

# The Sixth Form Curriculum 2020/22

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# Introduction

## Application Overview:

We are delighted to welcome you to The Norton Knatchbull School. We are a popular selective school with a well-established Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form offers students the opportunity to study a large range of A Level subjects, as well as undertake other qualifications, such as the Extended Project Qualification.

All students are encouraged to take an active part in the life of the school, and we offer many leadership opportunities and a comprehensive enrichment programme that caters for all needs and interests.

Our Sixth Form have several dedicated study areas, as well as places to relax at lunchtimes. We are a happy and successful school and our students have high expectations of themselves. Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff continuously strive to help our students to achieve their full potential and leave the school as well-rounded individuals ready to enter the next stage of their lives.

We have a Head of Sixth Form and dedicated Sixth Form Pastoral Manager who oversee the academic progress of all students, as well as ensuring a smooth transition from GCSE to A Level Study. Students also have a form tutor, who they will see daily, and who will support and guide them through their time in the Sixth Form and beyond. The school also has its own in-house careers advisor that students can access at any time and a Study Support Supervisor.

Our **Open Evening** for 2020 entry will be on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 from 6 pm–8 pm.**

We are happy to offer students the opportunity for bespoke tours of the school and its facilities; for more information please feel free to contact Mrs. Heather Vernon on [01233 620045](tel:01233620045) or email [hvernon@nks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hvernon@nks.kent.sch.uk).

For applications from outside of Kent, please contact our Pastoral Manager, Mrs Thompson, at [nthompson@nks.kent.sch.uk](mailto:nthompson@nks.kent.sch.uk).

To apply to the Sixth Form, external students must make an on-line application through *UCAS Progress*.

## Entry requirements:

- a minimum of six separately identifiable GCSE subjects at grade 6 or above, OR an average of grade 6 in the best six GCSE subjects achieved
- at least a grade 5 in both English and Mathematics

For most subjects at A Level, a grade 6 in the subject at GCSE is required. However, for A Level Mathematics a grade 7 is required, and for Further Mathematics a grade 8 is necessary.

- Internal applicants: applications by January 2020.
- External applicants: applications open on UCAS in November and will be considered as they come in.
- Informal discussions about options begin in January 2020.

# Art

Exam Board: Edexcel

Title: Fine Art

## Course overview:

Fine Art requires engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts through the use of traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques and processes for the purpose of self-expression, free of external constraints. Fine Art may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

The course comprises two components: Component 1 will run from the start of the course until the end of January 2019 where students will engage in a number of practical workshops, including working alongside professional artists, to raise the standard of their skills and find their artistic strengths. Component 2 is externally set by Edexcel.

Component 1 allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcomes. It incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.

- Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.
- The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total.

## Exam format:

Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies during lesson and homework studies, and a 15-hour period of sustained focus under controlled conditions.

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Art & Design or BTEC Art course Distinction Award.

## Courses and career ideas:

Animation, Architecture, Art History, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Textile Design, Product Design, Visual Communication, Stage Set and Costume Design plus many more.

# Biology

## Exam Board: Edexcel/SNAB

### Course overview:

Developed in conjunction with leading subject experts from the University of York Science Education Group in collaboration with schools, universities and biological scientists, the SNAB course offers a context-led approach to A Level Biology designed to stimulate scientific interest and enquiry.

- Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk
- Topic 2: Genes and Health
- Topic 3: Voice of the Genome
- Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Topic 5: On the Wild Side
- Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics
- Topic 7: Run for Your Life
- Topic 8: Grey Matter

Further information on the content of these topics can be found in the specification which can be downloaded from the Edexcel examination board website. The course is fully supported by an extensive online resource at <http://www.activelearn.com>.

### Exam format:

Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-6. The paper may include multiple-choice, short open, open response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 2: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-4 and 7-8. The question format is the same as in Paper 1.

Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-8. The paper will include synoptic questions which may be based on two or more topics.

A pre-release article will underpin one exam question. All three papers will be taken at the end of the course for first assessment in summer 2020. They each have the same weighting.

Science Practical Endorsement – specific competency in a range of practical skills will be assessed internally by the teacher and a pass or fail awarded. The Endorsement will not contribute to the overall grade for this qualification.

### Entry requirements:

GCSE Biology grade 6 or GCSE Combined grades Science 6-6. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

### Courses and career ideas:

Agriculture, Animal Behaviour, Biochemistry, Biology, Biosciences, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Dietetics, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Horticulture, Marine Biology, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Wildlife Conservation.

# Business Studies

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

We study 10 different aspects of business.

- 1: What is business?
- 2: Managers, leadership and decision making
- 3: Decision making to improve marketing performance
- 4: Decision making to improve operational performance
- 5: Decision making to improve financial performance
- 6: Decision making to improve human resource performance
- 7: Analysing the strategic position of a business
- 8: Choosing strategic direction
- 9: Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- 10: Managing strategic change

## Exam format:

Paper 1: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There are 3 compulsory sections:

- Section A has 15 multiple choice questions worth 15 marks
- Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks
- Sections C and D have 2 essay questions worth 25 marks each (there is a choice of one from two on both sections)

Paper 2: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There are 3 data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of 3 or 4 part questions.

Paper 3: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There is one compulsory case study followed by approximately 6 questions.

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Business Studies OR, for those who have not studied Business Studies previously, GCSE grade 6 in English. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

## Courses and career ideas:

Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Business Management, Business Studies, Economics, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Marketing, Retail Management.

# Chemistry

Exam Board: OCR

Title: A H432

## Course overview:

OCR A provides a flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Chemists will study:

- Foundations in Chemistry
- Periodic Table and Energy
- Core Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Transition Elements
- Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed both through written papers and the Practical Endorsement. This is a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

## Exam format:

Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (37% of grade)

Paper 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques (37% of grade)

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (26% of grade)

Non-exam assessment: Practical Endorsement (Reported separately)

## Entry requirements:

GCSE Chemistry grade 6 or GCSE Combined grades Science 6-6. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

## Courses and career ideas:

Applied Chemistry, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Environmental Chemistry, Forensic Science, Geology, Materials Science, Nanotechnology, Petroleum Engineering, Pharmacology, Pharmacy.

# Classical Civilisation

Exam Board: OCR

## Course Overview:

Over the two-year course, candidates will engage with the ancient worlds of Athens and Rome through a broad, coherent and rewarding series of study units. Students will study:

- **The World of the Hero** an in-depth study of Homer's 'Odyssey' and Virgil's 'Aeneid' - we explore the adventures of Odysseus and Aeneas following the Trojan War. These two great epics of Greek and Roman literature see the heroes do battle with man, gods and monsters in a bid to fulfil their quests. This is a compulsory unit but the stories give a great insight to the Greek myths and some of the greatest stories ever told.
- **Imperial Image** through an examination of literature, art, architecture and sculpture, students examine the ways in which the emperor Augustus managed a highly successful propaganda campaign and convinced a society of republican values to accept one-man rule. With everything from victory over Antony and Cleopatra to the imagery portrayed in the sculptures of Augustus and the architecture of some of the most iconic buildings in ancient Rome, this highly popular and successful unit is accessed through high-quality visual resources and engagement with artefacts in the British Museum and in Rome\* (\*optional Y12 trip to Rome runs annually at Easter)
- **Love and Relationships**\* the ethical questions raised by the ideas of love, desire, sex, sexuality, and marriage have been wrestled over for generations. Ancient Ideas about men, women and marriage enable students to discuss the reality of love and relationships in everyday life, whilst study of Seneca and Plato provides a more conceptual approach. This material allows students to draw comparisons and make judgements about ideal and reality, and the nature of 'right' and 'wrong' ways to love or be loved. Through Greek and Roman philosophy to the erotic poetry of Sappho and the flirtatious poetry of Ovid, this unit tackles thoughts and ethics that apply to any society.

\*other units available subject to student interest and available resources

## Exam Format:

There is NO COURSEWORK attached to this course. Assessment will be through examinable components only.

## Entry requirements:

No prior knowledge of Classical Civilisation is required GCSE grade 5 in English/English Literature or History. No knowledge of other languages, including Latin and ancient Greek is necessary. All texts are in English.

## Combines well with:

English Literature, History, Law, Drama, Politics, Philosophy, Science and Languages.

# Computer Science

## Exam Board: OCR

### **Course overview:**

Computer Science focuses on how computers and information systems work, how their components interact, and on learning the planning, writing and testing of algorithms and programs using logical and mathematical skills.

Unit 1: focusing on processors, input/output and storage devices, software and software development, exchange of data, data types, data structures, algorithm design, legal aspects of computer science.

Unit 2: focusing on computational thinking, problem solving, programming and algorithms.

Unit 1 (2nd year): focusing on Processors, input/output and storage devices, software and software development, exchange of data, data types, data structures, algorithm design, legal aspects of computer science at a more advanced level than Year 12.

Unit 2 (2nd year): focusing on computational thinking, problem solving, programming and algorithms at a more advanced level than Year 12.

Unit 3 (2nd year): Individual programming project.

### **Exam format:**

Unit 1: Written Examination 2 hr 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 2: Written Examination 2 hr 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 3: Coursework project (20%)

### **Entry requirements:**

GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science OR, for those who have not studied Computer Science previously, a GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

### **Courses and career ideas:**

Business information systems, Business Computing, Business Studies, Computer Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Philosophy, Sciences



# Design Technology

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

This specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- develop a broad view of design and technology
- develop their capacity to design and make products
- appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

### Year 12 outline

In year 12, students develop an understanding of core technical principals, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge.

### Year 13 outline

In year 13, students build on their subject knowledge, technical understanding, and design and manufacture of commercial products. The product is client-based and relies on client testing and feedback throughout the project, combined with in-depth knowledge of materials, processes and production techniques to produce a commercially viable product.

## Exam format:

### **Paper 1 –**

25% of A2. 2 hour written paper. 100 marks. Short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions on technical and design and making principles

### **Paper 2 –**

25% of A2. 2 hour written paper. 100 marks. Short answer, multiple choice and extended response on specialist knowledge, technical and design and making principles.

#### Section A

Product Analysis -up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of products

#### Section B

Commercial Manufacture- short and extended response questions

### **Non-Exam Assessment –**

50% of A2. 45 hours. 100 marks

Substantial design and make task - evidenced by a design portfolio and final prototype

## Entry Requirement:

GCSE grade 6 in Product Design.

## Courses and career ideas:

# Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course Overview:

This course is an examination of Drama and Theatre throughout history and requires students to develop their skills as a director, designer and/or performer. The course is broken down into 3 components:

### Component 1: *Devising*

This unit requires students to perform an original and unique piece of theatre from a play extract and a recognised theatre practitioner. Students are marked on their performance and design as well as a portfolio that they create during the process of developing their piece.

### Component 2: *Text in Performance*

Students will be required to perform either a monologue or a duologue from a key extract of one play, along with the performance of a key extract from another play as a group piece. There is also the option to design the lighting set, costume or sound for the two pieces instead.

### Component 3: *Theatre Makers in Practice*

Students will be assessed on: a theatre evaluation of a live performance; the practical exploration and study of a complete text; the practical exploration and study of another complete text in light of a chosen theatre practitioner, focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a modern audience.

## Exam Format:

- Unit 1 is worth 40% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 80. The devised piece can either be a written or recorded document.
- Unit 2 is worth 20% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 60. This piece is marked by a visiting external examiner.
- Unit 3 is worth 40% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 80. This paper takes the form of a 2 1/2 written examination

## Entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama is an advantage but not essential. Students should have at least a grade 6 in GCSE English in order to cope with the written coursework and examination demands of the course.

## Combines well with:

Music, English Language and Literature or English Literature.

# Economics

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

### *Individuals, firms, markets and market failure*

1. Economic methodology and the economic problem
2. Individual economic decision making
3. Price determination in a competitive market
4. Production, costs and revenue
5. Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
6. The labour market
7. The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8. The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

### *The national and international economy*

1. The measurement of macroeconomic performance
2. How the macro economy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
3. Economic performance
4. Financial markets and monetary policy
5. Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
6. The international economy

## Exam format:

Paper 1: *Markets and Market Failure*

2 hour written exam worth 80 marks. Comprises 33.3% of the total A Level

Paper 2: *National and International Economy*

2 hour written exam worth 80 marks. Comprises 33.3% of the total A Level

Paper 3: *Economic Principles and Issues*

2 hour written exam worth 80 marks. Comprises 33.3% of the total A Level

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Economics OR, for those who have not studied Economics previously, GCSE grade 6 in English. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

## Courses and career ideas:

Accountancy, Banking, Business Finance, Economics, International Business Economics, Mathematics, Politics, Statistics.

# English Language

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

## Course overview:

This specification provides a framework for learners to develop their appreciation of the interconnectedness of the different areas of language study. As learners progress, they are given the opportunity to hone their skills of interrogating data, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, synthesis and reflection. Across all units, they are introduced to concepts and methods of the disciplines of English language/linguistics in relation to a wide range of spoken and written forms of English, including electronic and multimodal forms.

Learners will be required to show knowledge and understanding of the different language levels, and to show how these can be applied to language use in a range of contexts, including how texts and discourses are shaped and interpreted. Learners' contextual study will be based on sound theoretical knowledge relevant to the respective units.

In their studies learners will be required to engage with contemporary language use incorporating local, regional and national examples that learners may encounter on a daily basis.

This specification provides learners with the means to engage with language on a practical level and it encourages learners to investigate an area of language and identity that is of social, cultural and academic interest to them

## Exam format:

### Unit 1 Exploring Language

Written examination: 1¾ hours

Section A: Analysing language

Section B: Contemporary English

### Unit 2 Language Issues and Original and Critical Writing

Written examination: 2 hours

Part (a): Language issues

Part (b): Original writing Part

Part (c): Critical writing Part

### Unit 3 Language over Time

Written examination: 1½ hours

### Unit 4 Spoken Language and Creative Re-casting

Written examination: 2 hours

Section A: Analysing spoken language

Section B: Creative re-casting

### Unit 5 Language and Identity

Coursework: 2500-3500 words

- Language and self-representation
- Language and gender
- Language and culture
- Language diversity

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

## Courses and career ideas:

Communication Studies, Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, Journalism, Media Studies, Theatre Studies.

# English Literature

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course overview:

- Component 1: Drama

You will focus on either tragedy or comedy, and study one Shakespeare play and one other drama in the genre. You will also study critical essays related to the Shakespeare play.

- Component 2: Prose

You will study two prose texts from a chosen theme, of which one must be pre-1900. Themes include 'childhood', 'colonisation and its aftermath', 'crime and detection', 'science and society', 'the supernatural' and 'women and society'.

- Component 3: Poetry

You will study poetic form, meaning and language; a selection of post-2000 poetry and a range of poetry from either a literary period or a named poet.

- Component 4: Coursework

You will study two texts, linked by theme, movement, author or period. Texts may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

## Exam format:

Component 1: Drama Exam: 2 hours 15; open book examination: clean copies of the drama texts may be used in the exam; 30% of total GCE marks.

Component 2: Prose Exam: 1 hour; open book examination: clean copies of the prose texts may be used in the exam; 20% of total GCE marks.

Component 3: Poetry Exam: 2 hours 15; open book examination: clean copies of the poetry texts may be used in the exam; 30% of total GCE marks.

Component 4: Coursework

One extended comparative essay or 2,500–3,000 words, referring to two texts; 20% of total GCE marks.

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English Literature and English Language.

## Courses and career ideas:

Communication Studies, Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, Journalism, Media Studies, Theatre Studies.

# Extended Project Qualification

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

The EPQ allows students to show their passions and interests to prospective universities and employers. The course is self-directed and self-motivated with students deciding on the area of study. Students must plan, research and develop their idea in order to realise their finished product. The finished product can take a number of forms:

- research based written report
- production\* (e.g. charity event, fashion show or sports event etc.)
- an artefact\* (e.g. piece of art, a computer game or realised design)

During the project students are expected to work at a level which is outside the specifications of the subjects which they are studying. The students are supported by a series of sessions designed to teach them the skills required to successfully complete the project, these include:

- Research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in the chosen subject area.
- Any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate's course of study. E.g. safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology.
- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project.
- Project management skills including time, resource and task management.
- The format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report.
- Referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism.
- Presentation skills.

\*A written report must accompany these options.

## Exam format:

Centre Assessed: students are required to submit a piece of academic writing as evidence of their project outcome (the length of which depends of the type of project undertaken) and a production log showing how the project has progressed over time.

## Entry requirements:

Open to all students at the discretion of the sixth form team.

## Courses and career ideas:

The EPQ is particularly appreciated by universities as evidence of independent research skills and applicable to all courses.

# French

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course overview:

### Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française

*Theme 1 is set in the context of France only. This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- a) Les changements dans les structures familiales
- b) L'éducation
- c) Le monde du travail

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

*Theme 2 is set in the context of francophone countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).*

- a) La musique
- b) Les médias
- c) Les festivals et les traditions

### Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

*Theme 3 is set in the context of France only. This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- a) L'impact positif de l'immigration sur la société française
- b) Répondre aux défis de l'immigration et l'intégration en France
- c) L'extrême droite

### Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

*Theme 4 is set in the context of France only. This theme covers political culture.*

- a) La France occupée
- b) Le Régime de Vichy
- c) La Résistance

You will also study two works from a prescribed list (one book and one film OR two books).

## Exam format:

- Paper 1 – Listening, reading and translation (40%)
- Paper 2 – Written response to works and translation (30%)
- Paper 3 – Speaking (30%)

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in French.

## Courses and career ideas:

A huge range of modern foreign languages are available – studied on their own or combined with another subject, European Studies, Linguistics, Translation Studies.

# Further Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course overview:

Students who choose Further Maths follow a two-year course. In their first year, they complete A level Maths. In their second year, they complete A Level Further Maths.

Students cover the following core content: Complex numbers, Proof, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further Vectors, Polar co-ordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.

In addition, students cover two additional options from the following: Further Pure, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics and Decision Maths. These options are chosen by the relevant teacher and students on the course and all students study the chosen options.

## Exam format:

All content is assessed at the end of the course. Further Maths A Level is 100% examination based.

Paper 1: Further Pure Maths covering the core content - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Further Pure Maths covering the core content - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3: Further Maths Option 1 - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 4: Further maths Option 2 - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics.

## Courses and career ideas:

Actuarial Science, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Mathematics, Software Engineering, Statistics.



# Geography

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

### A. Physical Geography

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Coastal systems and landscapes
3. Hazards

### B. Human Geography

4. Global systems and global governance
5. Changing places
6. Contemporary urban environments

### C. Geography investigation

### D. Geographical skills

## Exam format:

**Component 1** Physical Geography: Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes, 96 marks - 40% of A-Level

- Section A: Water and carbon cycles
- Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes
- Section C: Hazards

**Component 2** Human Geography: Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes, 96 marks - 40% of A-Level

- Section A: Global systems and global governance
- Section B: Changing places
- Section C: Contemporary urban environments

**Component 3:** Geographical investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content: 3,000–4,000 words/35 marks - 20% of A Level

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Geography. (You will be required to complete any fieldwork requirements which are likely to involve some form of residential fieldwork at a cost.)

## Courses and career ideas:

Disaster Management, Environmental Science, Geographical Information Systems, Geography, Geology, Surveying, Sustainable Development, Travel & Tourism, Planning. Job option Cartographer, Commercial/residential surveyor, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Planning and development surveyor, Secondary school teacher, Town planner, International

aid/development worker, Landscape architect, Logistics and distribution manager, Market researcher, Nature conservation officer, Sustainability consultant. Tourism officer, Transport planner.

# German

## Exam Board: Edexcel

### Course overview:

In the first Year of the course, there are two themes that you will study:

#### **Theme 1: Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland**

*Theme 1 is set in the context of Germany only. This theme covers social issues and trends.*

- **Natur und Umwelt**

*Umweltbewusstsein; Recycling; erneuerbare Energie; nachhaltig leben.*

- **Bildung**

*Bildungswesen und die Situation von Studenten; Sitzenbleiben, Berufsausbildung.*

- **Die Welt der Arbeit**

*Das Arbeitsleben in Deutschland und die Arbeitsmoral; deutsche Geschäfte und Industrien.*

#### **Theme 2: Politische und künstlerische Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum**

*Theme 2 is set in the context of German-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).*

- **Musik** – (künstlerische Kultur)

*Wandel und Trends; Einfluss der Musik auf die populäre Kultur.*

- **Die Medien** – (politische und künstlerische Kultur)

*Fernsehen, Digital-, Print- und Onlinemedien; Einfluss auf Gesellschaft und Politik.*

- **Die Rolle von Festen und Traditionen** – (künstlerische Kultur)

*Feste, Feiern, Sitten, Traditionen.*

*Each year you will also study a work of literature/ a play / a film.*

### Exam format:

The final examinations consist of three units at the end of the two-year course.

These units test students in the skills of speaking, listening, writing, reading and translation.

#### **Pre Course Learning:**

Paper 1= Listening, Reading and translation into English 40% of the qualification

Paper 2= Written response to works and translation into German 30% of the qualification

Paper 3= Speaking 30% of the qualification

### Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in German.

### Courses and career ideas:

A huge range of modern foreign languages are available – studied on their own or combined with another subject, European Studies, Linguistics, Translation Studies.

# Politics

## Exam Board: AQA

### Course overview:

Brexit, Trump, Boris, Corbyn, referendums, court cases, laws, scandal and argument. Ever wondered how we got here? Ever wanted to make sense of the news and understand the hidden processes behind the headlines? Ever wanted to join the elite tribe of people who actually understand what's happening in Politics and why? Then this could be the A-level for you! There has never been a better time to study this topic. Lively, relevant and controversial...there are many ways to describe A-level Politics but there is no denying that it is one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

This course will introduce you to the British and American political systems, the theories which underpin them and those who seek power within them. Politics is taught through a lively, investigative approach and offers challenge to all abilities.

A wide range of methods and techniques is employed, including research, presentation, written answers, debate, role-play, drama, video content and ICT: All help to stimulate deeper understanding and sharpen analytical skills

### Exam format:

#### Paper 1

*Government and politics of the UK e.g. constitution, political parties, pressure groups, Parliament and, yes, Brexit.*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

#### Paper 2

*The government and politics of the USA and comparative politics e.g. elections, constitution, President vs Congress etc*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

#### Paper 3

*Political ideas (liberalism, Locke etc, conservatism, Burke etc., socialism, Marx etc. and anarchism, Kropotkin etc)*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

### Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in a humanities subject (e.g. History, Geography, RS or similar and English)

### Courses and career ideas:

Politics, History, Law, Business, Economics, Philosophy, Journalism, International Relations, English Literature, Social Policy, Peace Studies, Social Sciences.

# History (Route A)

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

War, revolution, romance, communism, medieval warfare, nuclear bombs, optimism and despair are some of the more dramatic elements that students will study in Route A. There are 3 components in this linear A-Level: two examined topics and one coursework topic.

Component 1 covers the arc of Russian history from Tsarism, through the Revolution and up to the peak of the Cold War (1855–1964). This topic also teaches students how to pass judgement on numerous historians' interpretations on Russian history, from left and right. Component 2 is a classic study of fear, dysfunctional families, lust and vicious battles in early modern England: the Wars of the Roses (1450–99). This topic also enables students to find value in contemporary historical writings, despite the bias, distortion and propaganda of Lancastrian, Yorkist and Tudor sources. The coursework will cover the evolution of US foreign policy 1890–2000 from sleeping giant to world superpower.

## Exam format:

- Component 1: Russia 1855–1964 (40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes)
- Component 2: Wars of the Roses (40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes)
- Component 3: U.S. Foreign Policy (20%, coursework)

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in History. History students require a keen interest in events which have shaped the politics and society of the world. You will need to be willing to discuss the topics in lesson and work/read independently in order to strengthen the work done in lesson. Students should also be prepared to present, occasionally, their findings. You should also have an interest in developing your understanding of the historian's craft: analysing and evaluating the value of sources and the validity of various interpretations.

## Courses and career ideas:

History, Law, Journalism, Sociology, Business, Politics, International Relations, Archaeology, Media, English, Education, American Studies, Heritage Studies, Ancient History, Medieval Studies, Social History.

*Students who would like to study History A-level are invited to state their preference from two options: our long-running Route A and a new Route B. Please note that the school will do everything it can to ensure students' preferences are met. Route A will run next year, as usual. The History Dept has run it for the last two years (with great success) and we have two-years of resources for it already in place. Route B will only run if there is enough demand for both routes. **While applicants to the History A-level may state their preferred route, they should apply to study History A-level at NKS, only if they are prepared to study either route.***

# History (Route B)

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

**Dictators, assassinations, burnings, rebellion, global warfare and the word of God are some of the key themes that students will study as part of route B.** There are 3 components in this linear A-Level: two examined topics and one coursework topic. In Component 1 students will study the newly unified Germany from 1871 through wars, democracy and division until reunification in 1991. Students who have studied German history before will be able to see how the Weimar and Nazi periods fit into the wider context of German history.

Component 2 sees students having to pick their way through the religious and governmental intrigue of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to discover what actually drove change in the period. Students will be able to weigh up the relative importance of religious doctrine in changing England against the importance of political factors like the monarchy. How much did the people of England shape their own future? These are all questions that will be covered in an in-depth course stretching from 1539-1570, covering 4 monarchs, 5 rebellions, numerous wars and countless beheadings.

The coursework element will cover the evolution of warfare 1880-2000. Students will be offered a range of possible questions so as to follow up their own particular area of interest in military development. This could take the form of an analysis of how far military strategy and tactics have developed and the causes/consequences of this over the period, or it could even be an assessment of the extent to which armoured warfare has changed over the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## Exam format:

- **Component 1:** 1L The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991 (**40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes**)
- **Component 2:** 2D Religious conflict and the Church in England, c1529–c1570 (**40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes**)
- **Component 3:** The Development of Warfare 1880-2000 (20%, coursework)

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in History. History students require a keen interest in events which have shaped the politics and society of the world. You will need to be willing to discuss the topics in lesson and work/read independently in order to strengthen the work done in lesson. Students should also be prepared to present, occasionally, their findings. You should also have an interest in developing your understanding of the historian's craft: analysing and evaluating the value of sources and the validity of various interpretations.

## Courses and career ideas:

History, Law, Journalism, Sociology, Business, Politics, International Relations, Archaeology, Media, English, Education, American Studies, Heritage Studies, Ancient History, Medieval Studies, Social History.

*Students who would like to study History A-level are invited to state their preference from two options: our long-running Route A and a new Route B. Please note that the school will do everything it can to ensure students' preferences are met. Route A will run next year, as usual. The History Dept has run it for the last two years (with great success) and we have two-years of resources for it, already in place. Route B will only run if there is enough*

demand for both routes. **While applicants to the History A-level may state their preferred route, they should apply to study History A-level at NKS, only if they are prepared to study either route.**

# Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course overview:

This is a challenging and popular course. It covers two main elements: Pure Mathematics and Applications.

Pure elements:

These elements provide students with the tools and techniques required to solve problems in other areas of mathematics, for example Science and Engineering.

The course starts by developing algebra skills before moving into:

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Numerical methods

Applications – students study two areas:

- Statistics
- Mechanics

## Exam format:

Assessment is linear with examinations at the end of the two-year course. The course is 100% examination based.

Paper 1: Pure Maths 1 (100 marks). 2-hour duration.

Paper 2: Pure Maths 2 (100 marks). 2-hour duration.

Paper 3: Section A: Statistics (50 marks). Section B: Mechanics (50 marks). 2-hour duration.

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

## Courses and career ideas:

Actuarial Science, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Mathematics, Software Engineering, Statistics.

# Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course Overview:

**Performing:** An 8-minute solo performance of no less than Grade V standard, which can be made up of several shorter pieces. (30% of exam total)

**Composing:** A composition lasting 4 minutes or more, composed to a given brief (with options) and a technical study lasting 1 minute (30% of total).

**Understanding music:** Study of a group of extracts of music from the Anthology, covering Instrumental and Vocal Music across a range of styles and eras.

The 2 hour written examination, (40% of exam total) will contain questions about stylistic features of the pieces, comparison questions, a question on analysing a piece of harmony and some harmony to complete.

There is an aural analysis section with questions.

## Exam Format:

Controlled assessment for composition • Solo Performance of 8 minutes • Two hour written examination

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Music, the ability to perform to grade 5 or equivalent.

## Combines well with:

Any other subjects to provide a broad curriculum Music is highly regarded by university admissions for all subjects as it involves many disciplines and demonstrates a wide range of skills.

# Philosophy

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

Philosophy is essentially the search for wisdom. If you thought there was lots you knew, be prepared to discard that belief. If you have always wondered why, and been unwilling just to accept what you are told, this could be the course for you. If you value clear and logical thinking, consider this subject. What follows is just a snap shot of what we will discuss.

We would consider the very basis of knowledge. Questions such as: How do we acquire knowledge? What counts as reliable knowledge? Is there certain knowledge? Is knowledge justified true belief? What happens if your justification turns out to be false? Is getting knowledge from a teacher enough to say that it must be true? What further checks could you carry out to make this knowledge more certain?

We will consider whether the attributes of God are logically impossible. For instance, can an omnipotent God make a stone so heavy he cannot lift it? Can the existence of God be proved logically or empirically? If God is all-knowing, does that mean he already knows our future?

There is the opportunity to consider ethics. Are we free or determined? If the latter, can we be held responsible for our actions? Do we have objective ethical truths or is our morality relative? How do we approach ethical dilemmas? Is it clear what course of action is the best? If you are faced with a choice to save five people you do not know, or one you do, what do you choose to do?

## Exam format:

Paper 1 - Epistemology (Theories of Knowledge) and Moral Philosophy

Paper 2 - Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English.

## Courses and career ideas:

Big business – the City firms, the banks, the management consultancies, the chartered accountants – are enthusiastic about people who've done philosophy, because they know how to think clearly. Philosophy students also go into law, politics, and the civil service. Journalism is a logical career path, since you have to be able to write well and present ideas logically and clearly.



# Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

Physical Education at A Level is designed to be run over a two-year linear programme, with students sitting examinations at the end of the two-year course. During the course of the two years, students will be engaged in the following material that naturally links into a degree level programme of study for Sports Science:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and the role of technology on physical activity and sport

## Exam format:

The course is assessed both academically and practically, and is split as follows:

**Paper 1:** Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport - worth 35% of the A Level

- Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Section B: skill acquisition
- Section C: Sport and society

**Paper 2:** Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport - worth 35% of the A Level

- Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B: Sport psychology
- Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

**Practical assessment:** Practical performance in physical activity and sport - worth 30% of the A Level • Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity • Students also have to do a written/verbal analysis of performance

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Physical Education OR, for those who have not studied PE previously, a GCSE grade 6 in Biology or Additional Science. Students should be actively participating in a recognised sport to a good club or low level county standard and representing their school in at least one other sport.

## Courses and career ideas:

Health Studies, Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Marketing, Sports Science.

# Physics

Exam Board: OCR A

## Course overview:

In the first year Physics students will study: Development of Practical Skills in Physics; Foundations of Physics; Forces and Motion and Electrons; Waves and Photons.

In the second year, students will study the aforementioned topics as well as the Newtonian World and Astrophysics, and Particles and Medical Physics.

The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed both through written papers and the Practical Endorsement.

## Exam format:

| Paper Content       | % of Grade | Examined  |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 Modelling Physics | 37%        | June 2020 |
| 2 Exploring Physics | 37%        | June 2020 |
| 3 Unified Physics   | 26%        | June 2020 |

Non-exam assessment: Practical Endorsement Reported separately (on-going)

## Entry requirements:

GCSE Physics grade 6 or GCSE Combined grades Science 6-6. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

## Courses and career ideas:

Acoustics, Applied Physics, Astrophysics, Electronics, Engineering – from Aerospace and Civil to Mechanical and Marine Engineering, Geophysics, Optometry, Physics, Radiography.

# Politics

## Exam Board: AQA

### Course overview:

Brexit, Trump, Boris, Corbyn, referendums, court cases, laws, scandal and argument. Ever wondered how we got here? Ever wanted to make sense of the news and understand the hidden processes behind the headlines? Ever wanted to join the elite tribe of people who actually understand what's happening in Politics and why? Then this could be the A-level for you! There has never been a better time to study this topic. Lively, relevant and controversial...there are many ways to describe A-level Politics but there is no denying that it is one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

This course will introduce you to the British and American political systems, the theories which underpin them and those who seek power within them. Politics is taught through a lively, investigative approach and offers challenge to all abilities.

A wide range of methods and techniques is employed, including research, presentation, written answers, debate, role-play, drama, video content and ICT: All help to stimulate deeper understanding and sharpen analytical skills

### Exam format:

#### Paper 1

*Government and politics of the UK e.g. constitution, political parties, pressure groups, Parliament and, yes, Brexit.*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

#### Paper 2

*The government and politics of the USA and comparative politics e.g. elections, constitution, President vs Congress etc*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

#### Paper 3

*Political ideas (liberalism, Locke etc, conservatism, Burke etc., socialism, Marx etc. and anarchism, Kropotkin etc)*

Written exam: 2 hours

33 $\frac{1}{3}$  % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

### Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in a humanities subject (e.g. History, Geography, RS or similar and English)

### Courses and career ideas:

Politics, History, Law, Business, Economics, Philosophy, Journalism, International Relations, English Literature, Social Policy, Peace Studies, Social Sciences.

# Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview

*Compulsory content:*

- 1 Social influence
- 2 Memory
- 3 Attachment
- 4 Psychopathology
- 5 Approaches in Psychology
- 6 Biopsychology
- 7 Research methods
- 8 Issues and debates in Psychology

*Optional:*

**Option 1** 9 Relationships 10 Gender 11 Cognition and development

**Option 2** 12 Schizophrenia 13 Eating behaviour 14 Stress

**Option 3** 15 Aggression 16 Forensic Psychology 17 Addiction

## Exam format:

### Paper 1: **Introductory Topics in Psychology**

Compulsory content 1–4 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours

96 marks in total

33.3% of A-level

### Paper 2: **Psychology in Context**

Compulsory content 5–7 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours

96 marks in total

33.3% of A-level

### Paper 3: **Issues and Options in Psychology**

Compulsory content 8 above plus optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours

96 marks in total

33.3% of A-level

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.)

## Courses and career ideas:

As a Psychology graduate, you could either work as a psychologist or pursue a wide range of other careers. Becoming a psychologist typically requires lots of additional study and experience after you've finished your degree. At the other end of the scale, there are careers in areas such as finance that you could start straight after you graduate.

# Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

## Course overview:

Sociology is the study of society and people and their behaviour. It considers different relationships that we form, whether this be through education, the family or the wider world. A Level Sociology will give you a wider understanding of important aspects of society, and of how sociologists study and explain people's behaviour. Sociology trains you to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the professions or business.

It is a fascinating and ever changing topic that can lead to many different career paths including public relations, journalism, the police, education, research, health and welfare services, business.

## Exam format:

Paper 1 - Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology – One of Culture and Identity, Families and Households, Health or Work, Poverty and Welfare, then one of Beliefs in Society, Global Development or the Media

Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

3 written examinations, each 2 hours long

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English.

## Courses and career ideas:

Anthropology, Sociology, International Relations, Psychology, Social Policy, Social Science.

# Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

## Course overview:

Topic Areas:

In the first Year of the course, there are two themes that you will study:

*Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad Española* Theme 1 is set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

- **El cambio en la estructura familiar:** *La evolución de las actitudes hacia el matrimonio, las relaciones y las familias.*
- **El mundo laboral:** *La vida laboral en España y las actitudes hacia el trabajo; las oportunidades de trabajo para los jóvenes; la igualdad de género.*
- **El impacto turístico en España:** *El impacto económico; las oportunidades que ofrece el turismo; el impacto socioambiental.*

*Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante* Theme 2 is set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

- **La música:** *Los cambios y las tendencias; el impacto de la música en la cultura contemporánea.*
- **Los medios de comunicación:** *La televisión y las telenovelas: los medios de comunicación escritos y en internet; el impacto en la sociedad y la política.*
- **Los festivales y las tradiciones:** *Los festivales, las fiestas, las costumbres y las tradiciones.*

## Exam format:

The final examinations consist of three units at the end of the two-year course. These units test students in the skills of speaking, listening, writing, reading and translation.

### **Pre Course Learning:**

Paper 1= Listening, Reading and translation into English 40% of the qualification

Paper 2= Written response to works and translation into Spanish 30% of the qualification

Paper 3= Speaking 30% of the qualification

## Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

## Courses and career ideas:

A huge range of modern foreign languages are available – studied on their own or combined with another subject, European Studies, Linguistics, Translation Studies.