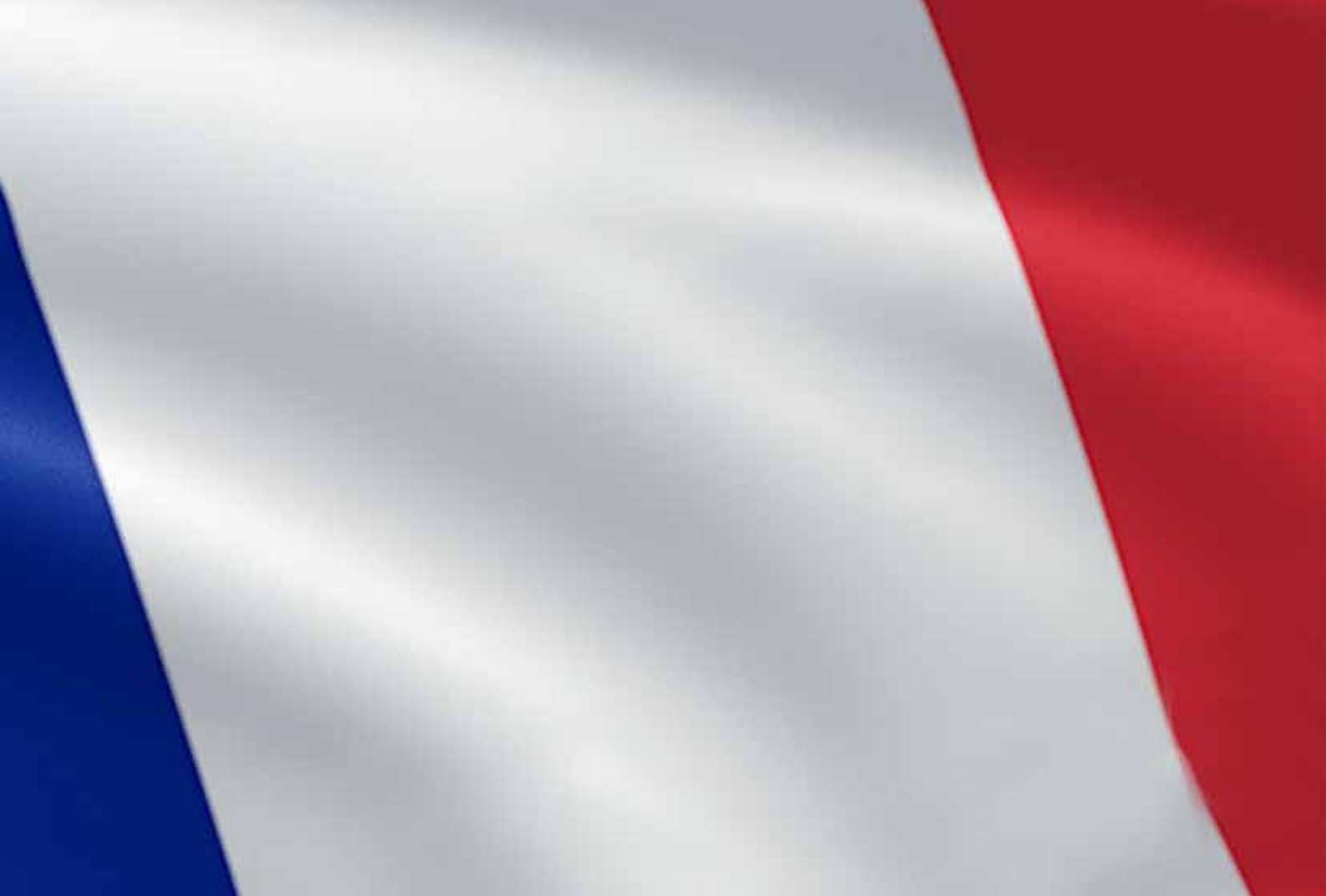
- ➔ Franco's dictatorship and the transition to democracy and current political popular movements in Spain and Latin-America
- ➔ Literary text: Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
- ➔ Film: Volver by Pedro Almodóvar

Assessment:

Two externally-examined papers will assess listening, reading and writing. Your teachers will conduct a speaking assessment which is externally assessed by the Examination Board.

Career Opportunities

In an increasing global employment market, it is a major advantage to speak a foreign language. Europe is the UK's largest export market and UK employers in areas such as law, banking, management consultancy, the Diplomatic Service, tourism and the arts are looking for employees who can offer a foreign language in addition to their specialist skills. Universities also look favourably on applicants with foreign language skills and value their capacity to argue a case and their eye for detail.





GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a popular option at A Level. It is up to date, relevant and is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. Students enjoy the scope of the material covered, the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us and the contemporary nature of the issues it tackles. It is a versatile subject, which bridges arts and sciences and has, as its focus, the relationships between people and their environment both locally and globally. Geography helps us to understand our own lives in a global world and face issues like climate change, water, food security and poverty eradication.

The range of skills covered is equally useful whether students intend to continue their studies at university or enter the world of work. The A Level course will help develop and produce evidence of problem solving, data collection, communication skills, spatial awareness, report writing, graphicacy, decision-making, statistical analysis, independent research, IT, teamwork and leadership. Fieldwork supports topics taught and there are optional curriculum enrichment trips to locations such as Iceland and Dorset's Jurassic Coast.

Assessment:

Paper 1: AS. Core Physical Geography. Data response and structured questions. Weighting 25%.

- ➔ Hydrology, rivers, floods and management.
- ➔ Atmosphere and weather.
- ➔ Plate tectonics, rocks and weathering.

Paper 2: AS. Core Human Geography. Data response and structured questions. Weighting 25%.

- ➔ Population. Population– resource relationships and management.
- ➔ Migration. Internal and international processes and patterns.
- ➔ Urban and rural settlement in developed and developing countries.

Paper 3: A2. Advanced Physical Geography options. Structured questions and short essays. Weighting 25%.

- ➔ Hazardous environments. Tectonic processes, mass movements and atmospheric disturbances.
- ➔ Coasts. Coastal processes and landforms. Coral reefs. Sustainable management or deserts.

Paper 4: A2. Advanced Human Geography options. Structured questions and short essays. Weighting 25%.

- ➔ Global interdependence. Trade, debt and aid. Tourism and sustainable management.
- ➔ Economic transition. Global inequalities in social and economic well-being. Transnational companies. Regional disparities and management.

Each examination is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Examinations: Cambridge International Geography A Level retains an AS examination (Papers 1 & 2) taken in late October or early November of the Upper Sixth year. This could be in half-term fortnight. The A2 examination (papers 3 & 4) is taken at the end of the two year course.

NB: There is no compulsory field work and no course work in this geography syllabus.

Career Opportunities:

Statistics show that compared with other subjects geographers are among the most employable. This is because they possess the abilities and skills which employers look for, derived from a combination of arts and sciences. Examples include: environmental sustainability, sustainability and Economics, ESG (environmental, social and governance), financial services, personnel, conservation, planning, environmental consultancy, Geographical Information Systems, IT, marketing, heritage management, research, teaching, management, information services, water companies, civil service, the media, leisure and tourism, land management, surveying, cartography, weather forecasting, geology, transport, development and graduate training schemes in most companies.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Politics is a fascinating and fluid subject that challenges ideas about how democracy works. By studying this subject at A Level, Sixth Formers will learn how government and politics operate, in theory and practice, in both the UK and the USA. They will complete a comparative analysis between the two democratic systems, and will address such thorny issues as the impacts and implications of Brexit, the Johnson premiership, and the Biden presidency. What do our current democracies look like and can they survive in our 'hyper-partisan' and 'post-truth' political cultures?

Core political ideologies such as conservatism, liberalism, and socialism are also critically examined and contrasted with another highly influential idea of our time: multiculturalism. Overall, students gain a keen sense of the types of issues that are confronting our modern times, and the sorts of characters and ideas that are gaining traction influencing the debates that are increasingly consuming us. There has never been a better time to study politics.

Sixth Formers will develop research skills and engage in independent study. They are encouraged to challenge their own beliefs, and to develop further their skills of empathy and persuasive argument. They will learn how to approach short structured questions, how to study stimulus material, and how to structure analytical essays all of which will prepare them for life beyond Kent College.

Unique to Kent College, Sixth Formers have 24/7/365 access to a dedicated online learning environment where they can find and exploit a huge range of resources. For example, every lesson for every part of the course is found there alongside countless videos, podcasts, articles, exam past-papers, question HOWTOs, and other downloads available at the touch of a mouse. Revision tools top off this high-class resource.

Politics is a natural partner to many other A Level subjects as the skills and knowledge gained are applicable in many other areas.

Course Content

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK.

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics.

Paper 3: Political Ideas (including liberalism, socialism, conservatism and multiculturalism).

Assessment

Examining Board: AQA. Each Unit carries 33.3% of the final A Level mark. Sixth Formers are required to answer three short questions, one extract piece, and a more expansive essay in each of the three two hour examinations. There is no coursework for A Level Government and Politics.

Career Opportunities

The study of Government and Politics provides an excellent pathway into any degree or career which requires individuals to be able to write and think analytically. Since Sixth Formers learn to cultivate a synoptic viewpoint—drawing materials from any part of the politics course—they are well equipped to contribute intelligently in contemporary debate. Government and Politics ensures that Sixth Formers leave compulsory full-time education as informed and critical global citizens—increasingly recognised as an essential quality in higher education and the workplace. Government and Politics A Level is accepted as an entry subject by the top UK universities as the skills gained provide an excellent foundation for undergraduate and postgraduate study.



HISTORY

History prepares pupils for the future, equipping them with knowledge and skills that are prized in adult life, enhancing employability and developing an ability to take part in a democratic society. It encourages mutual understanding of the historic origins of our ethnic and cultural diversity, and helps pupils become confident and questioning individuals.

In A Level History, students are encouraged to investigate and analyse the topics through a range of sources and develop their awareness of different viewpoints. By considering different interpretations, students develop an understanding of the nature of the discipline of History, and the ways in which History is produced. Students will consider why historians produce different interpretations of the same events and of the different approach historians adopt to their work. Students are constantly encouraged to ask the question, 'What is History?' and to develop their own responses to this question. Through the study of different events in different countries at the same time, they are able to develop an understanding of the impact individuals and ideas have on society.

Course content

Linear A Level (assessed at the end of Upper Sixth)

Edexcel Route F: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century.

- Unit 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96
- Unit 2: South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation.'
- Unit 3: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923
- Unit 4: This is the coursework unit, worth 20% of the total A Level. Our students have a free choice of topic, but we run a course on 20th Century Civil Rights in the USA and usually they select a topic from within the course.

Assessment

Paper One: Breadth study with interpretations: 2 hrs and 15 mins. Focus on causation, consequence and evaluation of historical interpretations.

Paper Two: Depth study: 1 hr and 30 mins. Focus on the analysis and evaluation of contemporary source material and causation, consequence and change.

Paper Three: Themes in breadth with aspects of depth: 2 hrs and 15 mins. Focus on the analysis and evaluation of contemporary source material and causation, consequence and change together with essays based on the process of change.

Coursework: Independently-researched enquiry analysing and evaluating historical interpretations. The focus will be on a question or problem that has generated disagreement amongst historians.

Career Opportunities

The skills developed when studying for an A Level in history are relevant and transferable to any future study. Techniques of research, analysis, interpretation and debate will be applicable in any future employment or education and you will develop these to a very high level. History as a subject is highly regarded and higher education establishments value the study of History. Many of our students have continued on to study history at top UK universities and pursued historical research through to doctorate level.

LATIN

Latin is a highly respected subject that is ideal for Sixth Formers who are interested in languages, literature or even the arts. Latin suits a very broad range of degree or career options including Law, History, History of Art, English, Modern Languages and Politics.

Course Content

Units:

Latin translation paper and comprehension paper: 50% of total mark

Candidates will need to demonstrate the ability to translate from Latin into English and answer comprehension questions on an unprepared text. Students who have done GCSE Latin should find that the language requirements at A Level build naturally on their experience at GCSE.

Latin verse and prose literature papers: 50% of total mark

Those who appreciate literature should find Latin very rewarding. Candidates examine some of the finest texts ever written. For the prose literature paper, they will examine the speeches of Cicero (the model for many a lawyer today) and the historical writings of Tacitus; for the verse literature paper, they will have the opportunity to study the love poetry of Ovid, a poet so controversial he was exiled for his work, and selections from Virgil's grand epic, the Aeneid. They will demonstrate understanding of literary techniques, and have the opportunity to make a personal response to the texts.

All units will be assessed by external examinations at the end of the second year.

Career Opportunities

Latin is a stimulating course which can be combined with any other subject. Most importantly it will enrich understanding of a wide range of disciplines, broadening education and career options for the future. Sixth Formers in the past have found their study of Latin relevant to a wide range of subjects at university, including law, history, art, architecture, classics, English, politics, economics and languages.

Employability skills such as critical thinking, presentation skills, and comparative skills will be developed during the course.



MATHEMATICS

An A Level in Mathematics develops skills in logical thinking and the ability to process information accurately. There are very few degree subjects for which A Level Mathematics would not be an acceptable entrance requirement.

Why Mathematics?

Research has shown that people with a post-GCSE qualification in mathematics are very employable. A Mathematics degree is very desirable and can lead to jobs such as engineering, computing, law, finance and communications.

Mathematics also complements and assists the understanding of a number of other A Level subjects such as Psychology, Geography, the Sciences, Economics and Business Studies.

Requirements to study Mathematics

Students wishing to study Mathematics at A Level must have at least a Grade 7 at GCSE. However, we would ideally suggest a Grade 8 or 9.

Examination Structure and Content Overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics consists of three externally-examined papers.

Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year, most commonly, all three papers are taken at the end of Upper Sixth.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper code: 9MA0/01) Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (Paper code: 9MA0/02)	Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (Paper code: 9MA0/03)
Each paper is: 2 hour written examination 33% of the qualification 100 marks <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Topic 1 – Proof➔ Topic 2 – Algebra and functions➔ Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane➔ Topic 4 – Sequences and series➔ Topic 5 – Trigonometry➔ Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms➔ Topic 7 – Differentiation➔ Topic 8 – Integration➔ Topic 9 – Numerical methods➔ Topic 10 – Vectors	2 hour written examination / 33% of the qualification / 100 marks
Assessment overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content.➔ Students must answer all questions.➔ Calculators can be used in the assessment.	Content overview Section A: Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Topic 1 – Statistical sampling➔ Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation➔ Topic 3 – Probability➔ Topic 4 – Statistical distributions➔ Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing Section B: Mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics➔ Topic 7 – Kinematics➔ Topic 8 – Forces and Newton's laws➔ Topic 9 – Moments

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Further Mathematics is taken in conjunction with mathematics and is an additional qualification. It is particularly useful for those pupils who wish to pursue careers in mathematics, the sciences, engineering, computing and finance. For some courses at some universities this may be a requirement.

Requirements to study Further Mathematics

Students wishing to study Further Mathematics at A Level are expected to have achieved a Grade 9 at GCSE or IGCSE. In exceptional cases, a Grade 8 may be considered.

Examination Structure and Content Overview

The Further Mathematics A Level builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding established in the GCSE course and the Level 3 Mathematics course. Assessments throughout the course will be designed to reward students for demonstrating the ability to provide responses that draw together different areas of their knowledge, skills and understanding from across the full course of study for both the Level 2 Mathematics and Further Mathematics programs. Problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling will be assessed in Further Mathematics in the context of the extensive knowledge which students taking the course will have studied.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics consists of four externally-examined papers.

Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.

<p>Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (Paper code: 9FMO/01)</p> <p>Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (Paper code: 9FMO/02)</p>	<p>Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1 (Paper code: 9FMO/3A–3D)</p> <p>Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2 (Paper code: 9FMO/4A–4D)</p>
<p>Each paper is:</p> <p>1 hour 30 minutes written examination 25% of the qualification: 75 marks</p>	<p>Each paper is:</p> <p>1 hour 30 minutes written examination 25% of the qualification: 75 marks</p>
<p>Content overview</p> <p>Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations</p>	<p>Content overview</p> <p>For each paper students take one module.</p> <p>Modules can be chosen from Further Pure Mathematics, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics and Decision Mathematics.</p> <p>The modules chosen will be depend on the students studying Further Mathematics, with the final decision being made by their teachers.</p>
<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content.➔ Students must answer all questions.➔ Calculators can be used in the assessment.	<p>Assessment overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Students must answer all questions.➔ Calculators can be used in the assessment.



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

This course is designed to train students in the art of music production by delivering exciting coursework projects and engaging them in the analytical study of associated concepts, theories and functions. Our studio is equipped with industry standard interfaces, microphones and software (Logic Pro X) to enable students to hone their skills as a producer and as a recording engineer.

A Level Music Technology now falls under the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) category of study. Students will undertake study of sound waves and voltage controlled synthesisers, and they will learn how to calculate reverb time and EQ curves, apply directional microphone techniques, acoustically treat recording spaces, combat phase issues on multi-miked instruments and analyse frequency spectrums and gain structures. This content allows students to demonstrate exceptionally high order thinking skills, which are incredibly valuable for their development.

Course Content

C1: Recording (20%) Coursework – recording a song from a set artist – choice of 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Microphone selection and placement➔ Mixing➔ Gain structure and routing➔ Digital editing techniques	C2: Technology Based Composition (20%) Coursework – composing a 3 minute piece of electronic music to a brief – choice of 3 from video, poetry or written scenario <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Synthesis➔ Sampling➔ Creative effects and automation➔ Creative audio techniques
C3: Listening & Analysing (25%) 90 minute Listening exam marked out of 75 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Identifying issues and problems➔ Reading and understanding technical data➔ Identifying production techniques in contemporary and classic recordings➔ Role of technology in shaping contemporary and classic musical genres	C4: Producing and Analysing (35%) 135 minute practical exam – written paper alongside various practical mixing tasks to be completed in a DAW. Marked out of 105 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Editing mixing and production techniques➔ Analysing MIDI and Binary Data➔ FX Processing and practical applications

Career Opportunities

The A Level in Music Technology equips students with countless transferrable skills, including problem solving and timed pressure, practical ICT application, creativity and technical understanding of brand new concepts e.g. microphone placement and DAW functioning. These skills are essential for students wishing to access popular higher education courses.

Career Pathways

- ➔ Recording Studio Engineer
- ➔ Live Sound Engineer – Theatres, Festivals, Concerts
- ➔ Forensic Audiologist
- ➔ Music Producer
- ➔ Song Writer
- ➔ Session Musician
- ➔ DJ
- ➔ Sound and Foley Audio Designer
- ➔ Film/TV Music Composer
- ➔ Voiceover Artist

PHOTOGRAPHY

A Level Photography is part of the same umbrella of qualifications as Art and Textiles. It is a two year subject for students who are creative and have imaginative minds.

The assessment objectives are worded so they can be equally interpreted across the different courses. It is recommended that students should have already achieved a Grade 6 or above in a 'creative' GCSE; however, any previous experience of presenting a creative subject is advantageous.

The course will fully cover digital photography and the moving image. There will also be an opportunity to try traditional chemical techniques using 35mm film and the darkroom facilities.

The course runs over the course of Lower and Upper Sixth and comprises of two final assessed units in Upper Sixth.

Course content:

Lower Sixth:

➔ A portfolio/body of evidence.

This aims to demonstrate new skills, understanding and the development of ideas and experimentation.

While learning about techniques and the more complex issues regarding the controls on SLR cameras, students will be given a variety of photographic assignments to carry out. These will focus on different aspects of both the commercial world and artistic use of photography. Students will work in a journal/sketchbook that acts as a basis to a comprehensive portfolio of their work.

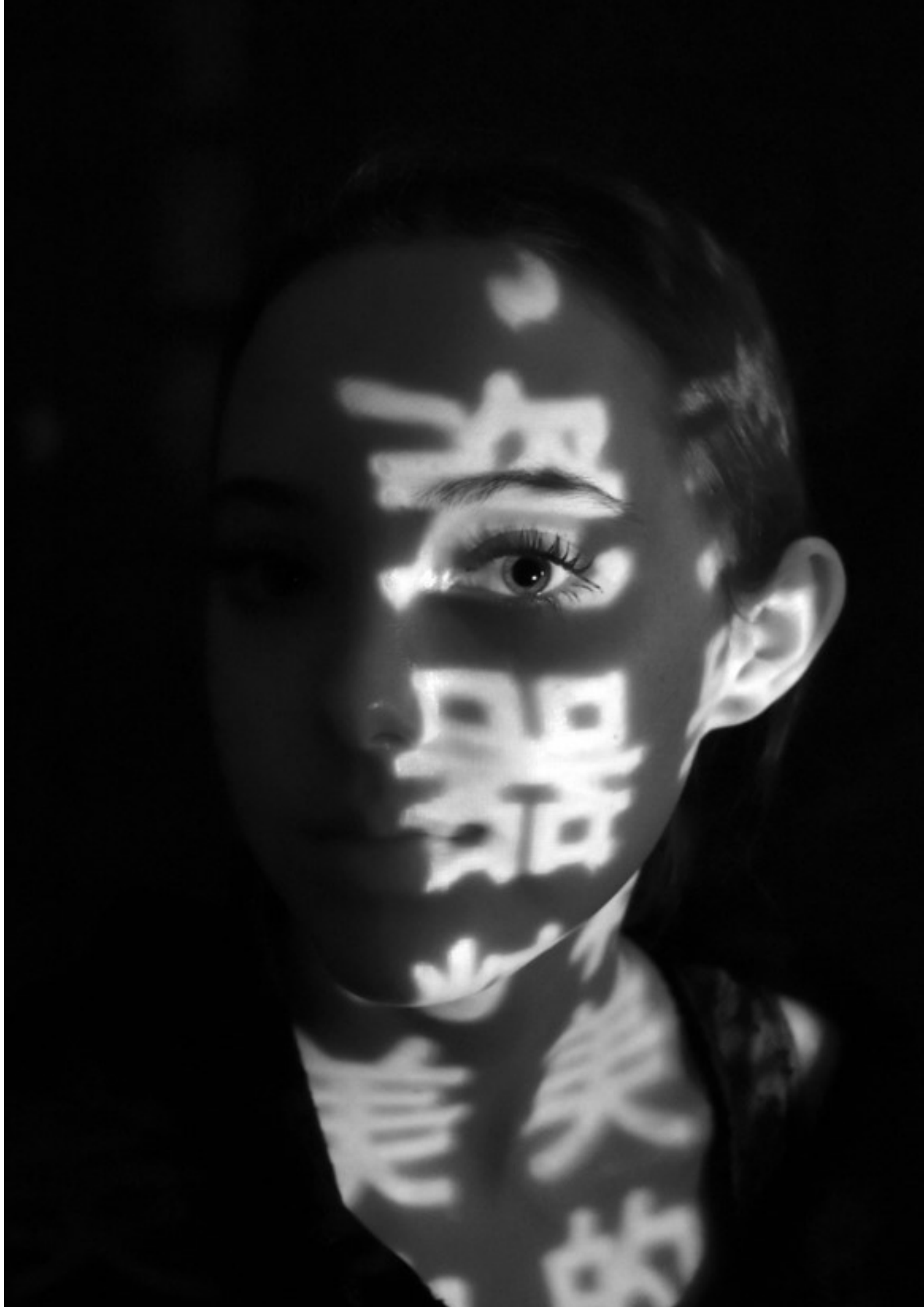
Contextually they will produce a historic time line that will include major changes in the medium onto which they will be also expected to add examples of work by photographers they have studied. Students will be taught basic cropping and colour balancing skills as well as advanced post production techniques including Photoshop re-touching and multiple-layered compositions.

Upper Sixth:

➔ Personal investigation (60%) including a written related study

➔ Externally set task (40%)

Students who consider continuing to art college will be helped and advised in the creation of a portfolio suitable to their application/course, application statement, reference and interview technique.



USE
YOUR
BRAIN

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is an exciting and increasingly popular subject, which seeks to explain human behaviour and thought processes. A minimum of grade 4/5 in GCSE English and Mathematics indicates the necessary verbal and numerical skills required for A Level Psychology.

AQA Course Content:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology	Content <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Social Influence➔ Memory➔ Attachment➔ Psychopathology	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ 2 hour written exam➔ 96 marks➔ 33.3% of A Level	Questions Four compulsory sections all requiring written answers.
Paper 2: Psychology in Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Approaches in Psychology➔ Biopsychology➔ Research Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ 2 hour written exam➔ 96 marks➔ 33.3% of A Level	Three compulsory sections all requiring written answers.
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Issues and Debates in Psychology➔ One from: Relationships; Gender; Cognition and Development➔ One from: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour; Stress➔ One from: Aggression; Forensic Psychology; Addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ 2 hour written exam➔ 96 marks➔ 33.3% of A Level	One compulsory section. Three sections each offering a choice of three topics. Sixth Formers answer one question from each section.

Career Opportunities

Psychology A Level is considered a very useful subject by universities and colleges, particularly in the fields of business and economics, marketing and advertising, child care and social work, health-related courses, occupational therapy and speech therapy, sports science, law, hotel management and tourism and teaching. A degree in psychology opens careers in a vast range of areas where interpersonal relations and an understanding of human behaviour are essential or valuable, while offering Sixth Formers the chance to develop a range of important transferable skills. The discipline has a number of branches that can be pursued and following the completion of relevant British Psychological Society recognised qualifications, can for instance, lead to achieving a chartered status, as a Clinical, Counselling or Educational Psychologist.

Useful Websites include:

www.aqa.org.uk AQA Examining Board (for details of course syllabus and assessment)

www.bps.org.uk British Psychological Society Homepage

PHYSICAL EDUCATION BTEC

Course Content

This course offers students with a genuine interest in sport, as well as those looking to develop breadth in their options, the opportunity to study a challenging course combining both academic and practical skills. The course is split into assignment-based assessments and two external exam units, which can be taken at least twice over the course duration. The students who have opted for it are thoroughly enjoying the variety of teaching methods the BTEC content allows for.

The variety of practically taught sessions leads to the development of leadership skills, as well as moral and social development.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 1 A level) Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (Exam) Unit 2 – Fitness, training and programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (exam) Unit 3 – Professional Development in Sport (Coursework) Unit 5 – Applied fitness testing (Coursework)	BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport (Equivalent to 2 A levels) Units 1-5 and: Unit 4 – Leadership in Sport (coursework) Unit 7 – Practical Sport (coursework) Unit 10 – Sports Event Organisation (coursework) Unit 22 – Investigation Business in the Sports and Active leisure Industry (exam) Unit 23 – Skill Acquisition in Sport (coursework)
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Career Opportunities

For learners who wish to study an aspect of sport in higher education, the opportunities are vast. Some examples accepting BTEC include:

- ➔ BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside A Level in Psychology
- ➔ BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science
- ➔ BA (Hons) in Secondary Physical Education
- ➔ BSC (Hons) Sport PE and Coaching Science
- ➔ BSC (Hons) Physiotherapy
- ➔ BSC (Hons) Nutrition

Other potential careers include:

- ➔ Sports coach
- ➔ Strength and conditioning coach
- ➔ Sports nutritionist
- ➔ Armed forces
- ➔ PE teacher



PHYSICS

Physics is the most fundamental and venerable of the sciences, and can lead to the most diverse and flexible range of careers and skills, from space travel to archaeology, biophysics to financial markets and global engineering. Amongst admission tutors and recruiters alike, it is considered a very valuable A Level.

The AQA (Specification A) A Level Physics course is designed to develop student's knowledge and understanding in physics and its applications, to develop the link between theory and experiment and to extend their understanding of the way in which mathematical processes relate to physical principles. A full programme of practical work is included to reinforce the theory lessons.

A typical week's homework would include a set of numerical and qualitative problems, a web based assignment and preparation for and writing up an experiment. Students are encouraged to read around the subject, for example by reading New Scientist or Physics Review regularly.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement for the course is grade 7 or above at GCSE Physics or equivalent grades at GCSE Double Award Science. A grade 7 or above at GCSE Mathematics is also required.

Course overview

Unit	Content
1	Measurements and their errors
2	Particles and radiation
3	Waves
4	Mechanics and materials
5	Electricity
6	Further mechanics and thermal physics
7	Fields and their consequences
8	Nuclear physics
Option 10	Medical physics

Paper	Assessment	Exam	Weighting
1	Sections 1 – 5, 6.1 (periodic motion)	2hr	34%
2	Sections 6.2, 7, 8	2hr	34%
3	Section A: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Optional topic	2hr	32%
Non-exam	Practical Endorsement for Physics: Reported separately (does not count towards the A Level)		

This new A Level is a two year course with all final exams being taken at the end of year two. There is no coursework element, but practicals are an integral part of the course and a practical skills verification will form an additional part of the final A Level grade.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society. The course is suitable for students who have an interest in how society works; are interested in considering the application of contemporary examples from the real world to explore theoretical perspectives; and enjoy discussions about social behaviour and changes. The minimum entry requirement for the course is a GCSE grade 5 in English.

Course content:

This course helps students to gain an understanding of the society in which we live. They learn how society shapes identities, consider an in-depth view of aspects of social behaviour and explanations of social change.

- ➔ Component 1 topics: Socialisation, Culture, Identity, Youth Subcultures within the UK.
- ➔ Component 2 topics: Social Inequality, Research Methodology.
- ➔ Component 3 topics: Globalisation and the Digital Social World, debates explored through a detailed study of Crime and Deviance.

Specification: OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Sociology (H580)

Assessment and Examinations:

Topics will be assessed by three written examination papers varying in length between 90 minutes and 135 minutes. These papers consist of short answer questions designed to test key knowledge and longer essay style questions that aim to assess a student's ability to critically evaluate a source of sociological evidence, statement based on theoretical perspective, or trends in social behaviour.

Career Opportunities:

The knowledge and skills acquired in this course are very useful to a wide range of higher education courses. The students who study Sociology could choose to continue their studies focusing on sociology, or other social sciences such as social anthropology, criminology, social policy or any other further education course. A wide range of career opportunities could include: social work, journalism, teaching, police officers, Civil Service, probation officers, and many other fields of employment.



TEXTILE DESIGN

Textile designers are expected to work in a multi-disciplinary way to create ideas, concepts, materials and techniques for different applications; for example, in fashion and clothing, theatre or film production, as well as fabrics for interior applications and packaging. Textile design can also be interpreted as a personal and individual fine art discipline.

Course Content

We follow the Edexcel A Level specification which requires students to generate and develop ideas, research and record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas in one of the following areas:

- ➔ Textiles for Interiors
- ➔ Fine Art Textiles
- ➔ Fashion Textiles

Lower Sixth

Component 1: Personal Investigation (internally set and assessed by the teacher)

Component 2: Personal Investigation (internally set and assessed by the teacher)

The above tasks do not count towards the overall A Level mark but develop the skills required for success at the end of Upper Sixth.

Upper Sixth

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of total qualification)

Internally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by Edexcel

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of total qualification)

Released to students on 1st February, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities

Sixth Formers are encouraged to visit galleries, trade fairs, fashion shows and local exhibitions. Films, architecture, music, literature and nature are also important influences in the design world. We welcome outside speakers from the design industry to support the Sixth Formers' understanding. Sixth Formers are encouraged to enter the Young Fashion Designer competition hosted at Kent College and all students are invited to showcase their work in the annual runway show or exhibition.

Career Opportunities

Textile design is both a creative and academic course and it can be combined with any other subject. It combines creative, practical and analytical skills with knowledge and understanding, which will support a range of careers and university courses. These could include fashion/textile design, fashion illustration and promotion, fashion marketing or buying, print design, pattern cutting and textile art. Recent destinations have included:

- ➔ London College of Fashion, Fashion design
- ➔ Brighton, Fashion with Business Studies
- ➔ Central Saint Martins, Foundation Diploma in Fashion and Textiles
- ➔ Nottingham Trent, Fashion
- ➔ Leeds, Fashion Marketing

Roses

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This high
jacket design
reminds me
of the rugged
beauty of
the gorges



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