fortismere

CURRICULUM ATLAS

Year 12

2025-26



A Level Fine Art

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: EDUQAS

Qualification: A651 QS

Specification

The creative industries deliver economic, social and reputational value. They add over £100bn to the UK's economy, export £46bn in goods and services worldwide and are growing at twice the rate of the general economy. The sector employs more than 2 million people, and expects to create one million more jobs by 2030.

Beyond these economic benefits, the creative industries continue to tackle regional inequalities, build communities across the UK, and enable individuals to lead lives that are happier, healthier, more sociable, and enriched through access to culture and creativity.

The job market wants creative people who are lateral and not always linear thinkers, people with a growth mind-set, and people with transferable skills, confident working in both teams and as individuals, unafraid to take risks.

Although demanding in both time and commitment, we believe this course to be challenging and fulfilling. The course provides the ideal platform for any student wishing to pursue the extensive career opportunities in the design or the creative and visual arts field. It will also appeal to those students who have been successful at GCSE and wish to maintain a creative balance in their studies.

To see work produced by our students, please visit our online gallery at: www.flickr.com/fortismereartdepartment/collections and the

department's instagram: @fortismere_art_photography

WHAT WILL I STUDY?
Eduqas: Fine Art specification (A651 QS)
A Level Art Specification

The course is wide ranging, covering many approaches to creating art and design with four broad aims to develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers
- Investigative, analytical, practical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- Understanding of contexts and interrelationships between art, craft and design
- Knowledge of art, craft and design in contemporary society and in other times and cultures

Although practical work forms the majority of the A level art curriculum, critical awareness and the appreciation of artists will also play an important part in the course and students should be prepared to analyse their own work and the work of others.

YEAR 12

UNIT 1: Personal Investigation

The coursework element is worth 60% and is divided into skills workshops and independent projects.

Project 1: Mark-making

During this project students will:

- explore ways to create work that is non-figurative or literal
- explore known and new techniques and materials in both two and three dimensions
- work with artists, receive feedback and question them about their work
- supplement practical work with lessons in art history and critical analysis

Project 2: Diversity

• An independent project where students create their own interpretation of the brief set.

Project 3: Secrets, Codes and Conventions

 A second independent project where students develop their own response to the theme. The project ends in a mock exam during the summer term.

YEAR 13

Project 4: Personal Portfolio

This is divided into two elements:

- Personal Study: A written and illustrated study into an area of Fine Art.
- Personal Portfolio: A portfolio of practical work based on a brief

UNIT 2: Externally set assignment

- The exam is worth 40% of the final mark. Students receive a choice of themes in January of Year 13.
- They then have approximately ten weeks to develop a project towards a final outcome.
- The final piece is created within a 15-hour exam spread across three days.

Students are assessed according to the Eduqas assessment criteria, which measure the way a student develops, experiments, records and realises their ideas.

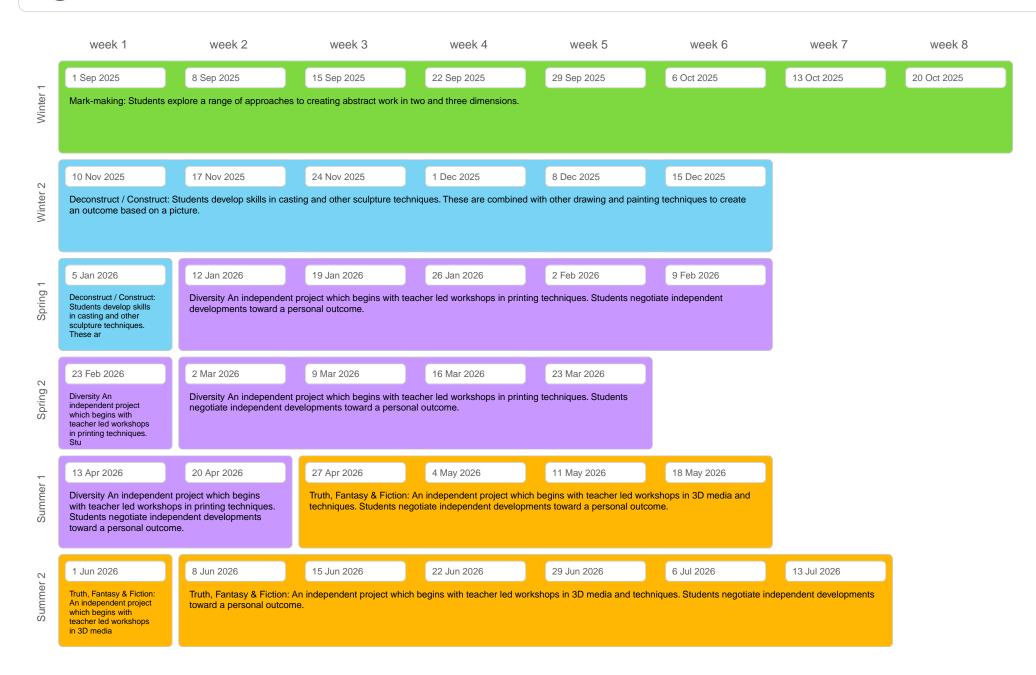
HOW WILL I STUDY?

Much of the work will be studio-based. However, students will need to meet the demands of the subject through active research, gallery visits and a broad engagement in the whole area of art and design. We also offer regular study visits abroad and locally, run life classes and involve students with visiting artists and lecturers.

WHAT DO I NEED TO START THE COURSE?

Course entry requirement: Grade 5 in Art & Design (or relevant endorsement).

A Level Fine Art • Year 12





A Level Biology

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 8461

Specification

Biology is the study of living things (including humans) and how they interact with the environment. A level Biology appeals to students who enjoy science and are naturally inquisitive about the human body and the natural world and the myriad organisms that populate our diverse planet. The Biology studied at A level provides a solid background for most science based degree courses. It is required to at least AS level by some universities for courses in medicine, dentistry, natural sciences and biological sciences. A level Biologists have a wide variety options when choosing which subject to read at university. Examples include; genetics, environmental science, ecology, biomedical science, veterinary science, marine biology and zoology to mention but a few.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 1

- Biological molecules
- Carbohydrates
- Lipids
- Proteins and enzymes
- Structure of DNA and RNA
- ATP
- Water
- Plasma membranes and the exchange of materials between cells.

Cells

• Structure of eukaryotic cells

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Structure of prokaryotic cells and viruses

• Methods of studying cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

- Surface area to volume ratio
- Gas exchange
- Digestion and absorption
- Mass transport in animals
- Mass transport in plants

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

- DNA, genes and chromosomes
- DNA and protein synthesis
- Meiosis
- Genetic diversity and adaptation
- Species and taxonomy
- Biodiversity within a community
- Investigating diversity

Year 2

Energy transfers in and between organisms

- Photosynthesis
- Respiration
- Energy and ecosystems
- Nutrient cycles

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

- Survival and response
- Receptors
- · Control of heart rate
- Nerve impulses

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Synaptic transmission

- Skeletal muscle
- Principles of homeostasis and negative feedback
- Control of blood glucose concentration
- Control of blood water potential

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

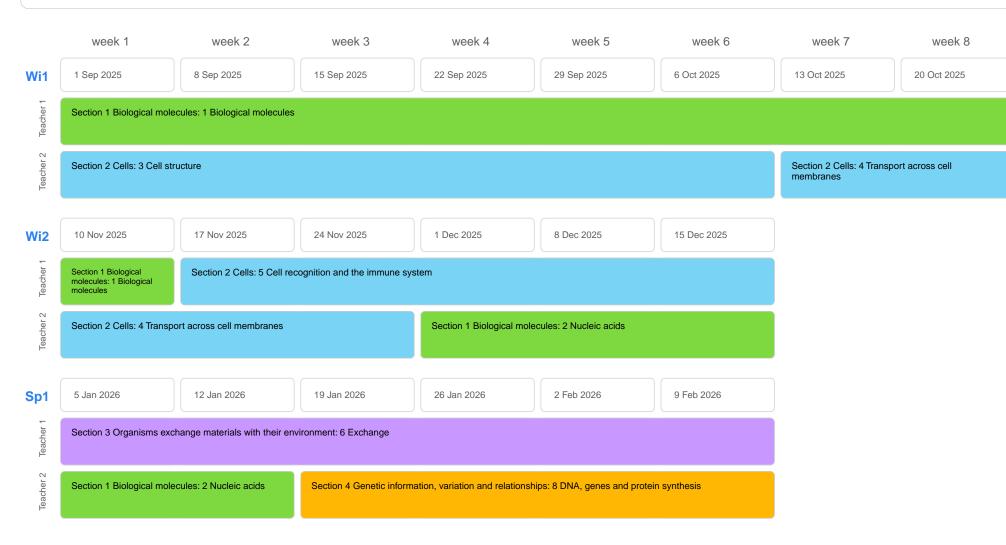
- Inheritance
- Populations
- Evolution may lead to speciation
- Populations in ecosystems

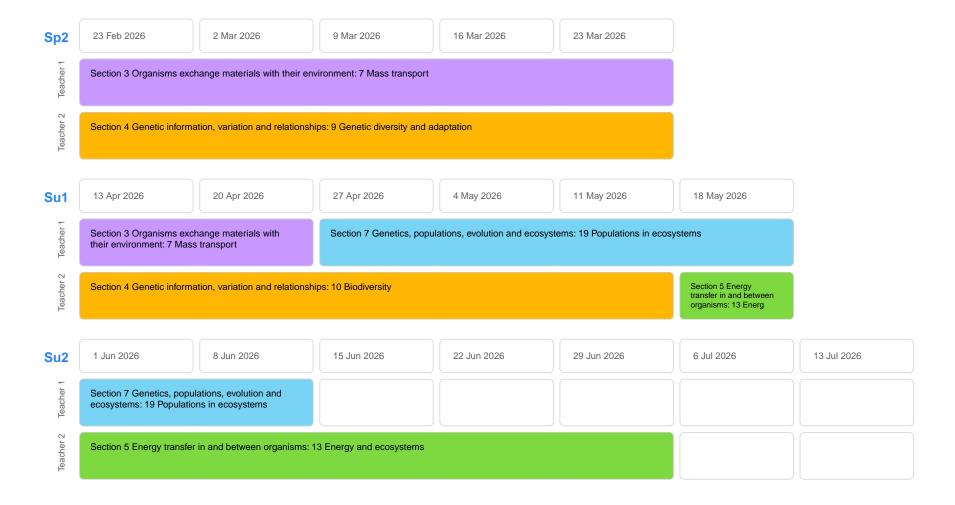
The control of gene expression

- Gene mutations
- Control of gene expression
- Regulation of transcription and translation
- Gene expression and cancer
- Using genome projects
- Recombinant DNA technology
- Genetic fingerprinting



A Level Biology • Year 12







A Level Chemistry

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 8462

Specification

Chemistry is a very enjoyable and diverse subject. You will learn about a wide range of concepts and the experience will equip you for further learning in a broad range of fields.

Chemistry is a practical subject and you will learn and develop a range of skills and techniques that can be applied in many areas of practical science.

Chemistry is seen as an essential A level for a number of degree courses including Biochemistry, Medicine and Medicine related courses, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacy, Forensic Science, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences to name just a few.

What will I study?

- We follow the AQA A level chemistry specification (7405).
- The course is divided into the traditional areas of physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry.

Physical chemistry covers topics such as:

- atomic structure
- bonding
- energetics
- equilibrium
- rates of reaction
- acids and bases
- moles

Inorganic chemistry includes the study of the

reactions of:

- the elements in group 2
- group 7
- the elements in the 3rd period
- the transitions metals

Organic chemistry is the study of carbon based molecules such as:

- alkanes
- alkenes
- alcohols
- aldehydes
- ketones
- · carboxylic acids
- amines
- amino acids

There are 3 papers in the final examination:

- Paper 1 covers aspects of Physical and inorganic chemistry (35% of total marks)
- Paper 2 covers aspects of Physical chemistry and organic chemistry (35% of total marks)
- Paper 3 has questions on practical skills and techniques (30% of total marks)

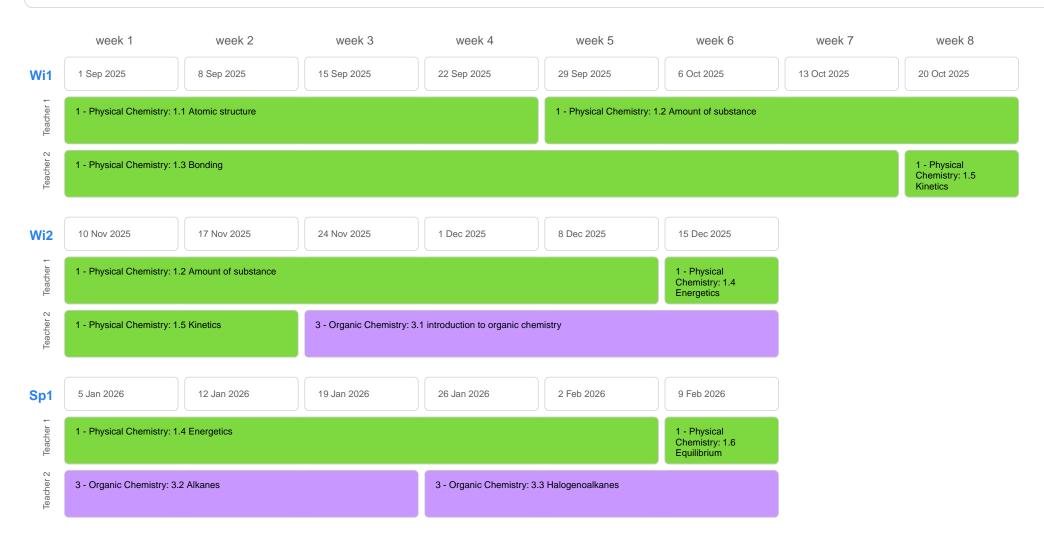
Check the AQA website for more information – https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/chemistry-7404-7405/specification-at-a-glance

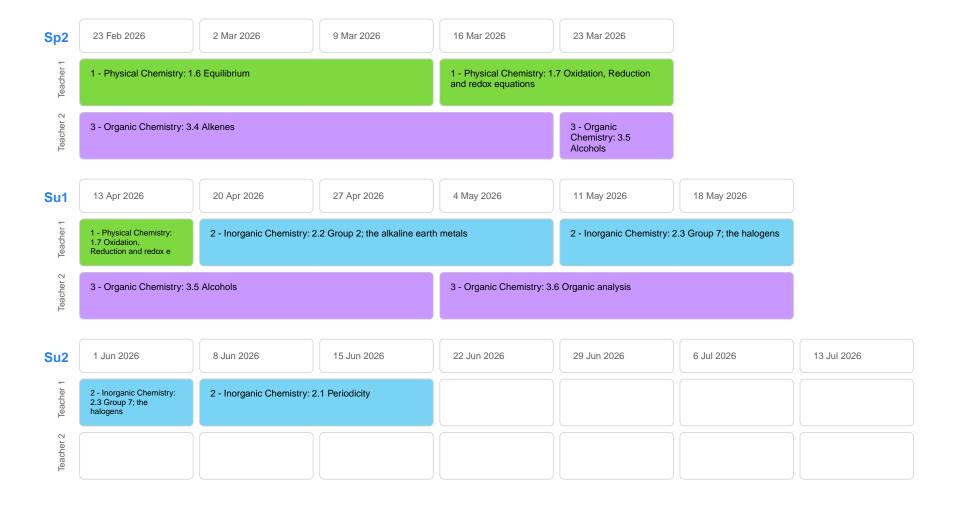
How will I study?

 You will be taught by a team of two teachers who will deliver different topics using a variety of activities including teacher led lessons, group work, practical work and research activities.

- There is a lot of practical work involved and you will keep a lab book as a log of your work.
- There is no practical exam or assessment.
- You have to complete a set number of Required Practicals during which your teachers will carry out a basic skills assessment.

A Level Chemistry • Year 12







A Level Classics

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: OCR

Qualification: H408

Specification

hy choose to study Classical Civilisation / Classics at Advanced Level?

The first—and most important—reason is because it's a fascinating subject, with a huge breadth of subject matter whose influence is very much still felt today. You will study the first pieces Western Literature filled with Gods. Goddesses, Heroes and Monsters. You will consider the very beginnings of our civilisation. You will read gruesome tales of suicide, infanticide and mass murder. You will learn about the very earliest political system that still influences political systems today, you will learn about the place of oratory in political life. This is a subject that combines many other subjects. By studying an entire civilisation rather than focusing just on literature or history, you will get a great insight into how literature, religion, history, politics, art, architecture and philosophy inform each other. This will give you a richer appreciation of each.

It is also a very useful subject. Like History, Classical Civilisation / Classics offers an important insight into where we come from and why modern society is the way it is. Like RS, Classical Civilisation / Classics raises vital questions about matters that we take for granted by comparison to very different societies. Like English, it develops one's appreciation of literature and one's use of the language. As an essay subject, Classical Civilisation / Classics trains students to collect a diverse range of information and to synthesise this information into clear,

concise arguments. In learning about the ancients, you will develop more familiarity with many of the references to the Classical world which abound in English (and European) literature.

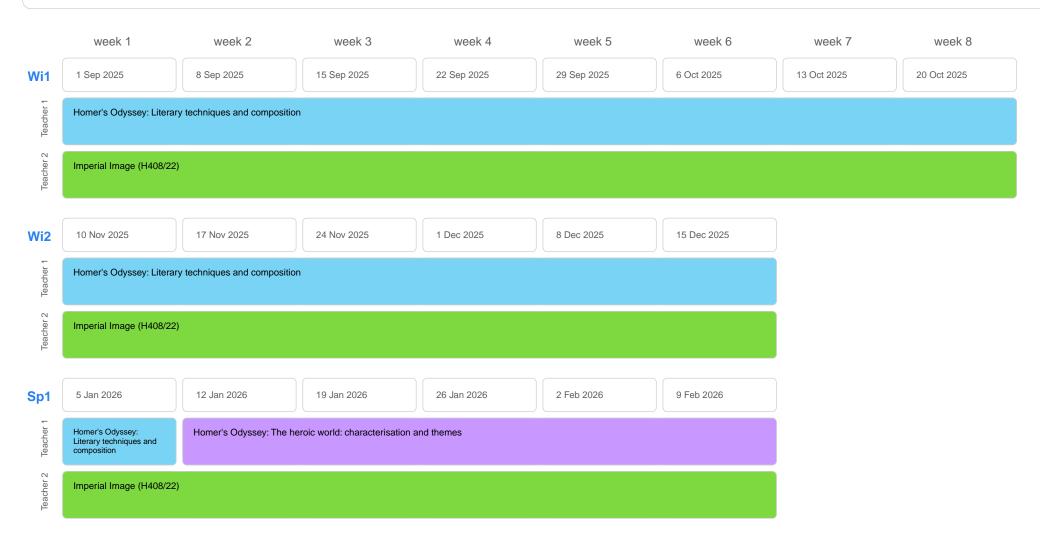
"Our lives are infinitely richer if we take a little time to look at what the Greeks and Romans have given us: each time we discuss politics or law, religion or philosophy, art or culture, we're continuing a conversation which began millennia ago. So why not go back to the beginning?"

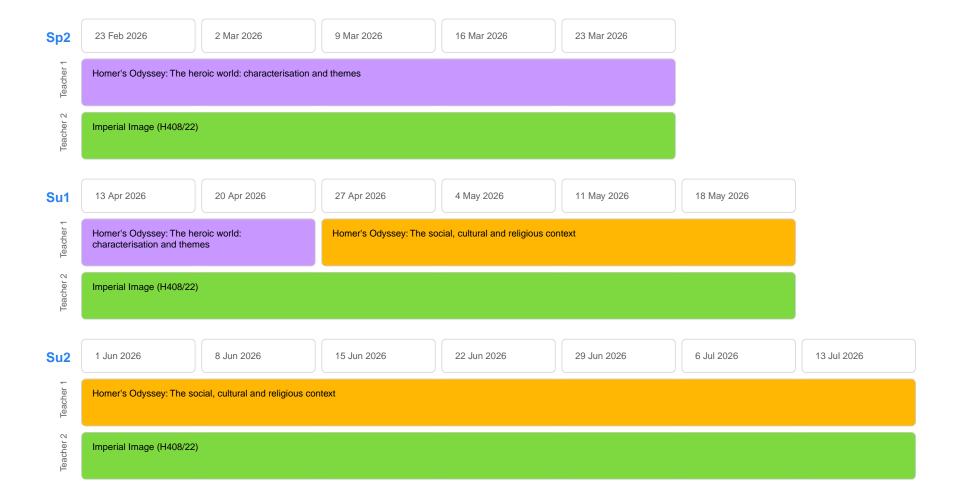
NATALIE HAYNES – author of The Ancient Guide to Modern Life

A Level Classics at Fortismere
The A Level will be called "Classical Civilisation"
and the exam board is OCR.

Contact the Classics Department: saldridge@fortismere.org.uk

A Level Classics • Year 12







A Level Computing

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7517

Specification

You will enjoy this course if you would like to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically;
- Understand the organization of computer systems, including software, hardware, data, communications and people;
- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, including programming, in a range of contexts to solve problems;
- Learn skills in project and time management;
 See relationships between different aspects of the subject, and perceive their field of study in a broader perspective;
- Understand the consequences of using computers, including social, legal, ethical and other issues;
- Be aware of emerging technologies and an appreciation of their potential impact on society.

AS

- 1. Fundamentals of programming
- 2. Fundamentals of data structures
- 3. Systematic approach to problem solving
- 4. Theory of computation
- 5. Fundamentals of data representation
- 6. Fundamentals of computer systems
- 7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- 8. Consequences of uses of computing
- 9. Fundamentals of communication and networking

- 10. Fundamentals of programming
- 11. Fundamentals of data structures
- 12. Fundamentals of algorithms
- 13. Theory of computation
- 14. Fundamentals of data representation
- 15. Fundamentals of computer systems
- 16. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- 17. Consequences of uses of computing
- 18. Fundamentals of communication and networking
- 19. Fundamentals of databases
- 20. Big Data
- 21. Fundamentals of functional programming
- 22. Systematic approach to problem solving
- 23. Non-exam assessment the computing practical project

How will I study?

Through a mixture of teacher-led activities, individual research, case studies, theory work and practical sessions.

A Level

A Level Computing • Year 12





BTEC Creative Digital Media (4 strands)

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: Pearson

Who is this qualification for?

The BTEC National Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production is intended to be an Applied General qualification and is equivalent in size to three A levels. Learners wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a level 2 programme of study with GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

What does this qualification cover?

Over thirteen units of content learners develop the underpinning knowledge and skills needed for the media sector. Learners investigate the media industry, looking at the influences of technology and audiences and how media is affected by these factors. They develop research skills through their investigations and understand the differences between primary and secondary research techniques and quantitative and qualitative responses.

Learners study how to analyse and deconstruct media representations and develop the communication and planning skills that allow ideas to be produced. Learners refine their presentation skills through pitching media projects and their communication skills are developed by working in teams to complete various media projects.

What could this qualification lead to?

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points, and as it is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. The pathways allow learners to focus on particular

sectors within the creative industries, and their aim is to indicate to end users what that focus has been – but are not intended to restrict future progression. Whichever pathway is chosen, the qualification meets admission requirements for a range of related higher education courses such as:

- BA (Hons) Media Studies
- BA (Hons) Computer Animation
- BA (Hons) Media Production
- BA (Hons) Film
- BA (Hons) Digital Television Production
- BSc (Hons) Broadcast Audio Technology
- Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers.

What will I study?

Year 12

- Unit 1: Media Representations
- 2 hour on screen exam (M)
- Unit 2: Working in the Creative Media Industry
- Internal controlled assessment (M)
- Unit 4: Pre-Production Portfolio
- Internal controlled assessment (M)
- Unit 3: Digital Media Skills
- Internal controlled assessment 30 hour task (M)
- Unit 6: Media Campaigns
- Internal controlled assessment (M)
- Unit 5: Subject Specialist Investigation Research
- Pre-release 2 hour exam (M)

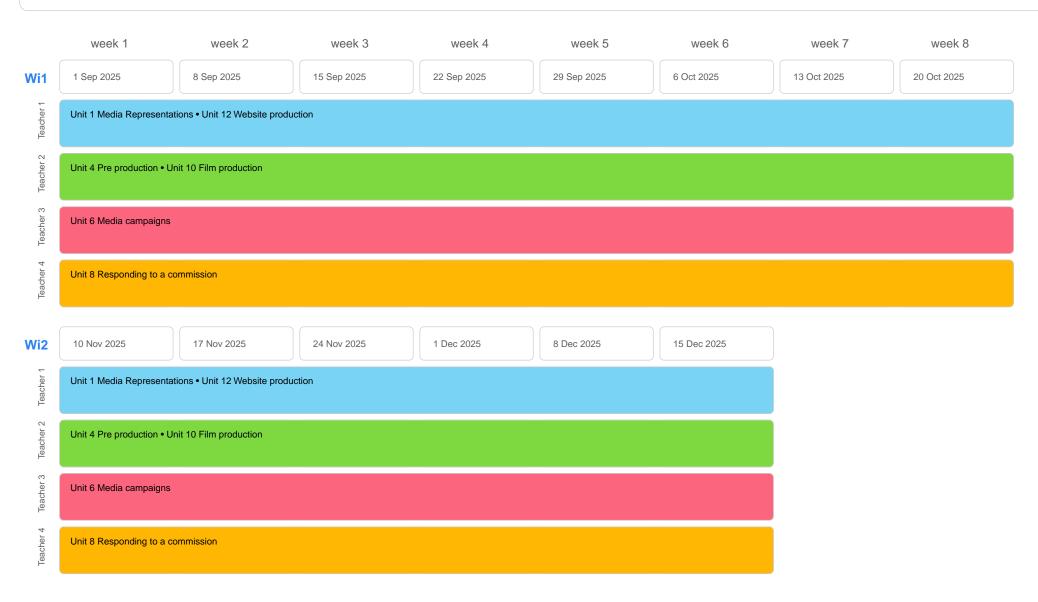
Total 6 Units = 4 Mandatory (M) + 2 Optional (O)

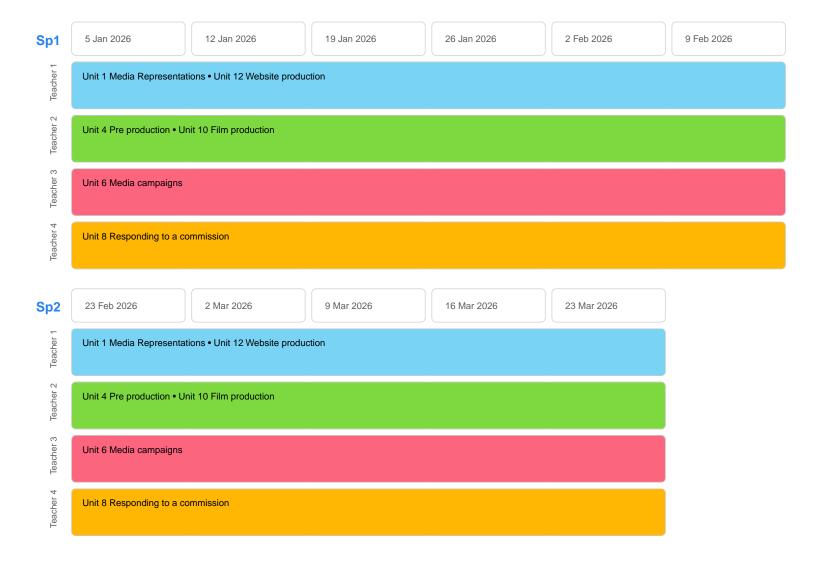
Year 13

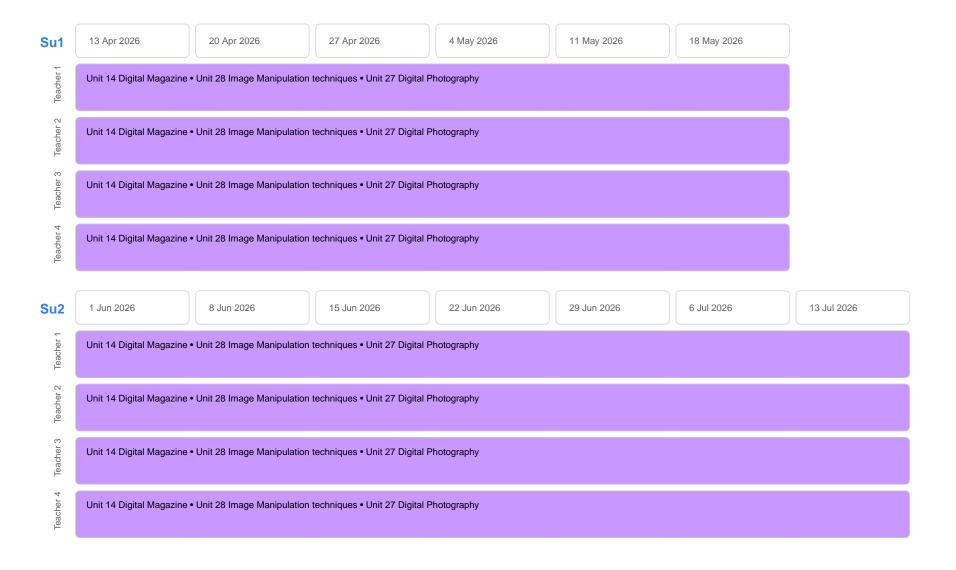
- Unit 8: Responding to a Commission
- Pre-release exam
- Unit 14: Digital Magazine
- Internal controlled assessment (O)
- Unit 10: Film Production Fiction
- Internal controlled assessment (O)
- Unit 21: Film Editing
- Internal controlled assessment (O)
- Unit 12: Website Production
- Internal controlled assessment (O)
- Unit 28: Image Manipulation
- Internal controlled assessment (O)
- Unit 27: Digital Photography
- Internal controlled assessment (O)

Total 7 Units = 3 Mandatory (M) + 4 Optional (O)

BTEC Creative Digital Media (4 strands) • Year 12









A Level D&T Product Design

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7552

Specification

Why choose A-level Product Design?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

What do I need to get on the course?

A grade 6 or above in one of the GCSE Design & Technology subjects and a grade 5 in Maths.

What will I be able to progress to?

The study of Product Design will provide a useful foundation for a variety of degree courses including Architecture, Engineering, Product Design and Industrial Design.

A Level Units

Paper 1: Technical principles

How it is assessed: Written exam: 2hrs 30m

120 marks 30% of A-level

Questions: Short answer and extended response

questions

Paper 2: Designing and making principles How it

is assessed

Written exam: 1hr 30m 80 marks 20% of A-level

Questions: Short answer and extended response

questions

Section A: Product Analysis: 30 marks

Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual

stimulus of products

Section B: Commercial manufacture: 50 marks Mixture of short and extended response questions

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge

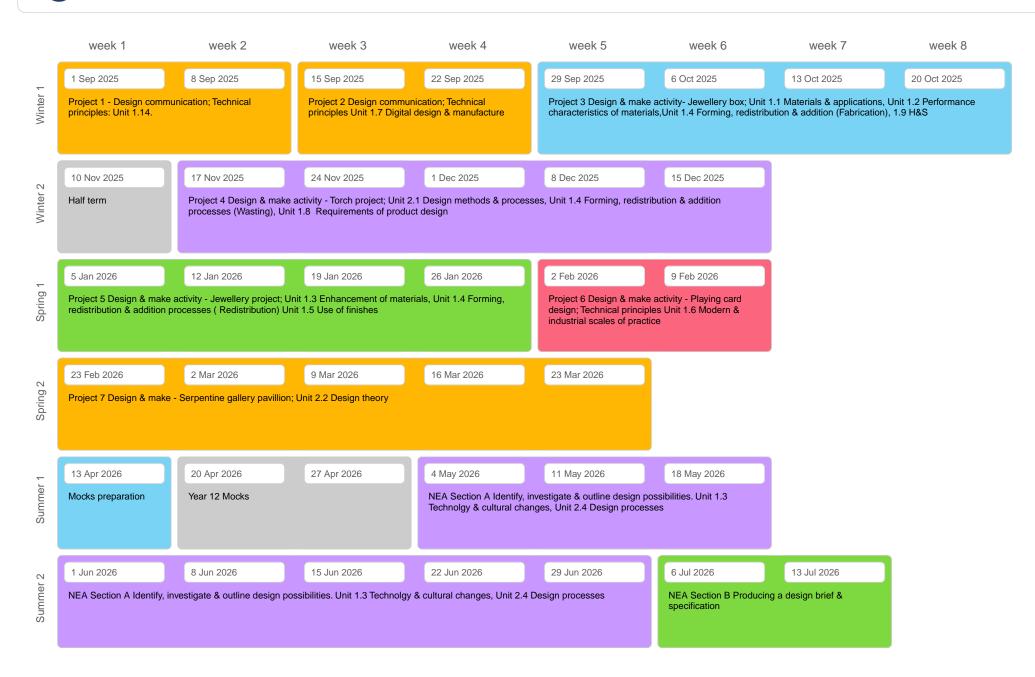
How it is assessed: Substantial design & make project

100 marks 50% of A-level

Evidence: Written or digital design portfolio and

photographic evidence

A Level D&T Product Design • Year 12





A Level Drama

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7262

Specification

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

The Drama department is a truly special place. We offer students an experience they cannot get at any other school. Over the last 14 years we have used our amazing industry contacts to broaden our curriculum; from work experience, to masterclasses and backstage visits.

AQA Drama and Theatre Studies is a very popular choice and the department is extraordinarily active in the West End and in our community. Students continue to develop their ability to work as part of a team performing extracts from plays as part of their exam as well as devised work written by them. Plays such as 'The Glass Menagerie' by Tennesse Williams and Henrik Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler' are studied for the written exam. Over the years, N10 Productions, our in-house theatre company, has taken student work to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival - selling out and earning five-star reviews! Year 13 devised productions have transferred to The Arcola Theatre in London. We have a play writing course called New Views working with The National Theatre, which offers sixth form students opportunities to work with professional playwrights. We also run technical theatre training and have invited lighting and sound designers teach our students how to operate theatre equipment in our theatre. We have 3 Drama studios and a fully fitted Theatre space seating 270. Our technical equipment includes computerised moveable lighting which we train

students on.

There are mentoring opportunities for sixth form students working with younger students and opportunities to run KS3 clubs. Students go to the theatre fortnightly and also work with a huge range of theatre companies and artists, DV8, Complicite, Frantic Assembly, Vamos Mask, etc and also perform at Alexandra Palace and other renowned venues. We are a partner school of The Almeida, The Old Vic and the Donmar Warehouse so each year we are offered unique opportunities to work with them, have work experiences places at their venues and offer students auditions for their projects. We ensure EPQ opportunities are available at Key Stage 5 and we have had KS5 students directing and designing shows for the department and for local festivals. We also offer much needed audition support for any students that what to apply to Drama schools or try their luck at getting into places like NYT.

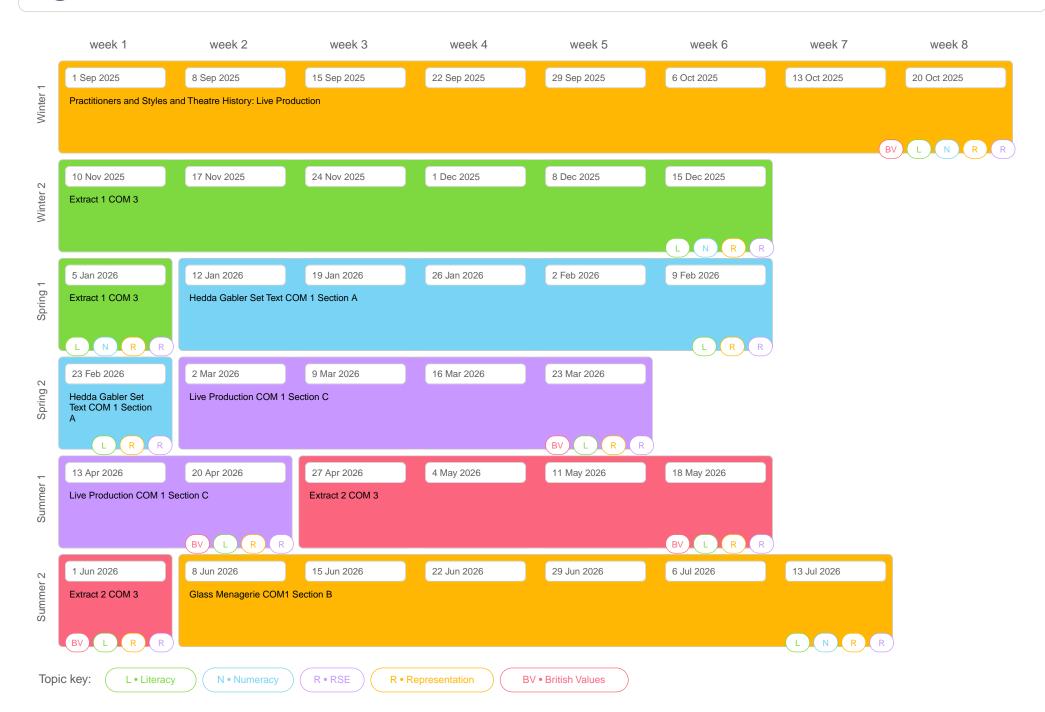
A Level Drama is recognised favourably by all Universities. University statistics show Drama graduates have one of the highest employment rates. This is because the subject develops self-confidence and produces well-rounded, articulate people. Drama and Theatre Studies is an academic A-level considered as an equal and valid subject choice by Oxbridge, Russel group universities and beyond. We have 3 recent Drama alumni currently studying a variety of subjects at Cambridge University.

We are also AQA's exemplar centre for top mark A Level group practical pieces in the whole of England. Videos of our students' work is used by all examiners to benchmark the top grade. 90% of students go on to study a very wide range of Undergraduate Degrees, the majority at Russell group universities; Law, Maths, Geography, Engineering, English, History to name a few. The A-Level courses also offers several Design options and students can also be examined on costume/set/lighting/directing and sound design if they choose to.

We take our students to the theatre all of the time, in every year group. We see 20 shows during the A level course. In recent years the Year 13 students have been to New York City on a unique 'once-in-a-lifetime' trip. We also hosts Masterclasses which allow students access to Theatre and Film professionals across all disciplines that enriches their curriculum and gives them a glimpse into a possible future career. In recent years we have held masterclasses with film and theatre director Rupert Goold, The Artistic Director of London's Young Vic theatre Kwame Kwei Armah, BAFTA-winning writer, actor, director Mackenzie Crook, 'Come From Away' Theatre producer Joseph Smith.

Our alumni include Grammy award-winning singer/ songwriter Jess Glynne, Emmy award winning director/writer Nic Stacey, Hollywood actor Jacob Scipio, Ray Davies CBE, Sir Rod Stewart CBE, Hollywood actor Ed Skrein, Hollywood film director Dexter Fletcher and many more and over the decades we have cultivated a multitude of talent spanning all areas of the Arts.

A Level Drama • Year 12





A Level Economics

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: OCR

Qualification: H460

Specification

There are at least 5 good reasons to study economics. First, without some knowledge of economics, it is impossible to understand the world in which we live in (and the global economic crisis since 2008). Every day, for example, the media report about economic issues such as unemployment, inflation (rising prices), economic growth, government spending and taxation, exchange rates, international trade and share / commodity price and exchange rate movements. Second, you will learn about how the economy works and how individuals and firms make decisions and what policies may be adopted by policymakers to help improve society, both nationally and internationally.

Third, economics is a rigorous and rewarding academic subject which is well respected by Universities and employers alike. Fourth, studying economics will help you to consider and discover when politicians are not telling the economic truth. Fifth, a qualification in economics is an excellent basis for a career in different areas. Other subjects fit in well with Economics, including Mathematics, Politics, Geography, History, and Science. It is recommended that those considering Economics as a possible Degree course should also study A level Mathematics as well. For those considering Economics as a Joint Honours Degree, however, this requirement is not necessary.

Note: No prior learning or knowledge of economics is required to take A Level Economics.

But for students who have taken GCSE Economics, a grade 5 is the minimum requirement. A Grade 5/6 in English, Maths and a relevant Humanities subject (History or Geography) is recommended.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The A Level OCR Economics course has been designed to allow you to:

Gain knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of economic theories and policies and the impact which these have on the economy and on economic agents

Compare the likely effectiveness of economic policies in relation to the achievement of particular economic objectives

Develop the ability to make both microeconomic and macroeconomic decisions in specific contexts Develop the necessary analytical, questioning and quantitative skills to progress in the subject and to think as an economist

Confront issues, tackle the challenges these issues raise and engage in debate and discussion with fellow students.

Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment

Develop your skills as independent learner, critical thinker and decision-maker – all personal assets that can help you stand out as you progress to a degree course (in economics or a related subject) and / or the workplace

Assessment

There are 3 compulsory components, focusing on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Themes in Economics. The Themes in Economics component offers you the opportunity to apply theories and concepts to up-to-date contexts.

Component 1: Microeconomics - A brief overview

Microeconomics concerns itself with the study of economics and decisions taken at the level of the individual firm, industry or consumer household. It is also concerned with how prices are determined in markets. The Component will also enable you to:

Discuss and evaluate how well microeconomic theories explain our observations of economic agents in the real world

Understand how imperfections and market failures can lead into a discussion of the merits and drawbacks of government intervention

Consider the usefulness of theory in explaining observations taken from the real economic world Component 2: Microeconomics - A brief overview

Studying macroeconomics will help you understand how the economy functions on a both a domestic and global level. The Component will help you to:

Adopt a critical approach to the study of policy through the development of your understanding of the limitations and conflicts which macroeconomic policies cause

Consider policy approaches in an historic and current context, in order to understand how

macroeconomics has changed over time Component 3: Themes in Economics – A brief overview

This Component will draw on both microeconomic and macroeconomic components. You will be expected to apply these components to a specific unseen theme.

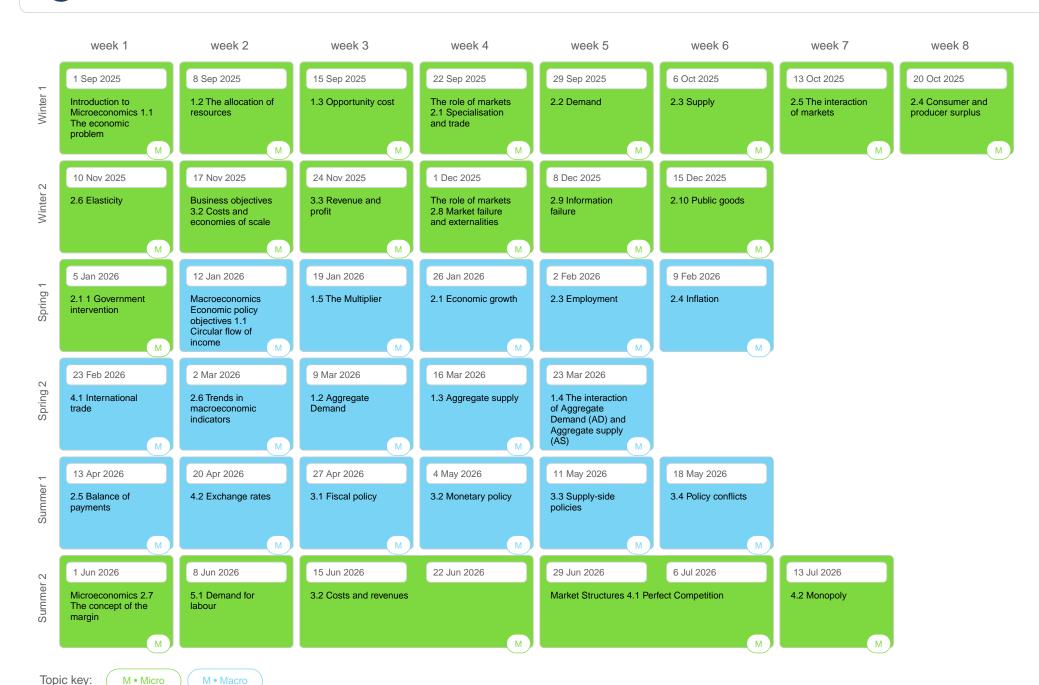
The Component will also have a multiple choice section, covering the whole syllabus.

Understanding Economics will help you realise the following:

'The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist.' (John Maynard Keynes, 1936).

To recap, the two year A level Economics course will consider economic policy approaches in an historic and current context, in order to understand how macroeconomics has changed over time.

A Level Economics • Year 12





A Level English Language & Literature

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: OCR

Qualification: H474

Specification

English Literature A Level

Why study English Literature A LEVEL?

Students love studying English Literature. The course is both stimulating and interesting as it allows you a chance to actively engage with texts from different periods and cultures as well as giving you a foundation into the major ideas underpinning the way we live today.

Students of English Literature A Level will be introduced to prose, poetry and drama from different periods by different writers. Not only will you read and study writers whose work has stood the test of time, such as Shakespeare, you will also get the opportunity to read more contemporary work, especially for the non-exam assessment.

You will have opportunities to develop your creativity, in the ways you think about literature, about language and in the ways you enhance your expertise in analysing texts, and discuss and develop ideas. This is a course for students who love reading!

What will I study?

You will study the OCR English Literature A Level course, which includes a coursework element worth 20% of the overall marks. The remaining 80% is divided into two components:

• Drama and poetry pre-1900 (01), for which you

study one play by Shakespeare. In addition, you study one pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text. These will illuminate one another so you establish connections between texts from the genres of drama and poetry.

- Comparative and contextual study (02), you study at least two texts from one topic area (American Literature 1880-1940, or Gothic). This part of the course focuses on the significance and influence of contexts in which the texts were written and received.
- Non-exam assessment (component 03) students study three literary texts. The texts must include one prose text, one poetry text and one drama text, at least one of which must be published or performed in 2000 or later. Recent text choices include Bernadine Evaristo's Girl, Woman, Other, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun and Mohsin Hamid's Exit West.

What texts will I use?

Texts differ from group to group. Below are some examples of literature taught on the course

Plavs:

- Shakespeare: The Tempest, Measure For Measure, Richard III, Hamlet
- John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi
- Oliver Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer
- Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House

Poetry:

• Geoffrey Chaucer: The Merchant's Prologue and

Tale

J• ohn Milton: Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10
• Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

Novels:

• F Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

Nella Larsen: Passing

• Edith Wharton: The Age of Innocence

English Language & Literature A Level

Why study English Language & Literature A level?

We cannot avoid communication, whether it's the daily barrage of information from

various platforms, speaking and listening to others or reading subject-specific material in the classroom. It makes perfect sense that understanding how we communicate is one of the key skills we all require. English Language & Literature A level aims to help us to learn and understand the various ways in which we communicate through language, from conversational to formal spoken language, and literature, from non-fiction to fiction texts. If you have an interest in the world around you, in reading and writing and communicating, then this is the subject for you.

The course is both enjoyable and enriching as it allows you a chance to actively engage with texts from different periods and cultures, introduces you to a wide range of spoken and written forms of English and gives you an opportunity to express your own ideas through creative writing.

What will I study?

You will study the OCR English Language & Literature (EMC) A Level course, which includes a coursework element worth 20% of the overall marks. The remaining 80% is divided into three components:

- Exploring non-fiction and spoken texts (01), which is a comparative and contextual study of an anthology of spoken and written texts from different time periods, types of text and contexts.
- The language of poetry and plays (02), in which students explore poetic and dramatic texts through stylistic and dramatic analysis.

Reading as a writer, writing as a reader (03) where students explore the nature of narrative in one prose fiction text from a choice of six and produce an original creative piece of writing in the narrative genre.

• Coursework component - Independent study: analysing and producing texts (04), students pursue a particular interest with an analytical comparative essay on non-fiction texts and produce a piece of original non-fiction writing in an appropriate genre.

What texts will I use?

Texts differ from group to group, but below are some examples of the literature taught on the course.

Plays: Shakespeare: Othello

• Poetry: Jacob Sam-La Rose: Breaking Silence

Novels: Charlotte Brontë: Jane Eyre and F. Scott

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- Novels: Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre and F. Scott

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- Novels: Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre and F. Scott

- Novels: Charlotte Bronte: Jane Ey

Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

What is the difference between the English Language & Literature A Level and English Literature A level?

English Language & Literature A Level includes the study of non-fiction texts and has a creative writing component. The texts studied are more varied and can be more modern.

Why study English at Fortismere?

Fortismere has experienced and passionate teachers of English, who will challenge and inspire you on the A level courses. Fortismere has a fantastic programme of external speakers, including university academics and industry professionals, for students of English. Our A Level results are exceptional and an impressive number of Fortismere students go on to study English at prestigious universities.

Life beyond English A level?

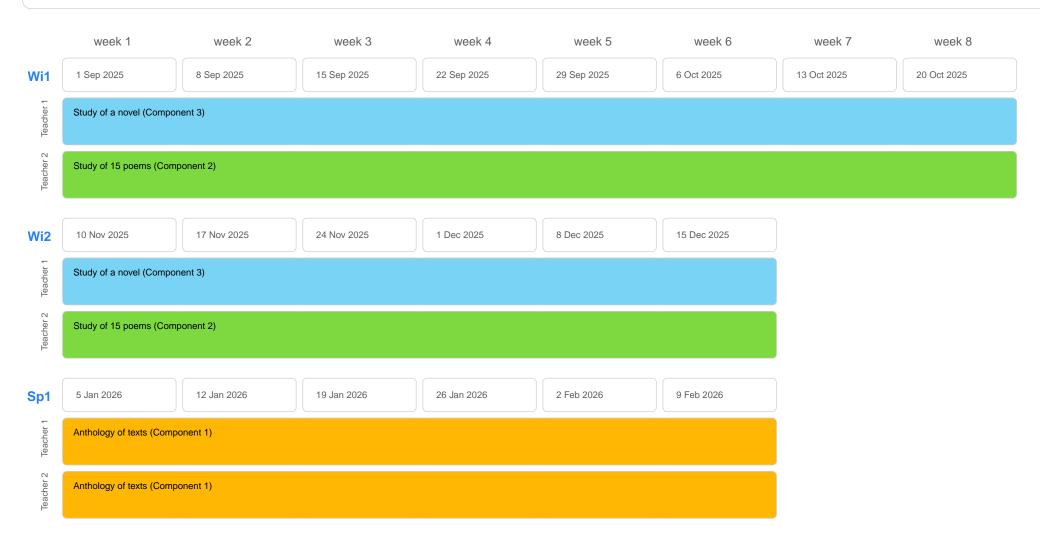
Studying English A Level can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, film/TV production, advertising and marketing, teaching, politics, public relations and publishing.

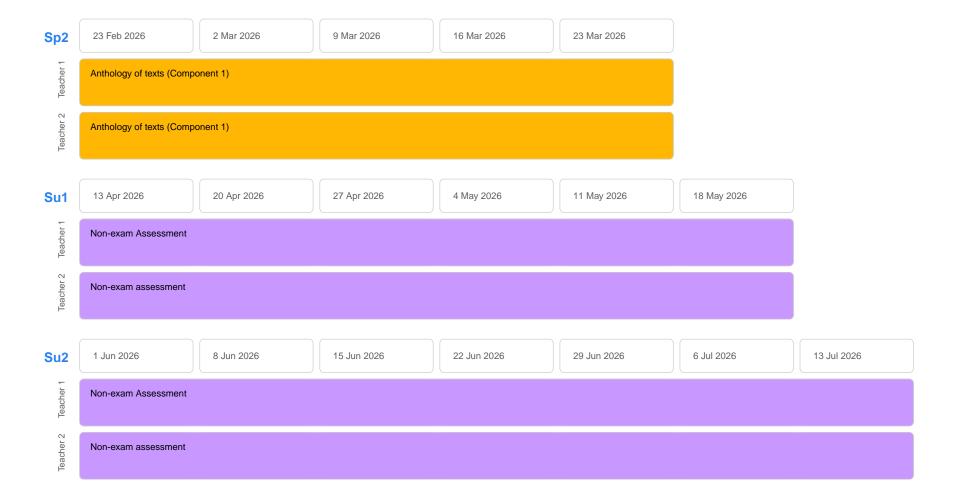
Studying English keeps your options open. It is an academic and rigorous A Level, which universities and employers will recognise.

What do I need to start the course?

To study English Literature A Level or English Language & Literature A Level, we recommend at least grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE.

A Level English Language & Literature • Year 12







A Level English Literature

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: OCR

Qualification: H472

Specification

English Literature A Level

Why study English Literature A LEVEL?

Students love studying English Literature. The course is both stimulating and interesting as it allows you a chance to actively engage with texts from different periods and cultures as well as giving you a foundation into the major ideas underpinning the way we live today.

Students of English Literature A Level will be introduced to prose, poetry and drama from different periods by different writers. Not only will you read and study writers whose work has stood the test of time, such as Shakespeare, you will also get the opportunity to read more contemporary work, especially for the non-exam assessment.

You will have opportunities to develop your creativity, in the ways you think about literature, about language and in the ways you enhance your expertise in analysing texts, and discuss and develop ideas. This is a course for students who love reading!

What will I study?

You will study the OCR English Literature A Level course, which includes a coursework element worth 20% of the overall marks. The remaining 80% is divided into two components:

• Drama and poetry pre-1900 (01), for which you

study one play by Shakespeare. In addition, you study one pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text. These will illuminate one another so you establish connections between texts from the genres of drama and poetry.

- Comparative and contextual study (02), you study at least two texts from one topic area (American Literature 1880-1940, or Gothic). This part of the course focuses on the significance and influence of contexts in which the texts were written and received.
- Non-exam assessment (component 03) students study three literary texts. The texts must include one prose text, one poetry text and one drama text, at least one of which must be published or performed in 2000 or later. Recent text choices include Bernadine Evaristo's Girl, Woman, Other, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun and Mohsin Hamid's Exit West.

What texts will I use?

Texts differ from group to group. Below are some examples of literature taught on the course

Plavs:

- Shakespeare: The Tempest, Measure For Measure, Richard III, Hamlet
- John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi
- Oliver Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer
- Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House

Poetry:

• Geoffrey Chaucer: The Merchant's Prologue and

Tale

• John Milton: Paradise Lost Books 9 & 10

• Christina Rossetti: Selected Poems

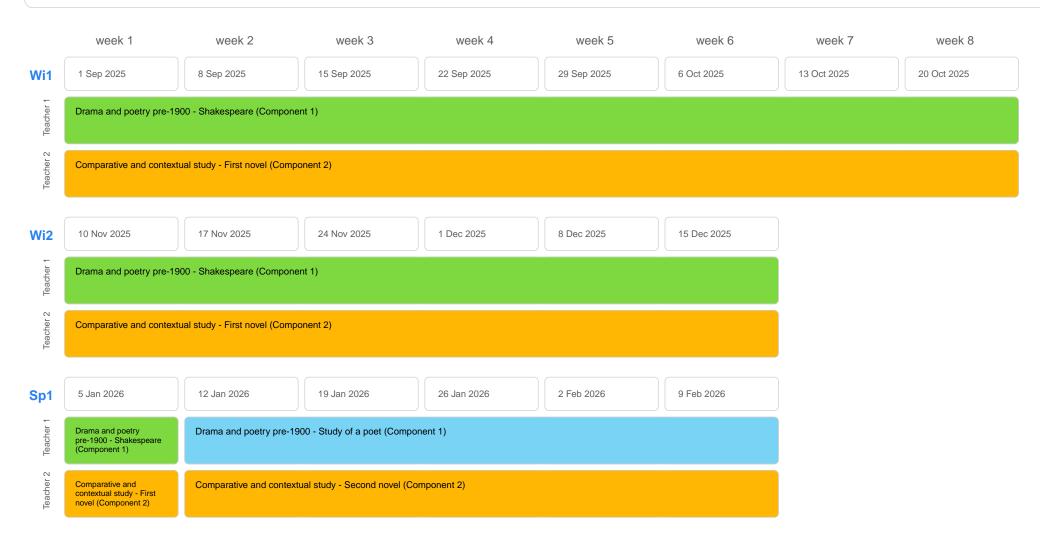
Novels:

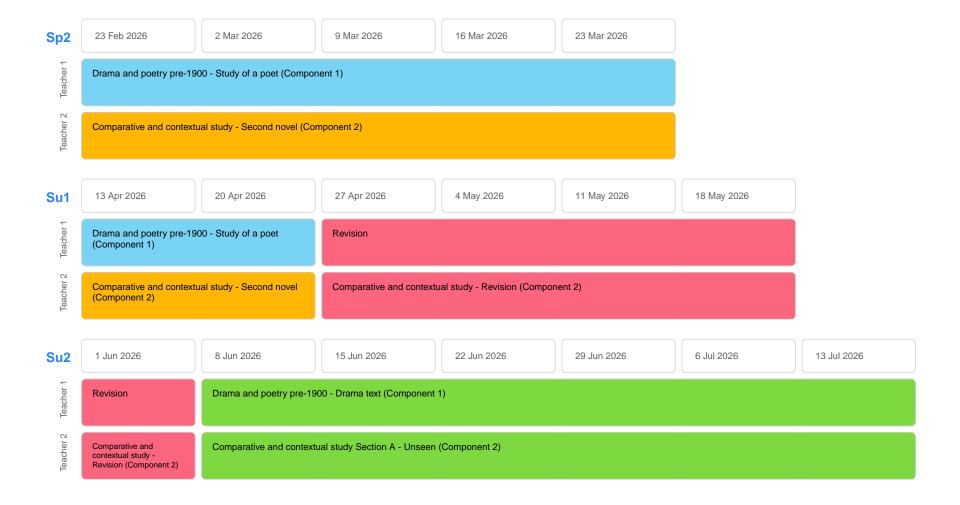
• F Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

Nella Larsen: Passing

• Edith Wharton: The Age of Innocence

A Level English Literature • Year 12







Key Stage 5 Extended Project

Key info:

Year: 12

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7993

Specification

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project is a single piece of work of a student's choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent learning. The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are excellent preparation for university-level study. Students can refer to the Extended Project in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate some of the qualities that universities are looking for.

An Extended Project might be:

- A design
- A report with findings from an investigation or study
- A dissertation presenting an argument
- An artefact
- A performance

The Extended Project offers opportunities for learners to:

- Have significant input into the choice and design of an extended piece of work
- Develop and apply decision-making skills, problem-solving skills, initiative and enterprise
- Extend their planning, research, critical-thinking, analytical, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for higher education and career development

Projects are successful when they fulfil two basic criteria:

You want to do it

You learn something new while you are doing it

Projects are useful for:

- Applying to competitive courses
- Finding out whether you like something
- Having something to talk about at interviews
- Doing that cool thing you always fancied but didn't know how to

What you will get:

- Training in Project Management
- Training in presentation skills
- A supervisor who you will meet every two weeks

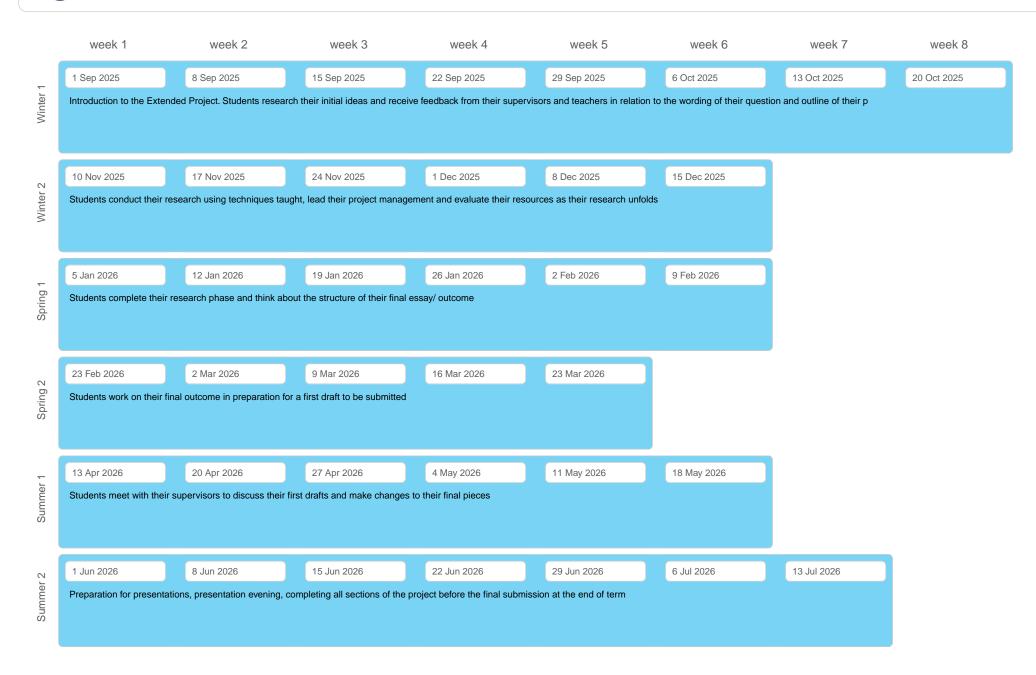
What you will not get:

- Someone telling you what to do
- Someone telling you how to do it
- Someone reminding you to get on with it

At Fortismere you will begin your project in year 12 and it must be completed by the first term of year 13. This gives the summer to work on your EPQ and it also leaves you enough time to focus on your A levels.

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Key Stage 5 Extended Project • Year 12





A Level Film Studies

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: EDUQAS

Specification

EDUQAS A Level in Film Studies is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the 20th century and a cultural form of great significance. Students will engage in a vast range of film texts, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection as well creating their own short film. Students who undertake this A-level enjoy it enormously and many go on to study film at university.

What Will I Study?

Unit 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking [35% of overall mark]

This paper consists of three essay questions based up on the following sections:

- Classic Hollywood a comparison of two classic Hollywood films and how the production and in particular how the auteur helped to shape the finished product. You will also analyse and evaluate the cinematic techniques used within these films and study the importance of cinematography, composition and production design.
- Modern Hollywood a comparison of two modern Hollywood films. You will analyse and evaluate the production, cinematic techniques present within the films and explore how film displays ideological messages present from the time the films were made or set. You will also delve

into the production of the films and analyse how the contexts of the films helped to shape the finished product.

• British Film – a comparison of two British films. You will explore the history of British film and how it is presented through cinema. You will analyse the cinematic techniques of two films and explore the ideological messages present within. You will also look at how the contexts of production aided in the creation of the final product.

Unit 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives [35% of overall mark]

This paper consists of four essay questions based upon the following sections:

- Global Film a study of two international films one produced in Europe one from outside of Europe. You will analyse two films and look at how film making techniques are used to craft messages for the spectator.
- Documentary a study of the techniques and processes used within documentary filmmaking. You will study the differing techniques used by various documentary filmmakers and the impact hese have upon the spectator as well as exploring how technology has changed the way that documentaries are made.
- Silent Cinema a study of the silent film movement. You will study some classic films of the

silent era and explore how cinematic techniques were developed in order to communicate silently to the audience.

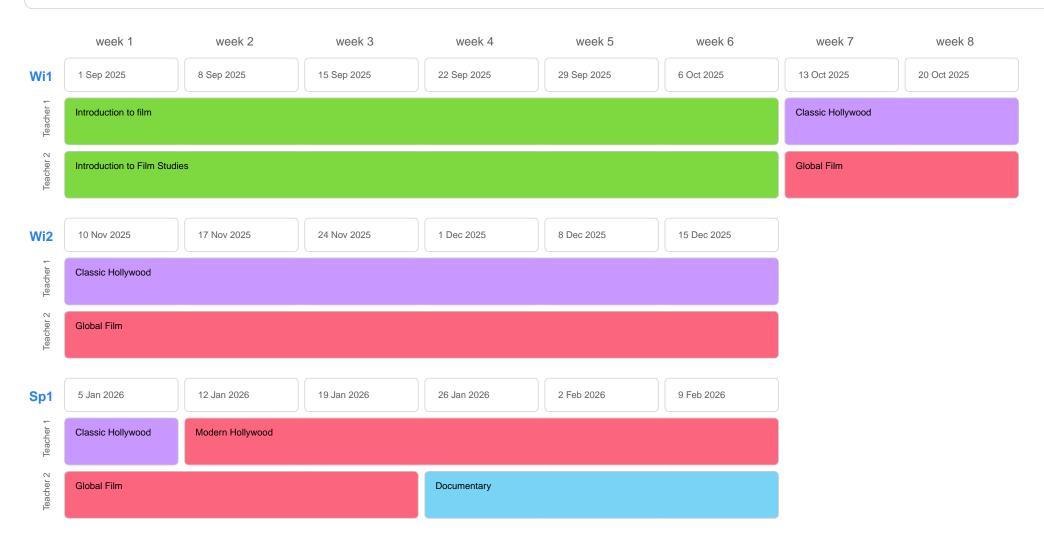
• Experimental film – a study of how films experiment with form and structure. You will study one film and explore how it uses narrative and/or form in an experimental way in order to change the experience of cinema going for the spectator.

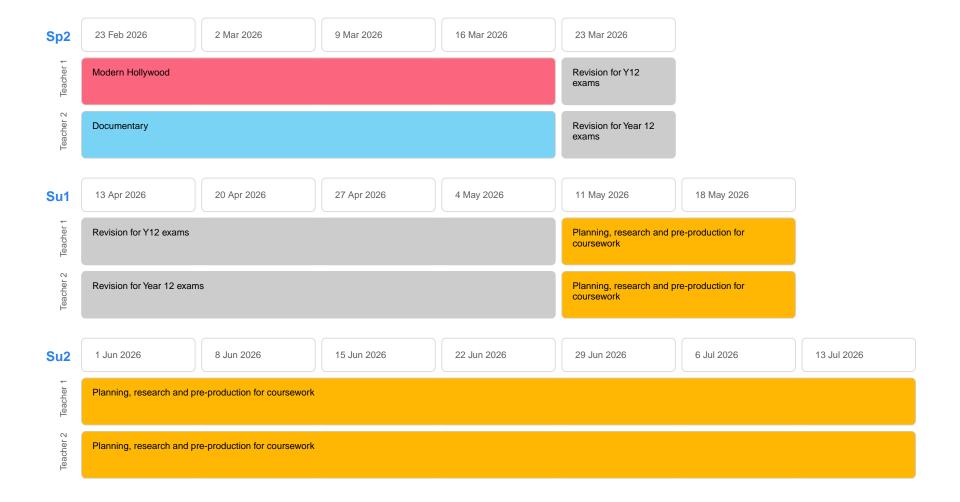
Unit 3: Production [30% of overall mark]

This unit consists of producing one short film and an evaluative essay commenting upon your work.

You will plan, write and produce a short film totalling 4-5 minutes in length based upon one of the briefs set by the exam board.

A Level Film Studies • Year 12







A Level French

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7652

Specification

It is becoming increasingly important to be able to communicate in more than one language. Learning a foreign language creates opportunities to gain a greater understanding of other cultures and to broaden horizons. Your studies will be both academically challenging and an important first step into the international world of work. Fortismere offers A-Level courses in French and Spanish, and the Cambridge Pre-U qualification in Mandarin. Qualifications in Modern Languages are highly valued by University Admissions Offices.

Students will need to be aware that A-Levels are advanced courses and that there is a considerable gap between Advanced level and GCSE. Students will need to be prepared to work hard and to commit themselves fully to the course, which will entail some tutorial work during either study periods, during the lunch hour or after school. Students must be prepared to try to speak their chosen language spontaneously during lessons, as teaching is done primarily in the foreign language.

How will I study?

In addition to gaining a thorough knowledge of grammatical structures and concepts, students will be taught to communicate in the target language in a wide range of situations through a variety of teaching and learning styles. The department subscribes to many online resources and students will find these an invaluable research tool.

Students have 11 lessons per fortnight, taught by two very experienced subject specialists. Extra native speaker support is provided weekly in the run up to exams. Our class sizes range typically from 6 students to 18, which allows us to give a lot of personalised support. Our exam results are consistently excellent with many of our students going on to study languages at top universities.

Trips

The courses incorporate a wide range of enrichment opportunities such as cinema trips, workshops and residential trips abroad. In recent years we have taken pupils on very successful trips to Marseille, Paris, Granada and Xi'an, and we are planning more trips for the future.

What will I study?

For French and Spanish we follow the AQA specifications (information on Mandarin below), and over the 2-year programme we will study four aspects of French or Spanish culture:

French:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Spanish:

Aspects of Hispanic society

•

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- · Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

•

On top of the programme above we will also be reading a novel. This year we have studied L'étranger in French and La casa de Bernada Alba in Spanish. We also study a film and this year we have chosen Les 400 coups in French and Volver in Spanish.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing What's assessed:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Or

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society And Grammar

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks 50% of A-level

Questions

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in French/Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French/Spanish (30 marks)-Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in French/Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French/Spanish (50 marks)

-Translation into French/Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

Grammar

How it's assessed

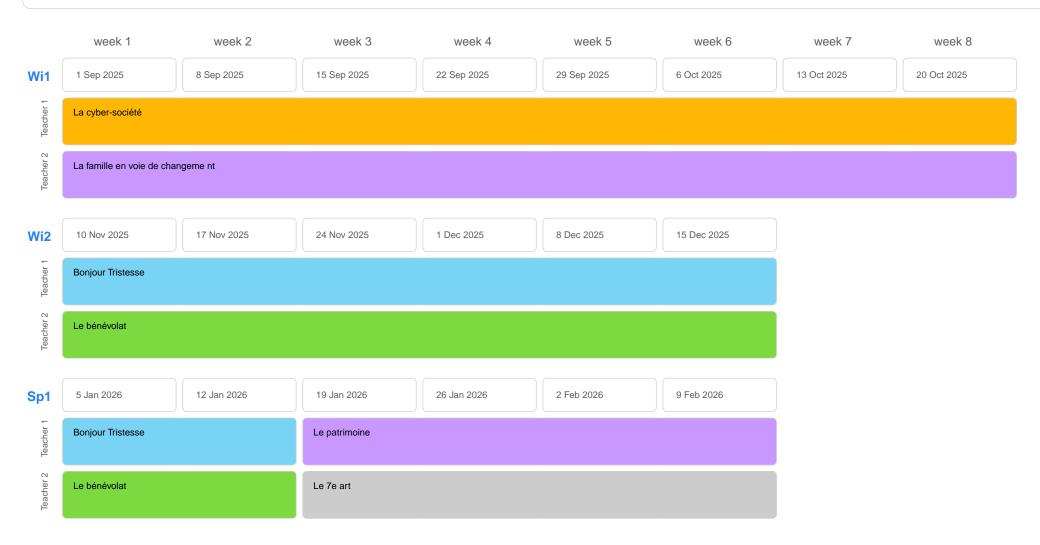
Written exam: 2 hours

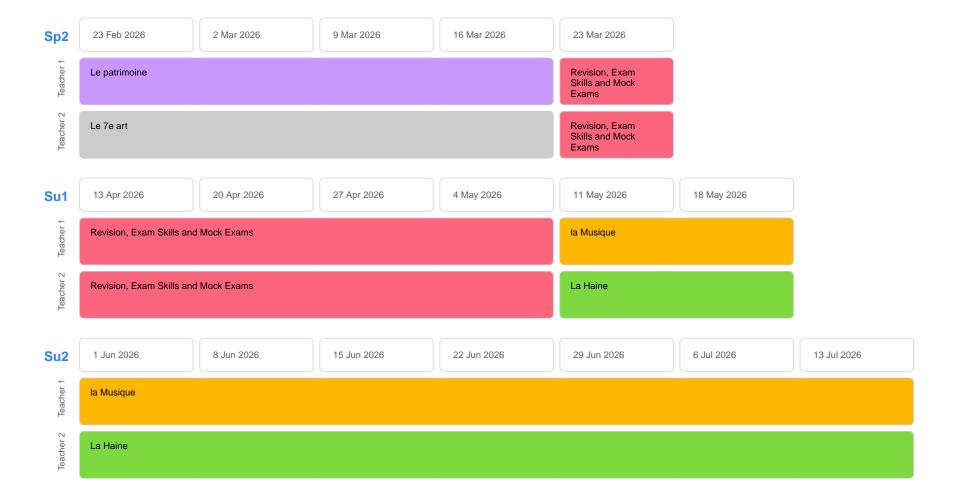
80 marks in total 20% of A-level

Questions

Either one question in French/Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French/Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French/Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

A Level French • Year 12







Y12 Further Maths

Key info:

Year: 12

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Qualification: 9FM0

Specification

Why study mathematics?

An A Level in mathematics is a valuable qualification that is always in demand in both the employment markets and universities. The ability to understand logical arguments and numerical information makes an A-Level mathematician sought after. Career opportunities range from financial and economic planning through management services, to scientific and industrial research, engineering and computing.

What will I study? Modules:

Pure Mathematics 1 - (C1)

Pure Mathematics 2 - (C2)

Pure Mathematics 3 - (C3)

Pure Mathematics 4 - (C4)

Further Mathematics 1 - (FP1)

Further Mathematics 2 - (FP2)

Mechanics 1 - (M1)

Mechanics 2 - (M2)

Mechanics 3 - (M3)

Statistics 1 - (S1)

Decision Mathematics - (D1)

Further Mathematics 3 - (FP3)

Modular combinations:

AS Level Mathematics in Year 12: C1 C2 S1
A2 Level Mathematics in Year 13: C3 C4 M1
AS Level Further Mathematics (including AS Mathematics): C1 C2 FP1 S1 M1 D1

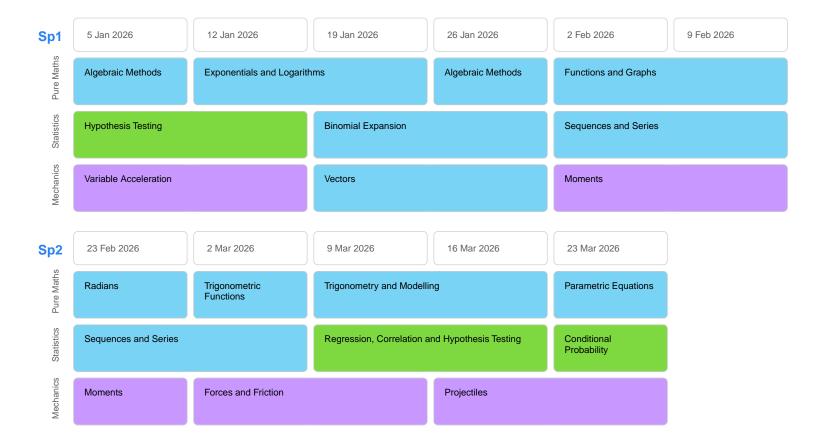
A2 Level Further Mathematics (including A2 Mathematics): C3 C4 FP2 FP3 M2 M3

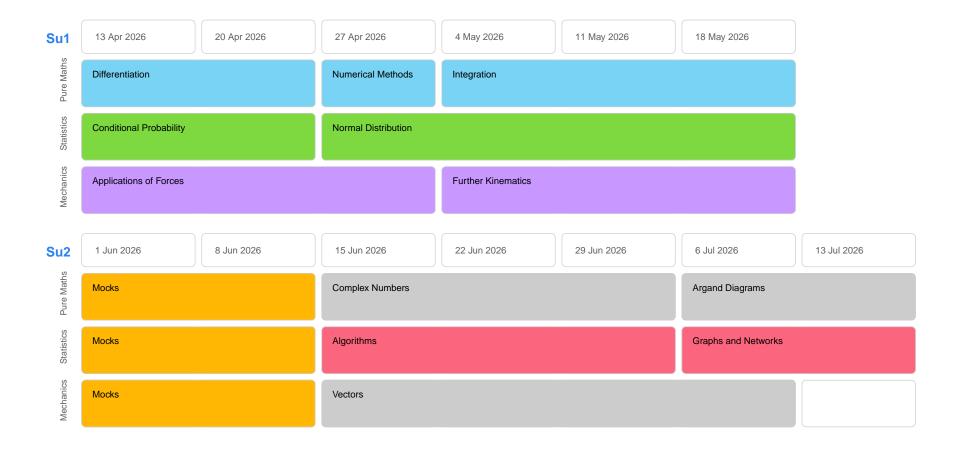
How will I study?

If you want to study mathematics for AS/A Level, you need to work hard, and be motivated and committed. Every lesson generates at least one hour of private study. You are advised to make full use of maths workshops that are available throughout your study at AS and A Level. Depending on your ability, you can also take Advanced Extension Award exams.

Y12 Further Maths

	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8
Wi1	1 Sep 2025	8 Sep 2025	15 Sep 2025	22 Sep 2025	29 Sep 2025	6 Oct 2025	13 Oct 2025	20 Oct 2025
Pure Maths	Baseline Test	Algebraic Expressions	Quadratics	Equations and Inequalities	Graphs and Transformations	Differentiation		Integration
Statistics	Straight Line Graphs Circles			Data Collection Measures of Location			Representations of Data	
Mechanics	Vectors			Modelling in Mechanics	Constant Acceleration			Forces and Motion
Wi2	10 Nov 2025	17 Nov 2025	24 Nov 2025	1 Dec 2025	8 Dec 2025	15 Dec 2025		
Pure Maths	Integration	Binomial Expansion	Trigonometric Ratios		Trigonometric Identities and Equations			
Statistics	Representations of Data	Correlation	Probability		Statistical Distributions			
Mechanics	Forces and Motion				Variable Acceleration			







A Level Geography

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Qualification: 9GE0

Specification

This course will challenge your views of the world and encourage you to explore key local and global issues. It encourages you to research and ask searching questions. Fieldwork, including both the collection and analysing of primary and secondary data, plays a key role in the course. Not only will you develop your geographical knowledge, understanding and skills but you will develop transferable skills (team work, research, presentation, ability to see many sides of an argument; to name but a few). These will be useful for any further study and the world of work.

What will I study?

We follow the Edexcel A Level Geography specification. This is a two year, linear course. With all your exams at the end of the course. You may choose to have a look at Edexcel's website which has a lot of information about the Geography course, some past and sample papers and lots of extra resources, particularly to help with exam technique.

Overview of Year 12 topics

Globalisation: This includes the study of Globalisation and global interdependence and how they continue to accelerate, resulting in changing opportunities for businesses and people. We also look at the inequalities and tensions caused between countries as shifts in patterns of wealth occur. There are also cultural impacts on the identity of communities and pressures on environments from globalisation.

Tectonic Processes and Hazards: Tectonic hazards – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and secondary hazards such as tsunamis – represent a significant risk in some parts of the world. We study the why resilience in some places can be low and the interaction of physical systems with vulnerable populations can result in major disasters. An understanding of the causes of hazards is key to understanding management and responses that can mitigate social and economic impacts.

Diverse Places: Local places vary both demographically and culturally with change driven by local, national and global processes. These processes include movements of people, capital, information and resources, all of which this topic includes. This makes some places more demographically and culturally heterogeneous while other places appear to be less dynamic. This topic also looks at the impacts of the social inequalities that these changes cause and how these might be managed. Students will include one in depth study of one local and a contrasting place.

Glaciated Landscapes and Change Overview: We will study how ice sheets and glaciers operate within a landscape system as glacial processes of erosion, transport and deposition combine with meteorological and climatological processes. These processes interact with geological processes to produce distinctive landscapes which are being changed by both physical

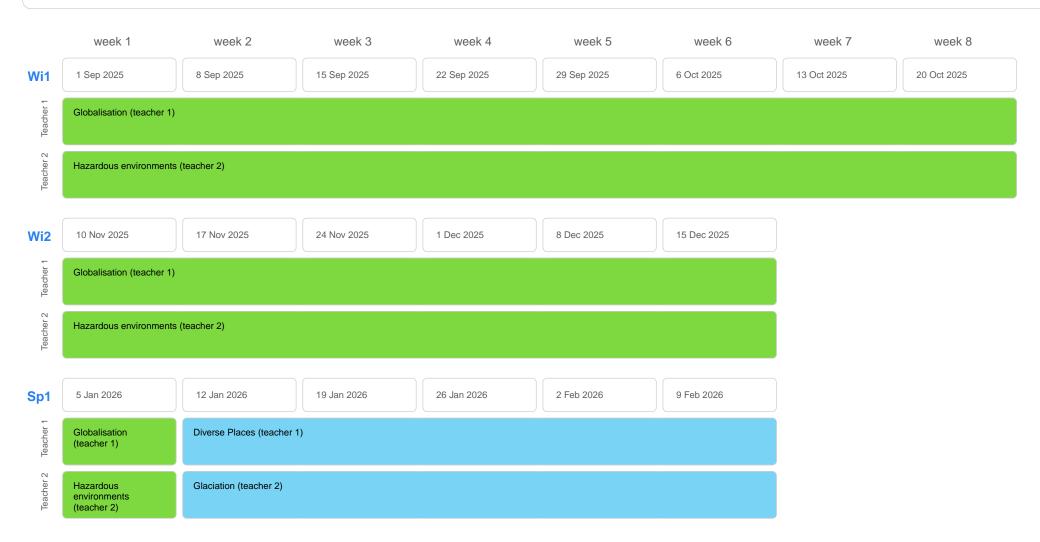
processes and human activities. We will include study of examples of landscapes from areas inside and outside of the UK.

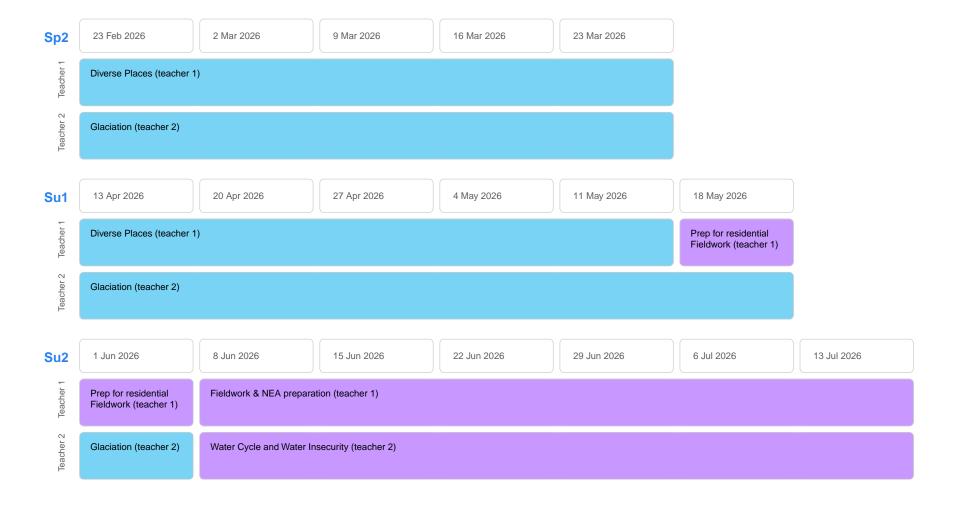
How will I study?

Through seminars, discussions, presentations and individual work. Research will be carried out using books, periodicals & ICT. You will attend student conferences and carry out data collection and analysis through fieldwork. Fieldwork is usually a combination of a residential fieldwork period (in the past this has been I the Pembrokeshire, Wales and Cumbria in the Lake District) and day trips in local urban areas, such as within London.

You will have access to the core textbooks in hardcopy and online as well as a large range of other resources provided for class work and homework.

A Level Geography • Year 12







A Level History

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7042

Specification

History is a subject which develops thinking skills (reasoning and evaluation; thinking creatively; enquiry and information processing). Because of this, it is really useful and these skills will help you make real progress in your other subjects. Employers and colleges and universities are impressed with history qualifications because they know that someone with History A level will be able to think carefully and quickly about a range of issues, as well as being able to support what they say effectively and work efficiently and independently.

But History is not just a valuable subject because of the skills you gain, but also because of the topics you study. At Fortismere, we study a range of different time periods and countries, which are not only interesting in themselves, but also help you to see the world in which you live with a much wider view. This means that you can understand some of the issues in our current society in more depth, e.g. religious and political terrorism, or human rights, as well as helping you to become a more tolerant and interesting person.

History at Fortismere is challenging, partly because the staff who teach you will have high expectations of you and themselves. We support students who wish to apply for History at university, offering mock interviews for students who are likely to face them, as well as extra UCAS guidance.

What will I study?

Unit 1: The Tudors: England, 1485-1603 - This course is a study in breadth of issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period. It considers how effective the Tudors were in restoring and developing the powers of the monarchy, the causes and results of repeated changes to religion, the degree to which the monarchy was threatened by opposition and rebellion, the ways in which England's relations with foreign powers changed, and the role of key individuals and groups in the period.

Year 12: Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty, England 1485-1547

- Monarchy restored and enhanced, 1485–1529 -Henry VII and Henry VII
- Revolution in Church and State, 1529–1547 -Henry VIII

Year 13: Turmoil and Triumph, England 1547-1603

- Religious and political instability and consolidation, 1547–1570 - Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I
- Gloriana and decline, 1571-1603 Elizabeth I

Why have we chosen this unit?

- It's interesting! Despite it being a breadth course, you will learn about lots of interesting events and scandals, such as Elizabeth I and her rumoured affair with Robert Dudley, and whether Mary I deserves her reputation as 'Bloody Mary'.
- It's important! The Break with Rome (under Henry VIII) was arguably one of the most important events in English history and still affects

England today - without it, England might still be a Catholic country. We don't just learn about Henry VIII and his six wives, but why he wanted an annulment (divorce) from his first wife, and why it was so important. We also learn about other significant events that had a lasting impact, such as Elizabeth I and the origins of the British Empire.

Unit 2: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953 - This course is a study in depth of the coming and practice of communism in Russia. It explores concepts such as Marxism, communism, Leninism, and Stalinism, ideological control and dictatorship. It also enables students to consider issues of political authority, the power of individuals and the inter-relationship of governmental and economic and social change.

Year 12: The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin, 1917–1929

- Dissent and Revolution, 1917
- Bolshevik consolidation, 1917–1924
- Stalin's rise to power, 1924-1929

Year 13: Stalin's Rule, 1929-1953

- Economy and society, 1929-1941
- Stalinism, politics and control, 1929–1941
- The Great Patriotic War and Stalin's Dictatorship, 1941–1953

Unit 3: Coursework The United States of America, 1863-1992 - This course is an investigation of a historical issue focusing on a range of topics from the United States from 1863 to 1992. It is studied in the summer term of Year 12. It culminates in a 4,500 word essay exploring a thematic question set by students individually. In constructing this

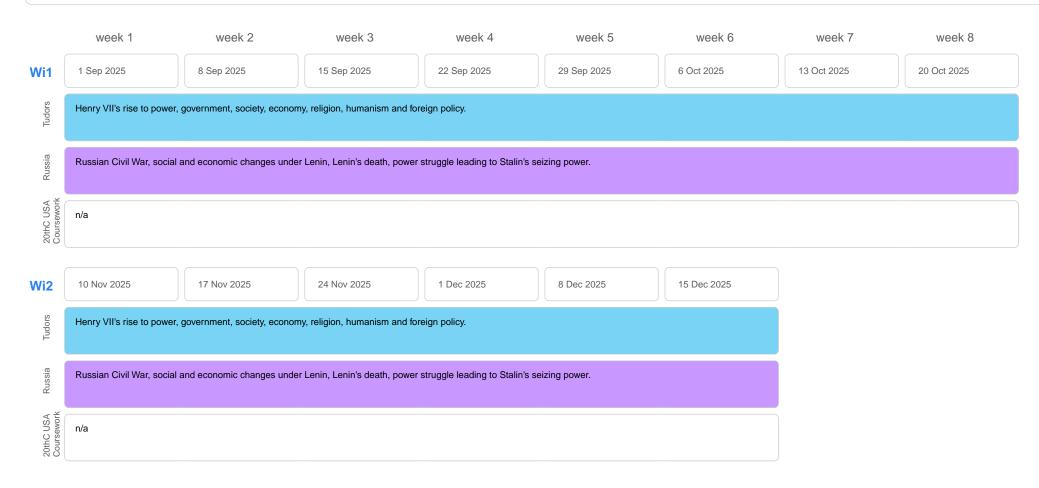
students use both primary sources and historical interpretations in order to develop their own argument. Past questions have included:

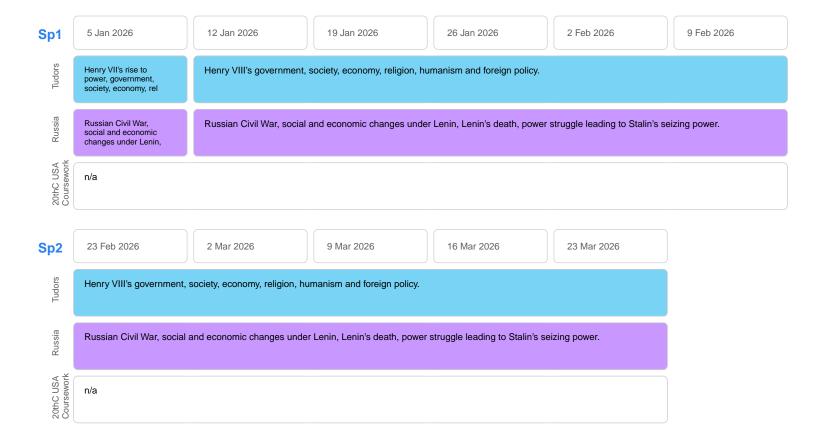
- In the context of the years 1865 to 1984, to what extent did the role and authority of the President of the United States change?
- 'The advancement of the position of women within the United States during the years 1890 to 1982 has been predominantly due to broader social changes rather than the actions of women themselves.' Assess the validity of this view.
- 'America's foreign policy was driven predominantly by national self-interest between the years 1903 and 1999.' Assess the validity of this view.

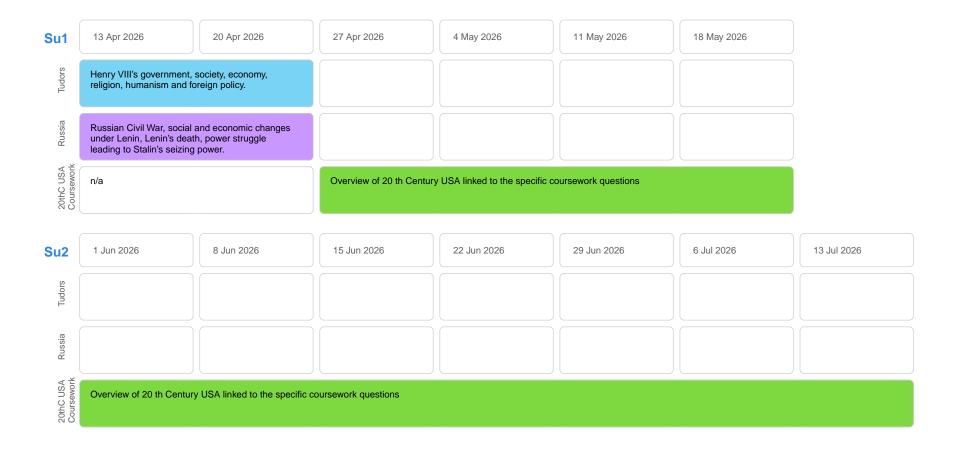
How will I study?

The lessons will be taught by subject specialists and will be a mixture of teacher-led activity, reading and discussion work as well as student presentations/seminars. Students who take responsibility for their own learning do better than those who expect to be spoon-fed. We'll help you, but not do all the work for you! You will also have the opportunity to attend a number of conferences on specific topics.

A Level History • Year 12









A Level Mathematics

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Qualification: 9MA0

Specification

Why study mathematics?

An A Level in mathematics is a valuable qualification that is always in demand in both the employment markets and universities. The ability to understand logical arguments and numerical information makes an A-Level mathematician sought after. Career opportunities range from financial and economic planning through management services, to scientific and industrial research, engineering and computing.

What will I study? Modules:

Pure Mathematics 1 - (C1)

Pure Mathematics 2 - (C2)

Pure Mathematics 3 - (C3)

Pure Mathematics 4 - (C4)

Further Mathematics 1 - (FP1)

Further Mathematics 2 - (FP2)

Mechanics 1 - (M1)

Mechanics 2 - (M2)

Mechanics 3 - (M3)

Statistics 1 - (S1)

Decision Mathematics - (D1)

Further Mathematics 3 - (FP3)

Modular combinations:

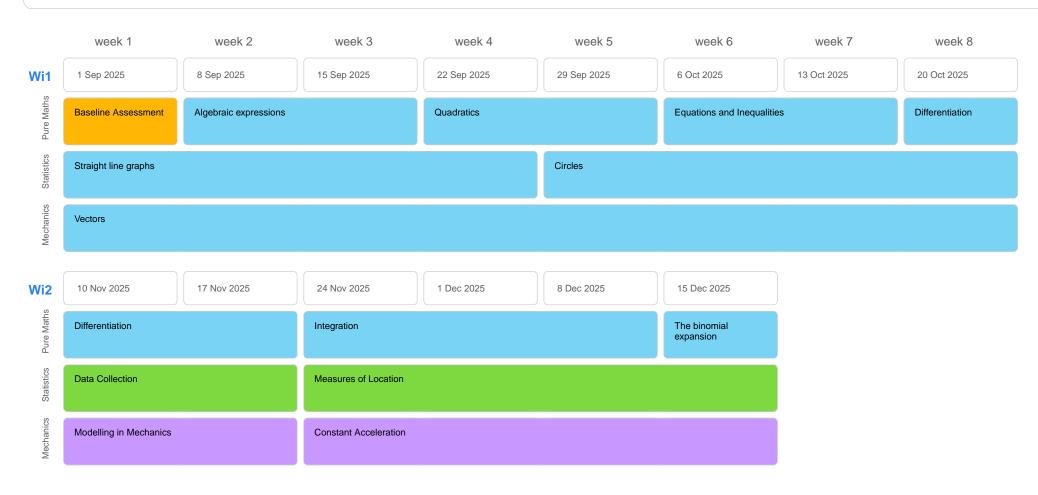
AS Level Mathematics in Year 12: C1 C2 S1
A2 Level Mathematics in Year 13: C3 C4 M1
AS Level Further Mathematics (including AS Mathematics): C1 C2 FP1 S1 M1 D1

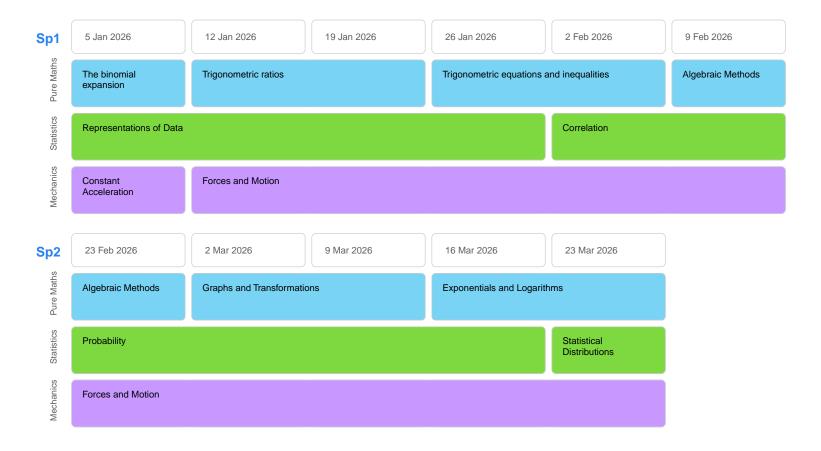
A2 Level Further Mathematics (including A2 Mathematics): C3 C4 FP2 FP3 M2 M3

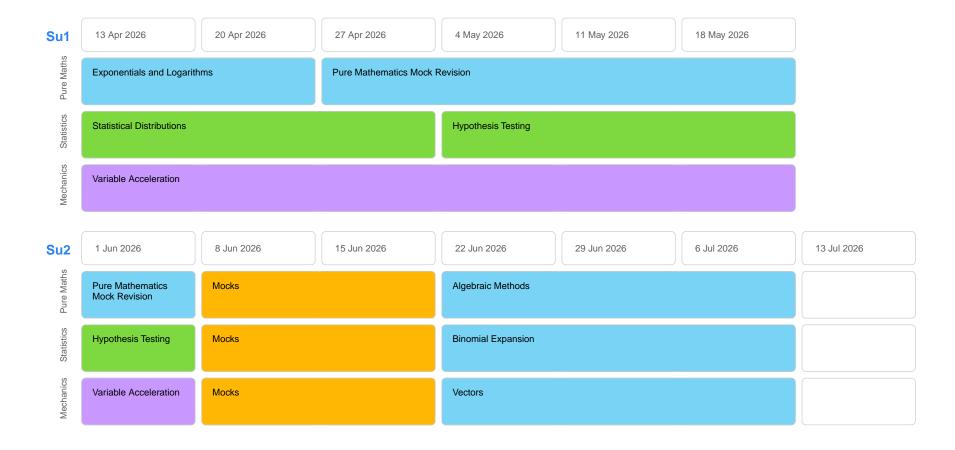
How will I study?

If you want to study mathematics for AS/A Level, you need to work hard, and be motivated and committed. Every lesson generates at least one hour of private study. You are advised to make full use of maths workshops that are available throughout your study at AS and A Level. Depending on your ability, you can also take Advanced Extension Award exams.

A Level Mathematics • Year 12









A Level Media Studies

The media is all around us. In our pockets, on our screens and now plays an intimate part of our lives. Media Studies helps us to make sense of that world and to understand how it is constructed. Media Studies offers a window into how the world has changed to become an integral part of our lives. The media is also one of the UK's largest employment sectors with a huge array of jobs in the industry.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Media Messages [35% of overall mark]

This paper consists of two sections that focus on newspapers, advertising, magazines and music videos. You are required to answer both shorter and longer essay questions.

- •News and online media in this section you will be given unseen newspapers and/or web pages to analyse and evaluate in a comparative question. You will also use media theories in order to analyse the news. Historical, social, political and economic contexts of the newspaper industry will be needed in order to answer the questions.
- •Advertising you will be asked to analyse and evaluate an advert that is either unseen or that has been studied in class.
- Music video you will compare two music videos that you've studied in class and discuss how ideology, representation and media language are used to create meaning for the audience.
- Magazine you will discuss how magazines use

representation, media language and intertextuality to appeal to their audiences and to create meaning.

Unit 2: Evolving Media [35% of overall mark]

This paper consists of two sections that focus on television, radio, film and computer games. You are required to answer both shorter and longer essay questions.

Film – you will study the production of two films, one historical and one contemporary. You will learn about the production contexts of both films and compare how evolving technology shaped the two films. You will compare and evaluate the impact that the different time periods had upon the films.

Radio – you will study the Radio One Breakfast Show and learn about the history and importance of the BBC and its role in UK life. You will look at how breakfast radio is produced and how they target their audiences.

Computer Games – you will study how computer gaming has developed and how it has used digital technology to appeal to its audience. You will look at how the emergence of the internet has allowed audiences to take an active part in the production and distribution of the games they play.

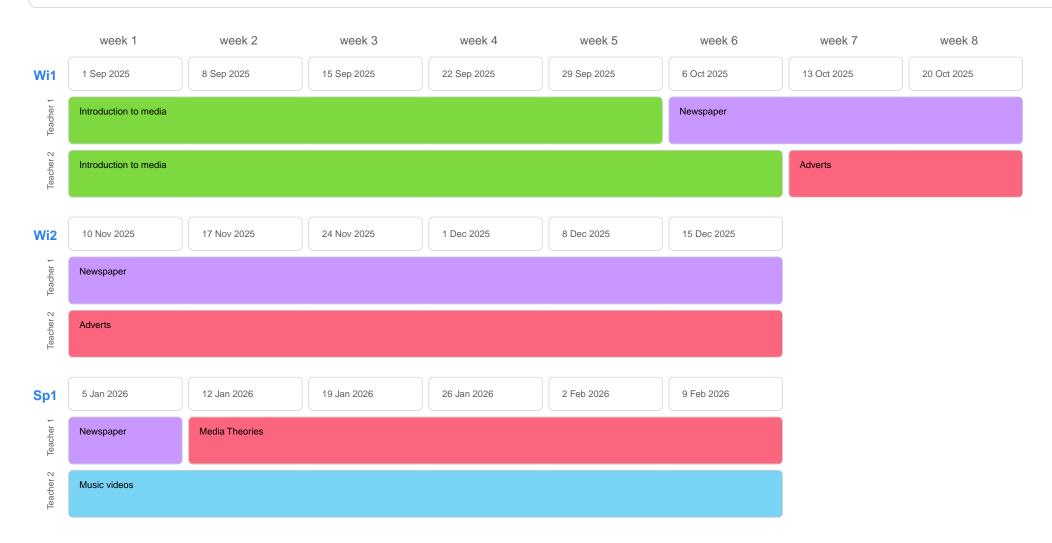
Long Form Television Drama – you will study two television shows; one in the English language and one in a foreign language. You will look at the

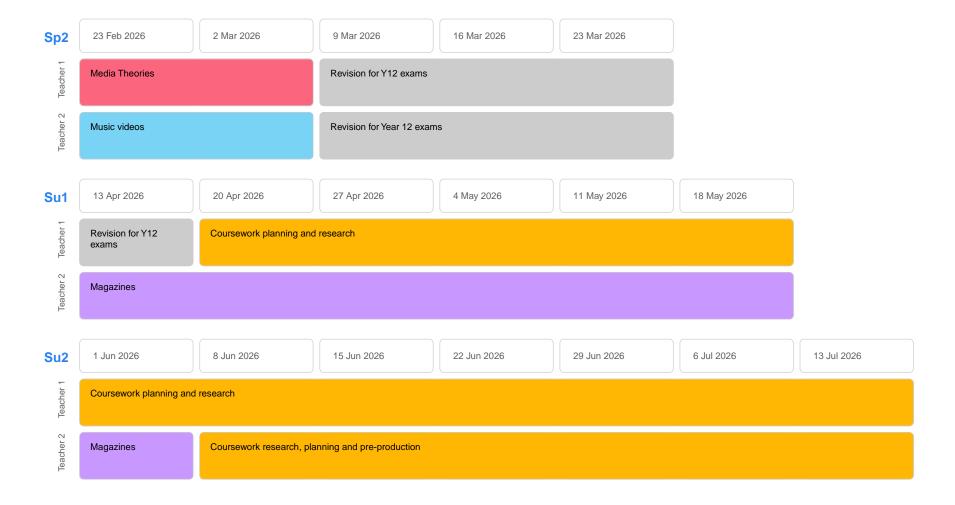
context of these productions and look at how they use media language to communicate different ideologies. You will learn about how evolving technology has altered the world of television.

Unit 3: Making Media [30% of overall mark]

This section consists of the coursework unit. You will be given a brief that you must fulfil. Each year the brief changes but you are always asked to make a website and one other product that fit a particular genre or style. Recent examples include creating a music video for a protest song and an accompanying website that promotes a fictional artist as well the opening three minutes of a documentary television show and the accompanying website that promotes the show.

A Level Media Studies • Year 12







A Level Music

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: Eduqas

Specification

Why Study Music?

- If you aspire to perform and compose to an advanced level, and are highly motivated by music
- If you practice for an hour a day or more
- If you are prepared to commit to 2 extra curricular music ensembles a week and participate in public concerts
- If you want to develop your analytical, aural and theoretical skills within the context of musical history from the Classical Period to Contemporary Modern
- If you enjoy working within a creative, challenging and collaborative atmosphere

What will I study?

The Eduqas A Level Music allows you to play to your strengths since you can choose to either major in performance (option A) or composition (option B).

Option A Performance: 10-12 minutes (35% of qualification)

- A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces.
- At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both.
- One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.
- At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study.

Option A

- Composition: 4 6 minutes (25% of qualification)Learners are required to prepare a portfolio of two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language, techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief set by WJEC.
- The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief

Option B Performance: 6 - 8 minutes (25% of qualification)

- A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both.
- One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Option B Composition: 8 -10 minutes (35% of qualification)

- Learners are required to prepare a portfolio of three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language, techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief set by WJEC.
- The second composition must reflect the musical techniques and conventions of one different area of study (i.e. not the Western Classical Tradition)
- The third composition is a free composition.

Written Paper (40% of qualification)

Section 1: Questions 1 to 6 (30 marks)

- This section will consist of listening and questions on your chosen area of study:
- Rock and Pop or
- Musical Theatre or
- Jazz

Section 2: Questions 7 to 10 (30 marks)

• This will consist of 2 questions on the Thomas Ades and Sally Beamish worth 15 marks each

Section 3: Questions 11 to 14 (40 marks)

- Q.11 will be a listening question on a previously unheard symphony (10 marks)
- Q.12 and Q.13 are on the Haydn and Mendelssohn set works and you must choose ONE of these, there is no listening component to these questions, it is all prior knowledge from your analysis lessons. You will be given an unmarked copy of the scores which you can have in the exam room (15 marks)
- Q.14 is a long answer question on the development of the symphony. (15 marks)

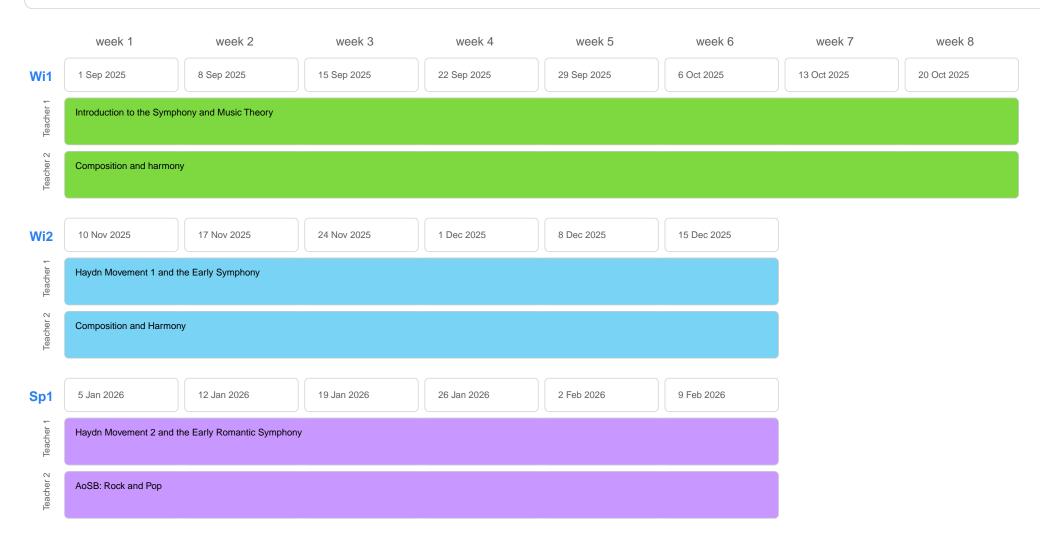
HOW WILL I STUDY?

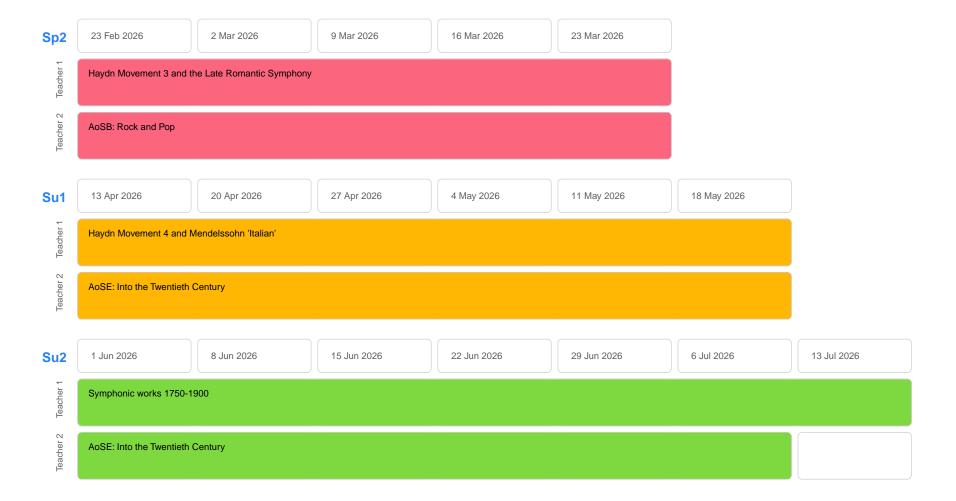
Students explore all areas of the course through a programme of class and group workshops, individual and group performances (in and out of school) and on occasion work with professional musicians to further compositional and performance skills.

Students are expected to organise their own individual practice schedules with their instrumental or vocal teacher and rehearse regularly with others. Teachers guide you through

lessons focusing on composition, aural and theory skills, general listening, performance and analysis of set works.

A Level Music • Year 12





KS5 Music Technology

The study of Music is essential to developing a young person's identity and to help them make sense of who they are and how they fit into today's world, its study will develop critical thinking, the skills of evaluation and refining and the ability to work with others. As a truly Universal Language it can unite us, help us to express our emotions and communicate with others either through our listening choices or by making music with others. Through the study of Music at Fortismere, students will develop a better understanding of different cultures, the common threads that tie us together across our global society and how music can be used as a powerful tool for good in the world. Within the Music Department we strive to teach our students how emotions can be expressed, how imagination can be sparked through composition, listening and performing and ultimately to ignite an interest within our young musicians that will inspire a lifelong love of learning which will develop as they go through life beyond these early stages of their journey.

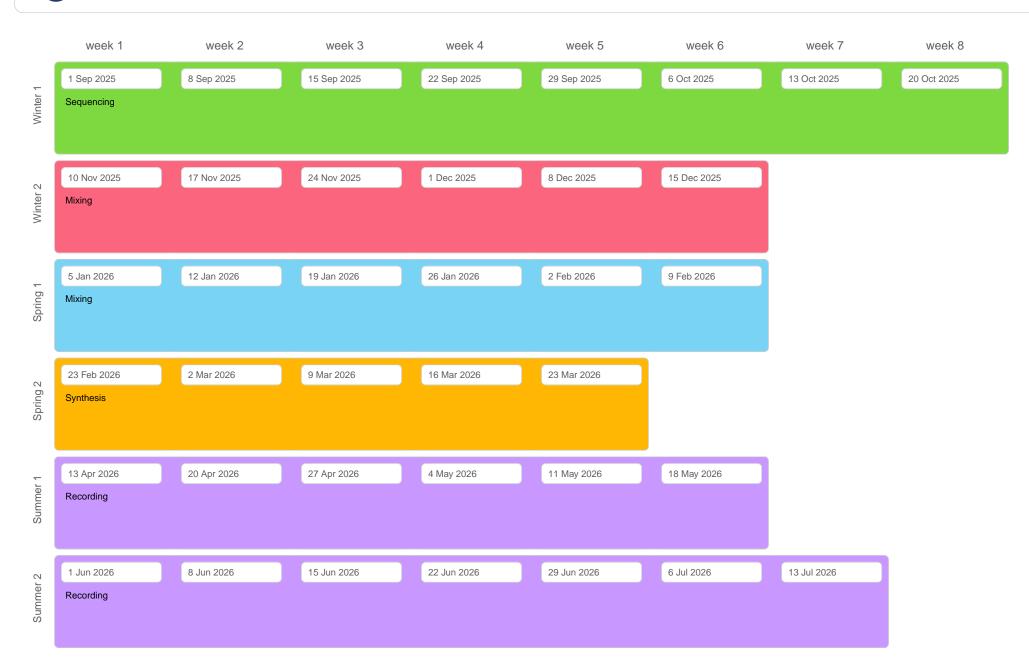
The study of Music at Fortismere is underpinned by the development of key skills which will support our students both academically and emotionally. Our students will learn to analyse the music that they listen to and in doing so become more critical thinkers and active listeners, they will learn to recognise principal themes and how music is used as a way to express Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural differences. Through learning how to compose our students will learn to develop their

own ideas, begin to express themselves emotionally and use their analysis of key universal themes into practice. These universal themes will include a range of genres, styles and traditions, including our great composers and musicians.

Students will also have the opportunity to perform within groups or individually and in doing so will develop interpersonal, memory and evaluation skills. This will include singing and the use of voices, learning how to use instruments and technology in order to progress toward musical excellence These three areas of study will be evident in lessons and delivered by a team of music specialists dedicated to creating an exciting and challenging environment for all students of all abilities.

At Fortismere, the study of Music in the classroom is further complemented by extra-curricular opportunities which make the most of the opportunities in our local community and the wider world. Students are able to take part in a variety of ensembles both within their own peer groups and as part of cross generational groups such as our Community Choir and Symphony Orchestra. They are also offered the chance to take part in workshops, seminars and concerts throughout the year as well as make music within their local, wider and world community.

KS5 Music Technology • Year 12





A Level Philosophy

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7172

Specification

Do you exist? Does anything? Can we trust our senses? How can we know anything? What is knowledge? What is a mind? How should I act? What is the purpose of life?

If you have ever thought about any of these questions, then you have already started doing philosophy. Philosophy considers the biggest questions ever asked, questions that other academic subjects cannot answer. Many of these questions have been asked by humans for thousands of years. In the Philosophy A Level, we study the answers to these questions provided by the world's greatest philosophers, and attempt to answer them ourselves.

Progress in answering these questions requires clear and rigorous thinking, sensitivity to distinctions. imagination, conceptual understanding, often a sense of humour, always a sense of wonder, a delight in discussions and listening and, crucially, the ability to think for oneself. We study the structure of arguments, and use logic and reason to criticise the thoughts of philosophers, and to construct our own philosophical theories. Philosophy is an academic discipline, and to be successful you need to be a keen and perceptive reader, and have the ability to express yourself clearly through your written work. Above all, you will need an open and inquisitive mind, and a desire to untangle some complicated and important problems.

The course is split into four sections, and is

assessed by two three-hour exams. The topics covered are:

- Epistemology What is knowledge? What can we know? Can we prove the existence of the world? Do I exist? Can we be certain of anything?
- Philosophy of Religion What is God? Can we prove God's existence? Can we disprove God's existence? Can we know anything about God?
- Ethics Do right and wrong exist? How can we judge between right and wrong? Is morality objective or subjective? Are 'good' and 'bad' just words?
- Philosophy of Mind What is the mind? Can I prove the existence of my mind? Am I the only mind? What is consciousness? What is experience?

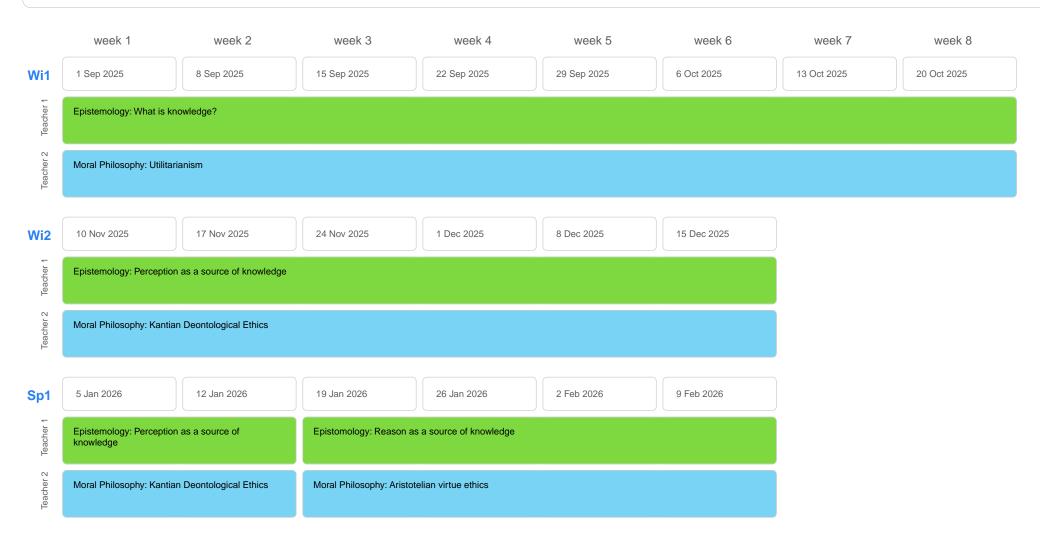
Results are consistently very good, and many students go on to study Philosophy at a higher level. Philosophy is well regarded by Russell Group universities, and provides a range of transferable skills. As such, it complements the study of all other A level subjects. Philosophy is often described by students as their favourite subject, and what you learn in philosophy will stay with you forever. If you exist....

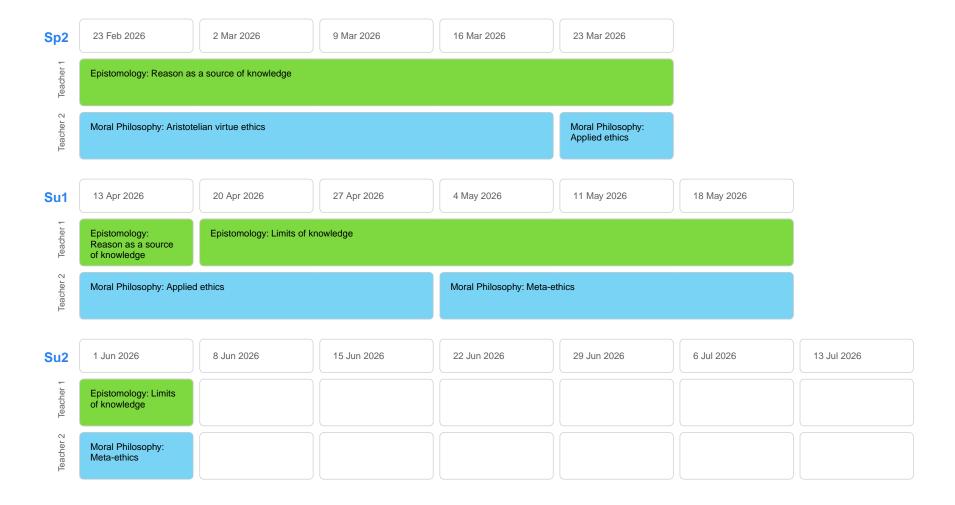
For specific details of the course studied at AS/A2 levels, visit the AQA website.

CONTACT THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

- Aldridge, Mr S Head of Philosophy saldridge@fortismere.org.uk
- Kaye, Ms A Philosophy Teacher akaye@fortismere.org.uk

A Level Philosophy • Year 12







A Level Photography

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: Eduqas

Specification

A level Photography is a creative course with an emphasis on photography as an art form. The camera will be used as a tool to develop visual and thought processes as well as creative and critical abilities. Such skills are in high demand within the Creative Industries, which according to the Department for Media, Culture & the Arts (DMCA) are a "significant contributor to the UK economy - accounting for 7.9% of GDP, and growing significantly faster."

The department has excellent facilities:

- a large dark room with 13 enlargers for monochrome work
- a photographic studio area and backdrop
- two suites of Apple iMac computers suitable for intensive image and audio visual editing.

We encourage all forms of experimentation from traditional darkroom printing to video editing and animation. To see work produced by our students, please visit our online gallery at: www.flickr.com/fortismereartdepartment/collections and the department's instagram:

@fortismere_art_photography

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will undergo a programme of study to equip them with the technical skills and control of the photographic medium in order to be able to realise their creative intentions. Critical awareness and appreciation of the work of others will also play a major part in the course.

UNIT 1: Personal Investigation

The coursework element is worth 60% and is divided into skills workshops and independent projects.

YEAR 12

Project 1: Foundation

The Foundation unit consists of a series of tutorials and set tasks that will help students understand how to use the digital camera and SLR camera, covering the basic principles of photography. Students will also learn to develop their 'photographic eye' and improve compositional understanding, before moving onto the first independent project.

Project 2: Structure

Students develop a personal response to the theme. They document the development of ideas in an online portfolio and produce an ambitious final piece or series of pieces.

Project 3: Abstraction

An independent project where students create their own interpretation of the brief set. This project is also a springboard into the main area of study in year 13.

YEAR 13

Project 4: Personal Portfolio

This is divided into two elements:

- Personal Study: A written and illustrated study into an area of Photography.
- Personal Portfolio: A portfolio of practical work based on a brief

UNIT 2: Externally Set Assignment

The exam is worth 40% of the final mark. Students receive a choice of themes in January of year 13. They then have approximately ten weeks to develop a project towards a final outcome. The final piece is created within a 15 hour exam spread across three days.

Students are assessed according to Eduqas' assessment criteria, which measures the way a student develops, experiments, records and realises their ideas.

HOW WILL I STUDY?

Students will be involved in practical, creative, technical, historical, critical and theoretical activities. Students will be required to work independently and co-operatively, and to be well-organised. Some work will be studio-based. However, a willingness to venture widely in pursuit of photography is an important quality to have on the course.

We expect students to take advantage of the many exhibitions on display in London. We also offer a study visit abroad, run an open-studio afterschool session and provide opportunities for gallery and museum visits.

WHAT DO I NEED TO START THE COURSE?

An enthusiasm for the subject and a determination to generate ideas and work beyond the basic course requirements is essential. If you are considering studying both Fine Art and Photography, please be aware that the coursework requirements (60%) of both subjects require a great deal of independent work outside of the classroom and high level of organisational

ability.

To join the course, you are required to have a digital camera with manual speed and aperture-priority modes. We recommend the Fuji FinePix range for a reasonable price bracket, whereas the Canon EOS and Nikon D-series create mid-range DSLR cameras with detachable lenses. The department supplies manual SLR Film Cameras for black & white photography, which can be loaned out.

A Level Photography • Year 12





A Level Physics

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7408

Specification

What will I study?
A Level Physics - AQA Course

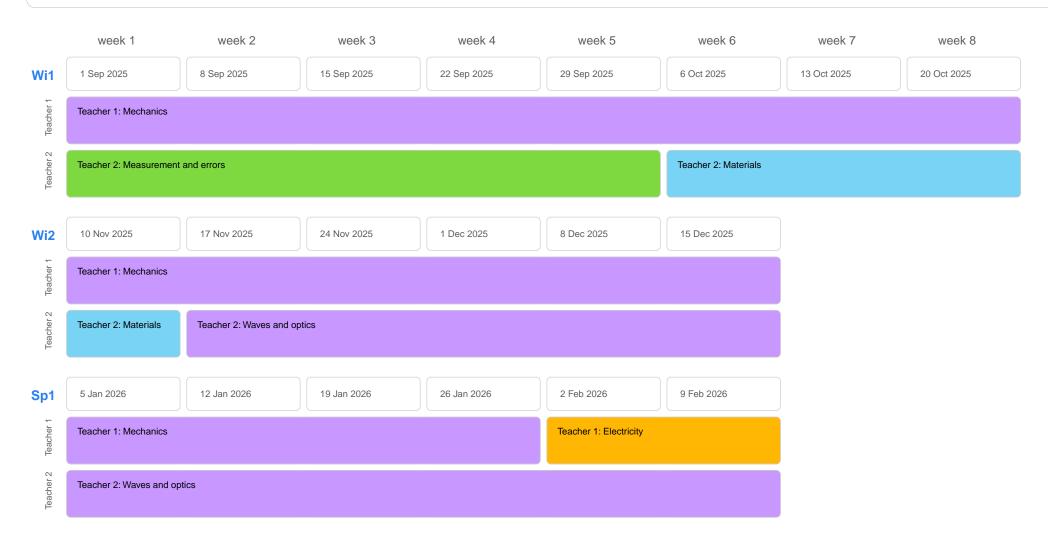
Year 12 – AS Level Physics

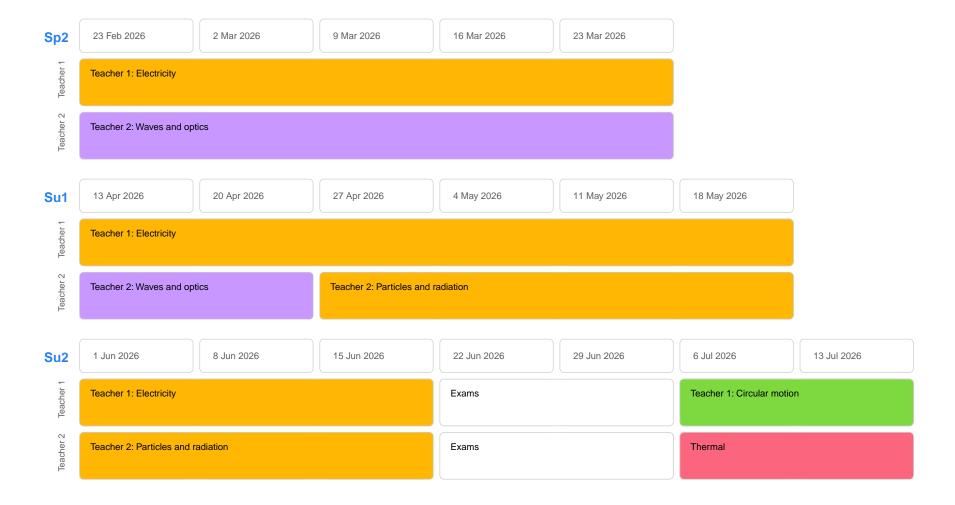
- Particles and radiation constituents of the atom, stable and unstable nuclei
- Progressive and stationary waves
- Force, energy and momentum
- Current electricity

Year 13 - A Level Physics

- Circular motion and simple harmonic motion
- Force fields, gravitational physics
- Radioactivity and radiation
- Optional astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points in physics
- The AS and A Level grades are based on written exams, however, the course also includes compulsory practical activities.

A Level Physics • Year 12







A Level Politics

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Qualification: 9PL0

Specification

Why study Politics?

If you have an interest in how political decisions are reached and who has the power to influence them you will enjoy this course. It provides many opportunities for discussion and debate, and complements the study of many other AS subjects, such as History and Philosophy, extremely well.

What will I study?

Year 12

Module 1 - People and Politics (25% of total A Level)

This unit introduces students to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages them to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation.

Module 2 - Governing the UK (25% of total A Level)

This unit introduces students to the major governmental processes in the UK. It encourages them to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions, and of the relationship amongst them in the context of multi-level government,

Year 13 (Political ideologies)

Module 3 - Key Themes in Political Analysis: Introducing Political Ideologies

(25% of the total A level)

An introduction to the subject of political ideology; an examination of the major ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

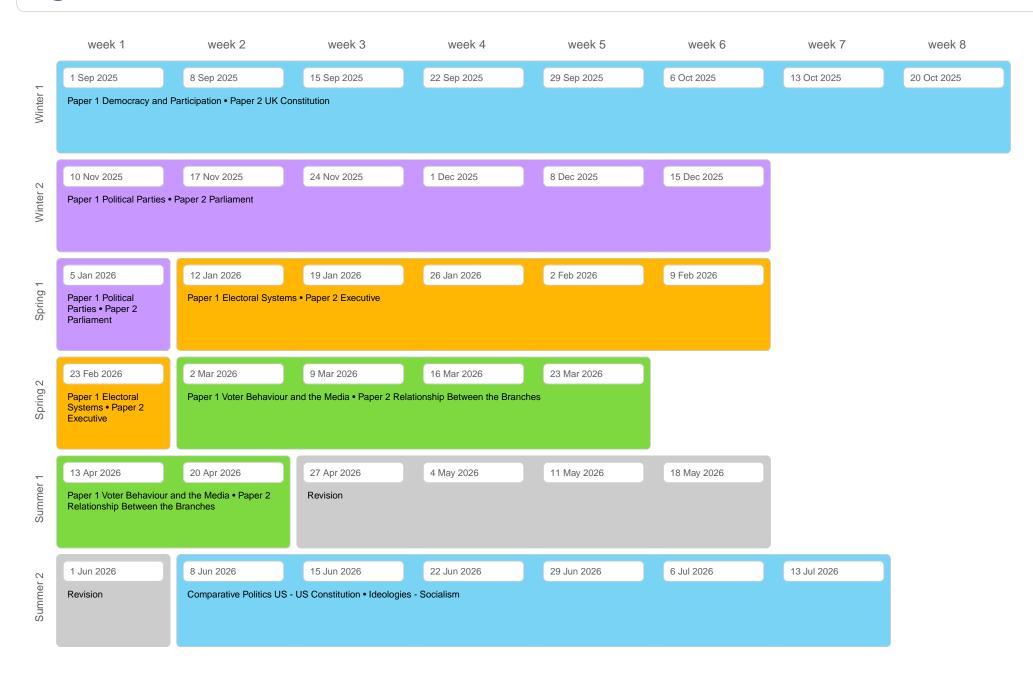
Module 5 - Extended Themes in Political Analysis: Other Ideological Traditions (25% of the total A Level)

Examines the ideological traditions that have developed out of, or have emerged in opposition to, liberalism, conservatism and socialism (i.e nationalism, anarchism, fascism, and feminism).

How will I study?

Through a mixture of teacher-led activity, student presentations, debate and workshops. You will work in groups and individually. A number of visits (parliament, Downing Street) and conferences are organised. You will be required to read around the subject extensively and stay up to date with current political events.

A Level Politics • Year 12





A Level Psychology

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

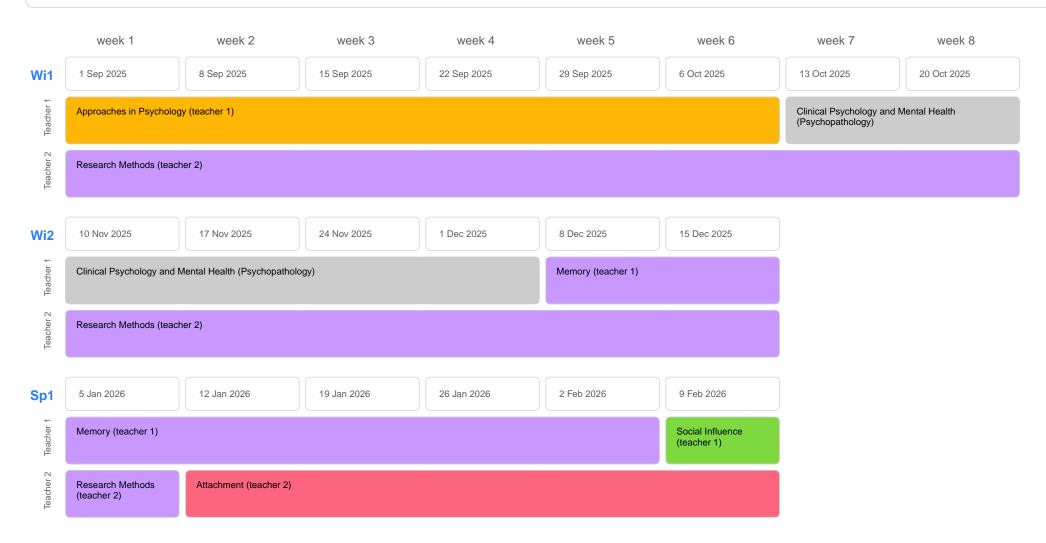
Exam board: AQA

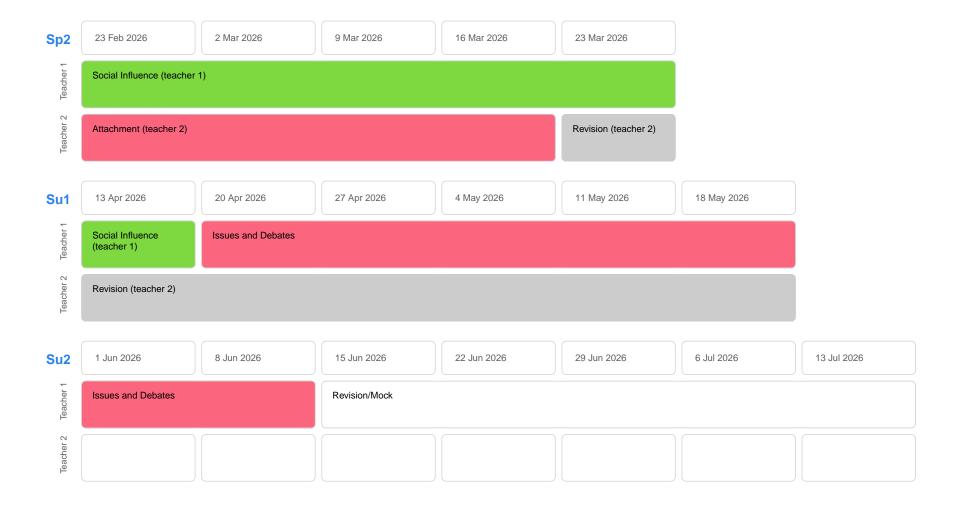
Qualification: 7182

Specification

The A Level Psychology course looks at the historical development of the subject and why and when it became a science. It also covers topics which are more scientific in content, such as biopsychology and research methods to topics which seek to respond to philosophical questions such as how far humans have free will and what the difference is between the mind and the brain. Underpinning all aspects of psychology are the different approaches that psychologists adopt when they undertake their research and the research methods that they use to test their hypotheses. Year 12 always begins with psychology in context (approaches and research methods) and as the key stage progresses, all learn about topics the students psychopathology, memory, social influence, biopsychology, attachment, aggression and schizophrenia. To support the advanced skills of synoptic understanding and evaluation, students will learn about the issues and debates that are at the centre of this fascinating subject throughout the whole key stage and they also have the opportunity to discuss these when they learn its content as a discrete topic in Year 13.

A Level Psychology • Year 12







KS5 Pastoral Curriculum

KS5 Pastoral Curriculum • Year 12

	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8
Winter 1	1 Sep 2025 Click edit map at the top and then edit from here	8 Sep 2025	15 Sep 2025	22 Sep 2025	29 Sep 2025	6 Oct 2025	13 Oct 2025	20 Oct 2025
Winter 2	10 Nov 2025	17 Nov 2025	24 Nov 2025	1 Dec 2025	8 Dec 2025	15 Dec 2025		
Spring 1	5 Jan 2026	12 Jan 2026	19 Jan 2026	26 Jan 2026	2 Feb 2026	9 Feb 2026		
Spring 2	23 Feb 2026	2 Mar 2026	9 Mar 2026	16 Mar 2026	23 Mar 2026			
Summer 1	13 Apr 2026	20 Apr 2026	27 Apr 2026	4 May 2026	11 May 2026	18 May 2026		
Summer 2	1 Jun 2026	8 Jun 2026	15 Jun 2026	22 Jun 2026	29 Jun 2026	6 Jul 2026	13 Jul 2026	



A Level Sociology

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7192

Specification

Why study Sociology?

Sociology, is the study of societal organisation and individual life experiences, it goes beyond a simple examination of society; it delves into pressing questions that remain challenging and exciting. From redefining punishment through the sociology of deviance to questioning the pervasive fixation on celebrity culture and its profound connections to the class system, sociology prompts critical inquiry into various aspects of human existence.

- Beyond the borders of Britain, sociology addresses global issues like the environment, migration, and globalisation, exploring the repercussions of social changes on individuals worldwide. It poses fundamental queries about identity, citizenship, and the influence of factors such as gender, religion, and ethnicity on life opportunities.
- Studying sociology involves honing valuable skills, including independent work, information retrieval, teamwork, and research methods. Students who study sociology will be equipped to navigate diverse career paths, employing research tools from large social surveys to indepth interviews and media text analysis. The interdisciplinary nature of sociology makes it highly relevant to an array of professions, reflecting its enduring importance over more than a century.
- This demanding course aims to develop valuable

academic and social skills. It is highly valued and prepares students for a variety of courses in Higher Education which include Medicine, Law, Politics, Criminology, Social Policy planning and Journalism to name but a few.

- Our exam board at A Level is AQA
- Each Sociology paper is 2 hours long and each paper is worth 80 marks

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (compulsory content)

- Education: short answer and extended writing,
 50 marks
- Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

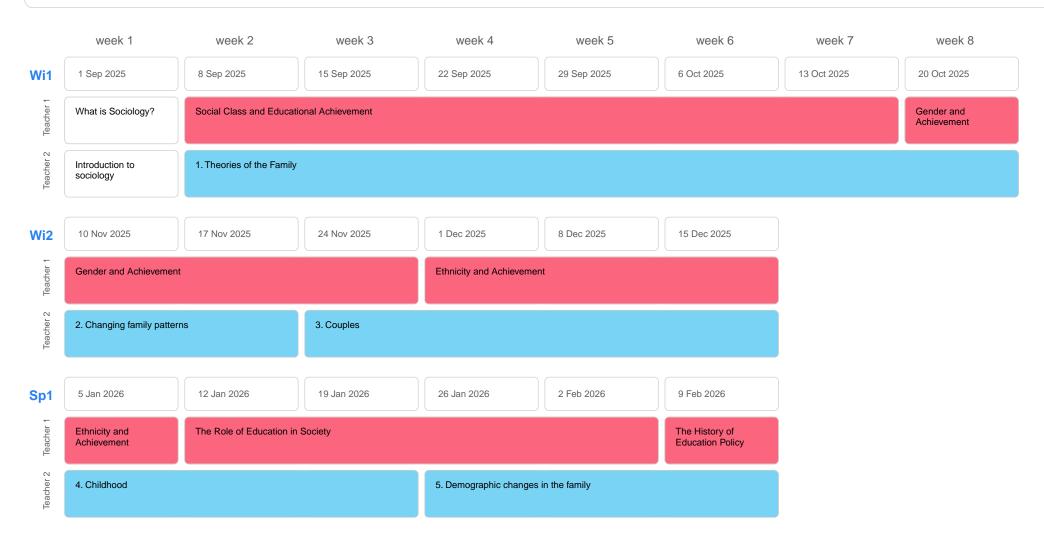
- Section A: Families (40 marks)
- Section B: Beliefs (40 marks)

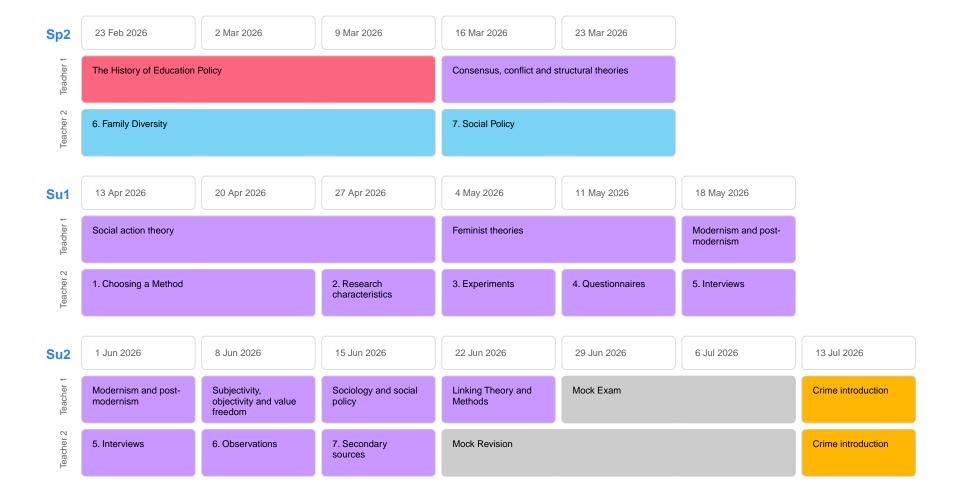
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (compulsory content)

- Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks
- Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks

Contact Sociology Department: jduggan@fortismere.org.uk

A Level Sociology • Year 12







A Level Spanish

Key info:

Years: 12 and 13

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: 7692

Specification

It is becoming increasingly important to be able to communicate in more than one language. Learning a foreign language creates opportunities to gain a greater understanding of other cultures and to broaden horizons. Your studies will be both academically challenging and an important first step into the international world of work. Fortismere offers A-Level courses in French and Spanish, and the Cambridge Pre-U qualification in Mandarin. Qualifications in Modern Languages are highly valued by University Admissions Offices.

Students will need to be aware that A-Levels are advanced courses and that there is a considerable gap between Advanced level and GCSE. Students will need to be prepared to work hard and to commit themselves fully to the course, which will entail some tutorial work during either study periods, during the lunch hour or after school. Students must be prepared to try to speak their chosen language spontaneously during lessons, as teaching is done primarily in the foreign language.

How will I study?

In addition to gaining a thorough knowledge of grammatical structures and concepts, students will be taught to communicate in the target language in a wide range of situations through a variety of teaching and learning styles. The department subscribes to many online resources and students will find these an invaluable research tool.

Students have 11 lessons per fortnight, taught by two very experienced subject specialists. Extra native speaker support is provided weekly in the run up to exams. Our class sizes range typically from 6 students to 18, which allows us to give a lot of personalised support. Our exam results are consistently excellent with many of our students going on to study languages at top universities.

Trips

The courses incorporate a wide range of enrichment opportunities such as cinema trips, workshops and residential trips abroad. In recent years we have taken pupils on very successful trips to Marseille, Paris, Granada and Xi'an, and we are planning more trips for the future.

What will I study?

For French and Spanish we follow the AQA specifications (information on Mandarin below), and over the 2-year programme we will study four aspects of French or Spanish culture:

French:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Spanish:

Aspects of Hispanic society

•

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- · Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

•

On top of the programme above we will also be reading a novel. This year we have studied L'étranger in French and La casa de Bernada Alba in Spanish. We also study a film and this year we have chosen Les 400 coups in French and El Laberinto del Fauno in Spanish.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing What's assessed:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Or

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
 And Grammar

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks 50% of A-level

Questions

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in French/Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French/Spanish (30 marks)-Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in French/Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French/Spanish (50 marks)

-Translation into French/Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

Grammar

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks in total 20% of A-level

Questions

Either one question in French/Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French/Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French/Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

A Level Spanish • Year 12

