



A Level

Options Booklet

2017 - 2019

Contents

About Key Stage 5	3
Key Stage 5 Curriculum Outline	4
English Language	7
English Literature	8
Media Studies	10
Mathematics	11
Further Mathematics	12
Spanish	13
French	13
German	15
Applied Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	17
Biology	18
Chemistry	19
Physics	20
History	21
Geography	22
Art & Design	24
Business Studies	26
Music	27

About Key Stage 5

Key Stage 5 comprises a 2-year study programme including Year 12 and Year 13.

The Advanced Level, universally referred to as an A-Level, is a qualification offered by education institutions in the UK and abroad. A-Levels are widely recognised around the world as the standard qualifications that UK universities use to assess a student's eligibility for a degree course.

A-levels may be a UK qualification, but they are accepted by universities around the world. They give you a great opportunity to specialise, which you would not get with the IB, for example.

Our aim at Laude San Pedro is to help you make the right decision about your A-level courses.

Read through this booklet carefully and discuss your choice of subjects with your parents and teachers. Do some research about your preferred subjects and the university or college you would like to attend.

Find out about your preferred career path and which A-level subjects will be more useful for your future job.



Curriculum Outline

A-level structure

An A-level subject will be studied over two years. In general (though not in every subject), the programme of study in Year 12 is self-contained and leads to an examination at the end of it called **AS**. AS stands for Advanced Subsidiary. The qualification can “stand alone” and be counted for university entrance like a half-subject, or it can be used as the preparation for the second year of A-level study which leads to a more demanding examination known as **A2**. In September of 2015 the modular approach to A level was phased out and students sitting A levels in some subjects will have to sit the full set of exams at the end of the 2 year course. This does not apply to International A level courses.

University requirements

There are always some variations among different universities and colleges of Higher Education worldwide. However, most of these institutions will expect you to have a minimum number of “points” and you will be able to get these points by getting high grades in both your A2 and AS subjects. Unfortunately, we do not have enough space to explain the points system here.

Ideally, you should choose 5 of 4 subjects from the list of subjects below for your first year (AS). After the AS exams and based on your best results, you will continue studying only four or three of these subjects in your second year (A2). It is acceptable to reduce these five subjects to three, but it would not be wise to take only 2 subjects as you may not be able to gather sufficient points to apply for a university course. In any case, a discussion with your form tutor, the Head of Sixth Form or the Head of Secondary will help you make the right decision about which subjects and how many of them you should take. Excellent advice about University and course requirements can also be found at <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

Admission to the Sixth Form

School policy requires students to meet the following criteria before they enter the Sixth Form:

- Five passes (A*- C grades) at GCSE level or equivalent
- The subjects must include English, Maths and Science
- A minimum of a grade B in the subjects that you would like to take. A grade C might be accepted, depending on a number of factors and at the school’s discretion

In addition to your five (or four) A-level choices, you must also attend 2 periods a week of Physical Education, one tutor period and two periods of General Studies. This latter course is not a preparation for an examination, but rather a preparation for all examinations.

As in the Key Stage 4 timetable there are 35 lessons in the week. There is no unsupervised study time if you study five subjects. The lessons spent on each subject per week will be as follows:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Periods (50 min) per week</i>
Option 1	6
Option 2	6
Option 3	6
Option 4	6
Option 5	6
General Studies	2
Physical Education	2
PSHE	1

What subjects are in the option blocks?

The subjects which are put together into the five Option Blocks are decided upon only after all GCSE Laude students have made their choices. We try to satisfy every Year 11 student combination of subject choices before we decide which blocks to put them in. Two subjects in the same block cannot be studied as they are taught at the same time in the timetable.

How to make your choice?

The A-level subjects on offer for the period 2017-2019 are as follows:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Media Studies
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Spanish
- Applied Information and Communication Technology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- French
- German
- History
- Geography
- Art and Design
- Economics
- Music

We would like every option described in this booklet to be offered as a choice. However, a subject may only be offered if we have sufficient numbers of students who have applied for it. We will attempt to meet the needs of every individual request. There is advice available to assist you in choosing courses and matching these with future university and career plans. The university application process offers personalised support for applying to university in the UK, Spain, other European countries and the rest of the world.

During their time in the Sixth form, our students are expected to take a leading role in our vibrant school life. Our Enrichment programme offers you the chance to get involved with various academic departments in school during free periods. Sixth Form students typically work with younger students in the library, assist the Primary Department with reading and fun activities, get involved in various group projects such as the Sixth form video or blog in the ICT suite, support learning in History, Geography and languages or work closely with local charities supporting their projects.

Our students will also get careers advice about how to write CVs and be successful at university and job interviews.

Our Sixth Form is more than just a place to gain qualifications - developing a personal portfolio of achievements is also crucial for future success in the world of work.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school for a private tour on any school day throughout the academic year. You may also contact our Head of Sixth Form Mr Marcos at f.marcos@laudesanpedro.com or 952799900.



A-Level English Language (Edexcel 8EN0/9EN0)



COURSE OUTLINE

This course helps students use, understand and analyse spoken and written language for particular audiences and contexts. Students develop their ability to express themselves in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres.

This A Level builds on the skills that students have acquired from the GCSE English Language course.

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 1: LANGUAGE VARIATION

Overview of content

Students will explore:

- how language varies depending on mode, field, function and audience
- how language choices can create personal identities
- language variation in English from c1550 (the beginnings of Early Modern English) to the present day.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.

COMPONENT 2: CHILD LANGUAGE

Overview of content

Students will explore:

- spoken language acquisition and how children learn to write between the ages of 0 and 8

- the relationship between spoken language acquisition and literacy skills that children are taught, including the beginnings of reading
- appropriate theories of children's language development.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour.

COMPONENT 3: INVESTIGATING LANGUAGE

Overview of content

Students will:

- select a research focus from five topic areas
- develop their research and investigation skills
- undertake a focused investigation
- apply their knowledge of language levels and key language concepts developed through the whole course
- develop their personal language specialism.

A subtopic will be pre-released in the January before the examination. The prereleased subtopic will provide a steer for students' research and investigation to enable them to prepare for the external assessment.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

COURSEWORK: CRAFTING LANGUAGE

Overview of content

Students will:

- research a selected genre
- demonstrate their skills as writers within their selected genre, crafting texts for different audiences and/or purposes
- reflect on their research and writing in an accompanying commentary.

Overview of assessment

Students produce two assignments:

- Assignment 1: two pieces of original writing from the same genre, differentiated by function and/or audience
- Assignment 2: one commentary, reflecting on the two pieces of original writing produced and making connections with research undertaken

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

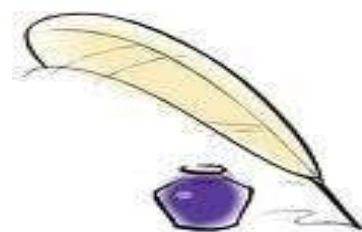
English Language is ideal for students that like both the analytical and creative sides of English lessons. The course builds on a

lot of the analysis terms and writing skills taught at GCSE level. This A level is well suited to students looking for a career in marketing, journalism, broadcasting, writing and management. It is also very useful for students seeking a future in speech therapy, linguistics or research. It can be studied alongside A Level Literature or on its own.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

The course requires students to be familiar with a broad range of writing styles and language contexts, including print journalism blogs, speeches, advertising texts, instructions, fiction, textbooks, writing for children, letters, autobiography etc. Students are recommended to read widely and frequently to ensure familiarity with a range of styles and to improve the fluency of their own writing. A good working knowledge of grammar and language concepts is also important in order to succeed on the course.

A-Level English Literature (Edexcel 8ET0/9ET0)



COURSE OUTLINE

The course is designed to give students an appreciation of the three principal literary genres: poetry, drama and prose. The course consists of in-depth study of set texts and preparation for the analysis of unseen texts. There is a strong emphasis on broadening students' independent reading skills. This A Level builds on the skills that students have acquired from both their GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature courses.

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 1: DRAMA

Overview of content

Students study:

- one Shakespeare play and one other drama from either tragedy or comedy – both texts may be selected from one or both of these categories.
- critical essays related to their selected Shakespeare play. Students' preparation is supported by Shakespeare: A Critical

Anthology – Tragedy or Shakespeare: A
Critical Anthology – Comedy.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.

COMPONENT 2: PROSE

Overview of content

Students study:

- two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 1 hour.

COMPONENT 3: POETRY

Overview of content

Students study:

- poetic form, meaning and language
- a selection of post-2000 specified poetry and
- a specified range of poetry from either a literary period (either pre- or post-1900) or a named poet from within a literary period.

Overview of assessment

- Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes.

COURSEWORK

Students have a free choice of two texts to study.

Chosen texts:

- must be different from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3
- must be complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period
- may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

Overview of assessment

Students produce one assignment:

- one extended comparative essay referring to two texts

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

English literature is a fantastic subject. It takes a close look at many authors and playwrights and the books they wrote. The texts studied give us an insight into not only the life of the author but also of the times and places in which they lived. Literature is an amazing way of evoking passion, thought and imagination. Therefore the question you should ask is not why should I pick this subject, but why shouldn't I pick this subject?

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Read, read and read again is the best way to help yourself. Here are some great texts you could read before starting the course:
Charles Dickens *Great Expectations*
J. D. Salinger *The Catcher in the Rye*
Pat Barker *Regeneration trilogy*
Sebastian Faulks *Birdsong*
Kazuo Ishiguro *The Remains of the Day*

Media Studies (CIE 9607)

COURSE OUTLINE

Cambridge International A Level Media Studies is recognised by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of the media and its role in our daily lives. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to apply practical skills creatively
- research and evaluation skills
- information management and project management skills
- the ability to analyse text and media products critically
- the ability to reflect critically upon their own learning.

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 1 FOUNDATION PORTFOLIO

Overview of content

The following set briefs are offered:

- film opening task
- magazine task.

Overview of assessment

Coursework portfolio (worth 25% of A level).

COMPONENT 2 KEY MEDIA CONCEPTS

Overview of content

- Section A: Textual analysis and representation: – camera shots, angle,

movement and composition – editing – sound – mise-en-scène.

- Section B: Institutions and audiences, in relation to one of the media areas specified below: – film – music – print – radio – video games.

Overview of assessment

2 hour written examination consisting of two questions. (25% of A level)

COMPONENT 3 ADVANCED PORTFOLIO

Overview of content

The following set briefs are offered:

- music promotion package
- film promotion package
- documentary package
- short film package

Overview of assessment

Coursework portfolio (worth 25% of A level).

COMPONENT 4 CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

Overview of content

- Section A: Evaluation of production skills development
- Section B: Contemporary media issues, in relation to one of the topics specified below: – contemporary media regulation – global media – media and collective identity – media in the online age – post-modern media.

Overview of assessment

2 hour written examination consisting of two questions. (25% of A level)

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

Media Studies is a popular modern subject which is ideal for students who enjoy the creative media. Students do not require any prior knowledge of the subject, but they will probably enjoy English and other creative subjects. This A level is well suited to students looking for a career in the print or online media, in marketing, and in PR. It is also very useful for students seeking a

career in creative industries and media research. It complements both A Level Literature and A Level Language.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

The course requires students to be familiar with a broad range of writing, print and online media, film, advertising etc. Students are recommended to read widely and frequently to ensure familiarity with a range of styles and to improve the fluency of their own writing.

A-Level Mathematics (Edexcel 8371/9371)



COURSE OUTLINE

In Year 12 students study two common Core modules and one Applied module. In Year 13 they study two further common Core modules and another Applied module. Students collectively choose the Applied modules they would like to study. The Applied options are Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Mathematics.

The Core modules cover the areas of: Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Differentiation, Integration, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Numerical Methods and Vectors.

Mechanics covers the areas of: Mathematical Models, Vectors, Kinematics in a Straight Line, Dynamics in a Straight Line or Plane, Statics, Moments.

Statistics covers the areas of: Mathematical Models, Representation and Summary of Data, Probability, Correlation and Regression, Discrete Random Variables, Normal Distribution.

Decision Mathematics covers the areas of: Algorithms, Graphs, Route Inspection Problem, Critical Path Analysis, Linear Programming, Matchings.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

The course is assessed over six papers, which are equally weighted, and there is no coursework. The six papers consist of the four common Core papers (C1-4) and two Applied papers (e.g. M1 and S1). Each paper lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. Calculators may be used in all papers except C1, which is a non-calculator paper.

RESOURCES

The entirety of the Core syllabus is covered in a generic Pure Maths textbook, and the students will be issued with the official Edexcel textbooks for the Applied Modules. Students can also continue to use the online resource MyiMaths to support their revision.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

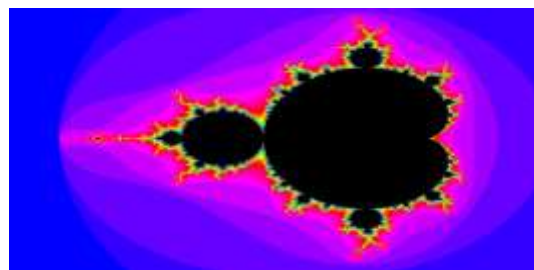
Mathematics A Level is a difficult course, but it can be hugely rewarding. Students who have a passion for the subject or those who have found that the concepts at IGCSE

have come easily to them should certainly consider picking it. As well as being a highly regarded subject in its own right, it also provides a useful support to some other subjects, such as Physics, Chemistry and Economics.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Mathematics is a practical subject, and the best way to get better at it is by doing it. Students should therefore make sure that they get down to work in class, put the necessary time into homework tasks and revise for tests by doing practice questions.

A-Level Further Mathematics (Edexcel 8372/9372)



COURSE OUTLINE

In order to take the Further Mathematics Course students must already take Mathematics. This 'Further' course aims to provide the students with an opportunity to both deepen and broaden their Mathematical understanding, with the view to giving them a firm foundation for the study of Mathematics-based subjects at University. As such, the precise structure of the course will be determined by the needs and aspirations of the particular cohort, choosing the optional modules that best suit the group.

In Year 12 students study one Further Pure and two Applied modules. In Year 13 they study another Further Pure and another two Applied modules. Students will collectively choose the Applied modules they would like to study, taking into account the

fact that they need to be distinct to those they are studying in 'Mathematics'. The Applied options are Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Mathematics (see 'Mathematics' for details of the Applied modules).

The Further Pure modules cover the areas of: Complex Numbers, Numerical Solutions to Equations, Conic Sections, Matrices, Series, Proof, Inequalities, First and Second Order Differential Equations, MacLaurin and Taylor Series and Polar Co-ordinates.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

The course is assessed over six papers, which are equally weighted, and there is no coursework. Each paper lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. Calculators may be used in all papers.

RESOURCES

Students will be issued with the official Edexcel textbooks for all modules.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

Students who are looking to study Mathematics or a Mathematics-based course at University should consider taking this subject. However, given its more advanced content it is only appropriate for those who obtain an A* in Mathematics at IGCSE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Mathematics is a practical subject, and the best way to get better at it is by doing it. Students should therefore make sure that they get down to work in class, put the necessary time into homework tasks and revise for tests by doing practice questions. Moreover, this 'Further' course will require students to work more independently than on the standard Mathematics A-Level in order to be successful.

A-Level Spanish (Edexcel 8SP0/9SP0)



COURSE OUTLINE

Both AS and A2 draw upon these general topic areas:

Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad española

Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo de habla española

Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española

Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

AS

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (8SP0/01): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures for theme 1 and 2. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied.

Paper 2: Written response to works, translation and grammar (8SP0/02):

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage and complete a grammar exercise based on one of the themes. Also, This paper also draws on the

study of one discrete Spanish work: either one literary text or one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (8SP0/03): This examination requires students to read and respond to two short texts based on Theme 1 and then hold a discussion.

This will be followed by another general discussion based on Theme 2.

A Level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (9SP0/01): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all Themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (9SP0/02):

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (9SP0/03): This examination draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes with a general conversation followed by an

additional discussion based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.

RESOURCES

You will be issued with a textbook to help you study independently, and to help you revise and to do your homework.

You will also have access to educational websites for independent study and learning support.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

AS level languages allows students to build upon the skills and knowledge required for GCSE while introducing more exciting and relevant topic areas though which to further their understanding.

A2 Builds upon the skills required for AS, while demanding more understanding of

the culture of Spain and a greater linguistic competence in the language.

If you are thinking of orienting your career towards languages, tourism or translating these courses are essential. However, there are many other careers where a deep knowledge of a foreign language and its culture would be an advantage such as Business, Law and Humanities.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Learning a foreign language takes a lot of practice, however we are fortunate to have a lot of resources to help you progress, so in order to boost your performance in Spanish next year you are strongly advised to read some graded readings, watch original version films, listen to radio pod casts, talk to native language people, chat or exchange emails with web-pals or go on interactive fun-based webs.

A-Level French (Edexcel 8FR0/9FR0



COURSE OUTLINE

Both AS and A2 draw upon these general topic areas:

Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française

Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones

Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

AS

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (8FR0/01): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures for theme 1

and 2. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied.

Paper 2: Written response to works, translation and grammar (8 FR0/02):

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage and complete a grammar exercise based on one of the themes. Also, This paper also draws on the study of one discrete French work: either one literary text or one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (8 FR0/03): This examination requires students to read and respond to two short texts based on Theme 1 and then hold a discussion.

This will be followed by another general discussion based on Theme 2.

A Level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (9FR0/01): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all Themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (9FR0/02): This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (9SP0/03): This examination draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes with a general conversation followed by an additional discussion based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.

RESOURCES

You will be issued with your own textbook to help you study independently, to help you revise and to do your homework.
Y12 EDEXCEL AS FRENCH, HEINEMANN
Y13 AU POINT, NELSON-THORNES
TOUT DROIT, JOHN MURRAY

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

AS level languages allow students to build upon the skills and knowledge required for GCSE while introducing more exciting and relevant topic areas through which to further their understanding.

A2 Builds upon the skills required for AS, while demanding more understanding of the culture of France and a greater linguistic competence in the language.

If you are thinking of orienting your career towards languages, tourism or translating these courses are essential. However, there are many other careers where a deep knowledge of a foreign language and its culture would be an advantage such as Business, Law and Humanities

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Learning a foreign language takes a lot of practice, however we are fortunate to have a lot of resources to help you progress, so in order to boost your performance in French next year you are strongly advised to read some graded readings, watch original version films, listen to radio pod casts, talk to native language people, chat or exchange emails with web-pals or go on interactive fun-based webs.

A-Level German (8GN0/9GN0)



COURSE OUTLINE

A-Level German draws upon these general topic areas:

Theme 1: Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland.

Theme 2: Politische und künstlerische Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum.

Theme 3: Immigration und die deutsche multikulturelle Gesellschaft

Theme 4: Die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

AS

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (8GN0/01): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures for theme 1 and 2. Themes are based on the

society and culture of the language being studied.

Paper 2: Written response to works, translation and grammar (8GN0/02):

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage and complete a grammar exercise based on one of the themes. Also, This paper also draws on the study of one discrete German work: either one literary text or one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (8GN0/03): This examination requires students to read and respond to two short texts based on Theme 1 and then hold a discussion.

This will be followed by another general discussion based on Theme 2.

A Level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (9GN0/01):

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all Themes. Themes are based on the society and culture of the language being studied

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (9GN0/02):

This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking (9GN0/03):

This examination draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes with a general conversation followed by an additional discussion based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The

research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of

interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.

RESOURCES

You will be issued with your own textbook to help you study independently, to help you revise and to do your homework.

EDEXCEL GERMAN for A Level, Hodder Education

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

EDEXCEL GERMAN for A Level allows students to build upon the skills and knowledge required for A-levels while introducing more exciting and relevant topic areas through which to further their understanding.

It demands more understanding of the culture of Germany and a greater linguistic competence in the language.

If you are thinking of orienting your career towards languages, tourism or translating this course is essential. However, there are many other careers where a deeper knowledge of a foreign language and its culture would be an advantage such as Business, Law and Humanities

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Learning a foreign language takes a lot of practice, however we are fortunate to have a lot of resources to help you progress, so in order to boost your performance in German next year you are strongly advised to read some graded readings, watch original version films, listen to radio pod casts, talk to native language people, chat or exchange emails with web-pals or go on interactive fun-based webs.

A-Level Applied Information & Communication Technology (CIE 9713)



COURSE OUTLINE

The Cambridge GCE in Applied ICT offers an excellent choice for many post-sixteen students. Highly motivating, it develops the knowledge and skills students need to be competent and informed ICT users and practitioners.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Theory

AS: ICT Systems

How Organisations use ICT 1
The impact of ICT on Society 1
The Systems Life Cycle

A2: How Organisations use ICT 2
The Impact of ICT on Society 2
Computer Networks

Practical

AS: Software Selection
Communication
Doc. and Presentation Production
Databases and Charts
Integration

Output Data 1
Using Spreadsheets
A2: Mail Merge
Automation
Output Data 2

There is no coursework, and all strands are assessed through examination.

RESOURCES

Fully equipped Computer Laboratory with 20 computers.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

The Cambridge GCE in Applied ICT aims to encourage students to become effective and discerning users of ICT. It helps them to develop:

- A broad range of ICT skills, knowledge and understanding.
- An understanding of the structure and use of ICT systems within a wide range of organisations, including the use of a variety of computer networks.
- A knowledge of the ICT system life cycle and how it affects the workplace.
- An understanding of the wider impact of ICT on society in general.

The qualification has a broad appeal and develops students' communication and decision-making skills.

The skills acquired through study for Applied ICT will support further study in any subject area.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

A good pass at IGCSE is certainly advantageous as this would demonstrate capability in working with databases and spreadsheets. However, enthusiasm about the latest developments in ICT is equally important.

International A Level in Biology (Edexcel XBI01/YBI01)



COURSE OUTLINE

The A-Level course in Biology aims to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject. The A level is divided into 6 units or sections over the two year course:

Advanced Subsidiary Biology (Year 12)

Unit 1 - Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health

Unit 2 - Development, Plants and the Environment

Unit 3 - Practical Biology & Research Skills

Advanced Level Biology (Year 13)

Unit 4 - The Natural Environment and Species Survival

Unit 5 - Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination

Unit 6 - Practical Biology & Investigative Skills

As well as a great deal of fascinating theoretical work, the course also includes several core practical experiments, some which are conducted in the laboratory while others are enjoyed outdoors.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Throughout this course you will sit regular, internal assessments at the end of each topic studied. There will also be formal, external examinations in the summer.

Examination papers for each unit last between 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 45 minutes. The nature of questions is both theoretical and practical, depending on the unit. Units 1, 2, 4, 5 are each worth 20% of the final A level grade, with units 3 and 6 being worth 10% each.

RESOURCES

We make use of a variety of resources in A-level Biology, including three different textbooks which provide a variety of perspectives on the subject, worksheets, video clips, resources from the internet etc. We also use a wide variety of practical equipment and resources during practical lessons. Students are required to have a laboratory coat for all practical sessions.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

A good A-Level qualification in Biology opens doors to many exciting, stimulating and sometimes lucrative careers. When applying for tertiary educational institutions, quality universities are often impressed by a good standard of scientific achievement.

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you will have developed in GCSE Science. Students are expected to have achieved at least a grade B or above in GCSE Science and Additional Science.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Preparation is key to achieving in Biology. The subject, although fascinating, does require a good level of commitment and dedication. It is always useful to read

ahead, over the section that will be covered in the next lesson. In addition to homework, it can be helpful to review what has been covered in each lesson to ensure you understand everything. This “preview and review” method will help you achieve your potential.

International A Level in Chemistry (Edexcel XCH01/YCH01)



COURSE OUTLINE

This course aims to stimulate and sustain interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry and gain an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of Chemistry and its applications. It covers:

Advanced Subsidiary Chemistry (Year 12)

Unit 1 - Core Principles of Chemistry, i.e. formulae, energetics, bonding, alkanes and alkenes, atomic structure and the periodic table

Unit 2 - Application of core principles of Chemistry, i.e. redox, kinetics, organic chemistry and bonding

Unit 3 - Chemistry Lab Skills 1

Advanced Level Chemistry (Year 13)

Unit 4 - General Principles of Chemistry 1, i.e. equilibrium, rates of reaction, more organic chemistry, spectroscopy and chromatography.

Unit 5 - General Principles of Chemistry 2, i.e. transition elements and nitrogen compounds and synthesis

Unit 6 - Chemistry Lab Skills 2

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

The course consists of three units per year. Units 1 and 2 each contribute towards 40% of the AS grade and the 'alternative to

practical' (Unit 3 exam) makes up 20%. A2 level is studied in Year 13 and this course builds and expands on the AS level. It consists of 3 written examinations. Units 4 and 5 are each worth 20% of the final A level grade and Unit 3 makes up 10%. It is important to remember that the grades achieved in AS level account for 50% of the final A level grade.

RESOURCES

We make use of a variety of resources in A level Chemistry, including three different textbooks which provide a variety of perspectives on the subject, worksheets, video clips, resources from the internet etc. We also use a huge variety of practical equipment and resources during practical lessons. Students are required to have a laboratory coat for all practicals.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

This course aims to stimulate and sustain interest in and enjoyment of chemistry and gain an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of chemistry and its applications. This subject can help if your aim is go to university to study Pharmacy, medicine, engineering, environmental

chemistry environmental studies,
veterinary science, biochemistry
biomedical science and industry.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

To do this course you must be completely focused. This course is very challenging and good grades at GCSE are imperative.

In order to do well in this course you must put in the extra. Extra reading and extra research are fundamental. The application of your understanding to the world of industry and everyday life are crucial if you are to gain a good qualification in this subject.

International A-Level in Physics Edexcel (XPH01/YPH01)



COURSE OUTLINE

Advanced Subsidiary Physics (Year 12)

Unit 1 – Physics on the go. This unit involves the study of mechanics (rectilinear motion, forces, energy and power) and materials.

Unit 2 – Physics at work. This unit involves the study of waves (including refraction, polarisation, diffraction and standing (stationary) waves),

Unit 3 – Exploring Physics.

Advanced Level Physics (Year 13)

Unit 4 – Physics on the move. This unit involves the study of further mechanics (momentum and circular motion), electric and magnetic fields, and particle physics.

Unit 5 – Physics from creation to collapse. This unit involves the study of thermal energy, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

Unit 6 – Experimental Physics.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Throughout this course you will be regularly assessed internally at the end of each topic studied. There will also be formal, external examinations in the summer. Units 3 and 6 are an alternative to practical examinations. Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 are all worth 20% of the final grade and units 3 and 6 are worth 10% each.

RESOURCES

Edexcel Students' Book and Revision Guide. We also use an extensive range of other material to support the learning process in this subject.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

The qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and process skills that you will have developed in GCSE Science. Students are expected to have achieved at least a grade B or

above in GCSE Science and Additional Science. It will be very helpful to have at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics as numeracy and mathematical skills are important in Physics. Communication is also important in Physics so you will need to be able to communicate effectively, and be able to research and critically think about problems. This course is particularly useful if you are looking to pursue a career in engineering, industry, aerodynamics, or car manufacturing. It is also beneficial in subjects such as architecture and business related studies

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Hard work and determination are key in this course. You need to have a keen eye for detail and be prepared to put in a great deal of effort. Extra studies will pay dividends and extra reading on the subject are vital. You must be prepared to enter this subject with a thirst for knowledge and the understanding to be able to apply what you have learnt to different circumstances.

International A level History (Edexcel WHI01)



Course Outline

Studying history helps you to understand more about the world we live in.

Topics to be covered:

Unit 1D: Britain 1964-1990

Unit 2C: Russia 1917-1991

Unit 3D: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1877-2009

Unit 4C: The world divided: superpower relations 1943-1990

Assessment

Throughout this course you will be regularly assessed internally at the end of each topic studied. There will also be a formal, external examinations in the summer.

Unit 1: Depth study with interpretations, 2 hours

Unit 2: Breadth study with interpretations, 2 hours

Unit 3: Thematic study: 2 hours

Unit 4: Extract evaluation

RESOURCES

The History department uses a wide array of resources - news clips, text books, video clips, documentary films, and primary sources such as transcripts of speeches on key events and cartoons.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

This course provides natural progression for students who have already learnt History before. A great variety of topics is provided, which will give you a balanced overview of events in 20th Century.

You will also get the best support, including regular exam practice and a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher!

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

Read books, watch films and documentaries about the 20th century,

follow the news and be interested in current affairs. An interest in modern politics, international relations and current affairs as well as being curious and asking questions about the world around us will help you succeed in this subject.

International A Level Geography (Edexcel XGE01 - YGE01)

COURSE OUTLINE

Geography is a diverse and engaging subject that covers issues relevant to our world today. A range of technologies is used for areas such as fieldwork which can be undertaken on any area of the specification content.

AS:

Unit 1: Global challenges

This unit provides students with the opportunity to investigate key global issues facing people in a range of countries at different levels of development.

Unit 2: Geographical investigations

This unit has two compulsory topics. Topic 1: Crowded Coasts involves a detailed study of the physical processes and systems in coastal environments. Topic 2: Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration considers the challenges of living and working in cities, where the majority of the world's population now live.

Unit 3: Contested planet

This unit has two compulsory topics – A1: Atmosphere and Weather Systems and A2: Biodiversity under threat. These topics focus on physical processes and how processes generate patterns and problems in the natural environment. Issues of managing weather hazards and managing biodiversity loss are also considered.

Unit 4: Researching Geography

This unit gives an opportunity for students to study one of the 4 option in depth. Independent work and individual reading and research is taken undertaken by students to build a portfolio of material that can be selected from and applied in the examination.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Unit 1: 1 hour and 45 minute examination paper in two sections. Section A: data response and short-answer questions. Section B: choice of World at Risk or Going Global longer/guided essay questions.

Unit 2: 1 hour and 30 minute examination paper in three sections. Section A: data response and short-answer questions on Crowded Coasts and Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration. Section B: compulsory short-answer questions on research and fieldwork investigation. Section C: choice of one fieldwork question, on either Crowded Coasts or Urban Problems, Planning and Regeneration.

RESOURCES

You will be issued with a textbook to help you study independently, and to help you revise and to do your homework.

You will also have access to educational websites for independent study and learning support.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

Designed for the global learner, this qualification includes specific international content, making it highly relevant to students across the world. It has a developmental structure which helps to

facilitate progression through the course and beyond to link with the demands of higher level study.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

A good pass at IGCSE is certainly advantageous as this would demonstrate capability and understanding. Ideally a good pass rate in English would be most beneficial. You must be prepared to study independently and further improve your essay writing skills.

A-Level Art and Design (Edexcel 8AD01-8FA01/9AD01 – 9CC01)

Fine Art – 9FA0 COURSE OUTLINE

The AS and the A Level Art & Design courses are now completely separate, both are completed within one year of full time study, internally assessed and externally moderated. This subject is not offered to external candidates.

The AS-Level covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment.

The A2-Level covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment.

WHY I SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

Art and Design GCE course gives you a broad range of related activities, areas and approaches to study. It is an excellent



subject to pick if you are interested in architecture, interior design, fashion design, movie industry, photography and many other areas. It can lead to employment in the arts industry.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

AS Art & Design

Component 1 AS Art and Design Coursework

Internally assessed

60% of the total AS marks

In this unit, students will have opportunities to generate practical work, ideas and research from primary and contextual sources. They will experiment with media and processes, and develop and refine their ideas, presenting their outcomes.

+

A Written Personal Study: Focusing on one or two artists and selecting characteristics common to their work and producing an in-depth written analysis, minimum 1500 words

Component 2

AS Art and Design Externally Set Assignment 10 hours

40% of the total AS marks

Content summary:

This unit represents the culmination of the AS course. The paper consists of one broad-based thematic starting point. The delivery of this unit should be planned with appropriate guidance during the preparatory period, encouraging independence in the development of their ideas, intentions and response.

A Level Art & Design

Component 1: A2 Art and Design
Coursework

Internally assessed

60% of the total A2 marks

Content summary: This unit incorporates two linked elements, each with separate final outcomes: Practical work and Personal study. The investigation and development for both the Practical work and Personal study will be shown through supporting studies.

Component 2: A2 Art and Design
Externally Set Assignment, 12 hours

Internally assessed

40% of the total A2 marks

20% of the total GCE marks

Content summary:

The Externally Set Assignment represents the culmination of the A2 course. The paper consists of one broad-based thematic starting point. The delivery of this unit should be planned with appropriate guidance during the preparatory period, encouraging independence in the development of their ideas, intentions and response.

RESOURCES

Visits to several galleries and museums

CD-ROMs

The web gallery

Variety of Art books

A good variety of drawing and painting materials

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

To help you it would be an excellent idea to visit Galleries and Museums whenever possible.



International A-Level Business (Edexcel XBS01 – YBS01)



Students of our Edexcel International Advanced Level in Business Studies will gain a holistic understanding of business and develop a range of relevant skills, including decision making, problem solving, challenging assumptions and quantifying and managing information.

Theme 1: Business Enterprise

This unit provides an introduction to business practice, the importance of the market and how businesses interact with customers and competitors. Students will learn about the role of the entrepreneur, market research techniques, the importance and use of finance, break-even analysis and how to measure and analyse business performance. They will also consider how the wider economic environment and stakeholders may affect businesses, large and small

Theme 2: Business Structures and Processes

This unit covers the key functional areas of a business. Students will develop their understanding of how businesses relate to their customers and analyse change in their markets. The unit introduces students to business operations and develops their understanding of finance and why businesses may fail. Students will also consider how businesses manage their people effectively.

Theme 3: Strategic Business Decisions

This unit develops the content of Unit 2 and examines the competitiveness of

businesses through performance and non-performance indicators. Students will analyse corporate objectives and strategy on the basis of these indicators and on external influences to businesses. Students will assess the causes and effects of change on businesses and examine how companies can manage risk and grow effectively.

Theme 4: Business in a Global Context: This synoptic unit focuses on the world of international business, and considers change and growth in global economies. Students will examine the different factors businesses have to consider when operating in a global market. Students will also assess the impact of multinational corporations on the global economy

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

IAS

Unit 1 and 2: 1h30 each, consisting of supported multiple-choice questions and questions based on data

IA2

Unit 3 and 4: 2 hours each, consisting of questions based on data, including extended response questions.

What should I do to help myself?

The best thing a student can do is to begin reading a daily broad-sheet paper. These are expensive in Spain, but the online editions are comprehensive. There are also some good websites aimed at A-Level Economics B students such as www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk and www.tutor2u.com.

A-Level Music

(Edexcel 8MU01/9MU01)



COURSE OUTLINE

The Advanced GCE in Music has been designed to enable students to experience a wide range of musical skills including performing, composing and analysing, as well as developing an understanding of the historical and contextual uses of music.

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Unit 1: Performing Music

Each student can perform as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble. Teachers and students can choose music in any style. Any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) are acceptable as part of a 5-6 minute performance. Notated and/or improvised performances may be submitted.

Unit 2: Composing

Section A will contain four composition briefs from which candidates will select one as the basis for a three-minute composition. The composition may be for any instrument or voice or combination of instruments and/or voices and in any style, this will be subject to the requirements of the composition brief selected. The composition must be presented as a score* and as a recording.

In Section B students will answer three questions to provide information that could be used for a CD sleeve note to accompany their composition. Both sections of the examination must be completed under controlled conditions.

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding

Assessment is through a 2 hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.

There are three sections: Section A: Listening; Section B: Investigating musical styles, and Section C: Understanding chords and lines. Section A requires students to listen to extracts of music: and one CD per examination centre will be provided by Edexcel. In Section C, students may use a keyboard with headphones. A skeleton score is provided for Section A.

WHY SHOULD I PICK THIS SUBJECT?

Studying music at A level gives you the power to engage with music more deeply as a performer, composer and listener. There are many courses available at universities and conservatoires, from which music graduates enter a hugely diverse range of professions both in and out of the world of music and the creative arts. Although A level music involves a lot of creative work (around 60%), the theoretical study of music history and theory is sufficiently rigorous that it is accepted as a serious academic subject for entry to most university courses.

Possible careers in music include performing, composing and arranging, education and music therapy, music administration and management, music production and the wider creative industries.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP MYSELF?

You need a good pass at IGCSE or a good knowledge of reading music and the ability to play an instrument or sing.