

A-LEVEL

HANDBOOK

ART (FINE ART)

(AQA 7202)

Exam codes and exam papers:

Coursework: 7202/C

Examination: 7202/X

Percentage of Coursework in AL: 60%

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Percentage of Exam in AL: 40%

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Topics taught:

Fine Art, Drawing and Painting, Basic Printing, Contextual Art History.

Skills taught:

Drawing and Painting, Observation, Analysis, Perspective, Tone, Colour, History of Painting and Sculpture. We also extend into Monotype, 3D and Mixed Media. Photography, Film and Video are welcome additions to a student's portfolio. Etching and collotype will soon be possible with the arrival of a small press.

Other information:

This is a 2-year A level course, continuously assessed: we do not take AS exam.

The Personal Investigation is a practical investigation into a theme chosen by the student. It is a creative journey resulting in a final outcome or outcomes, and supported by a piece of **Written Material, 1000 to 3000 words** of continuous prose relating to their art project.

The Externally Set Assignment offers a choice of 8 starting points set by AQA in an exam paper released on **1st February**.

Students choose **one topic** which they investigate during a preparatory period making work and studies in the format and medium of their choice.

They produce a finished outcome in a **15 hour supervised exam in May**; spread over 3 or more days.

Students need to meet the four AQA assessment objectives in all their work, which broadly cover the following: drawing from observation, developing ideas, experimenting with different media, making critical judgements, analysing the work of other artists, and bringing work to a conclusion.

Reference books:

The Shock of the New Robert Hughes

The Art Book PHAIDON

ISMS Understanding Modern Art Sam Phillip

50 Modern Artists you should know Thomas Koster (Ed. PRESTEL)

Classics:

Story of Art by E.H. Gombrich

Ways of Seeing John Berger

Art Documentaries: BBC, Channel 4.

Useful websites: www.tate.org.uk, www.nationalgallery.org.uk, www.vam.ac.uk

BIOLOGY

(Edexcel 9BI0)

Exam codes and exam papers:

- 9BI0/01 Advanced biochemistry, microbiology and genetics 30%
- 9BI0/02 Advanced physiology, evolution and ecology 30%
- 9BI0/03 General and practical principles in Biology 40%

Percentage in examinations / coursework: A level Biology is 100% externally assessed. Core practicals also form part of the practical competency assessment made by the teacher, which is awarded as a “Science Practical Endorsement” Pass or Fail on the A level certificate in addition to the A level grade.

Exam structure: These papers will assess material from both years of the course, testing students' knowledge of the deeper understanding gained at full A level.

Course summary: The aims and objectives of the Edexcel A level in Biology B are to enable students to develop: ● essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other ● and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods ● competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem- solving skills ● their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject ● understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

Topics taught: Biology offers a thorough, no-nonsense run-through of familiar topics - genetics, reproduction, evolution, classification, our circulatory system and transport in plants, respiration, photosynthesis, microorganisms, immunity, biotechnology, nerves, hormones, ecosystems and climate change. Sixteen core practicals are assessed and awarded separately to the three exam papers, ensuring hands-on experience coupled with academic rigour.

Skills taught: Students will be expected to demonstrate and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills described in the content for each topic. In addition, they will be expected to analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of scientific information, ideas and evidence using their knowledge, understanding and skills. To demonstrate knowledge, students should be able to undertake a range of activities, including the ability to recall, describe and define, as appropriate. To demonstrate understanding, students should be able to explain ideas and use their knowledge to apply, analyse, interpret and evaluate, as appropriate.

Textbooks: *Edexcel AS/A Level Biology B Student Book 1*, Ann Fullick, ISBN 978-1447991144
Edexcel A Level Biology B Student Book 2, Ann Fullick, ISBN 978-1447991151
Edexcel A Level Biology Student Book 1, E Lees, M Rowland, CJ Clegg, ISBN 978- 1471807343
Edexcel A Level Biology Student Book 2, E Lees, M Rowland, CJ Clegg, ISBN 978- 1471807374

Any combination of Student Books 1 and 2 is acceptable.

Useful websites: <https://qualifications.pearson.com>

Other information: Biology A level in the British Section will strengthen your interest in life sciences; at a time when genetic innovation is touching all areas of life, and world ecosystems require our urgent attention and understanding.

CHEMISTRY

(Edexcel 9CH0)

Exam codes and exam papers:

Paper 1: Advanced inorganic and physical Chemistry 30% = 9CH0/01

Paper 2: Advanced organic and physical Chemistry 30% = 9CH0/02

Paper 3: General and practical principles in Chemistry 40% = 9CH0/03 Science

Practical endorsement = 9CH0/04

Percentage in examinations /coursework

A-level Chemistry is 100% externally assessed.

Core practical's also form part of the practical competency assessment made by the teacher, which is awarded as a "Science Practical Endorsement" Pass or Fail on the A level certificate in addition to the A level grade.

Exam structure:

These papers will assess material from both years of the course, testing students' knowledge of the deeper understanding gained at full A level.

Course summary:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods. Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Topics taught:

Energetics, Bonds, Calculations, Polarisation, Redox, group 2 and 7, Kinetics, Equilibria, Transition metals, Organic Chemistry (Nitrogen and Benzene Chemistry), Rates, Entropy.

Skills taught:

- Laboratory skills, develop basic skills of formulae writing and calculating chemical quantities.
- Detailed understanding of electronic configuration and bonding.
- Explaining reactions by exploring the nature and effect of bonding and intermolecular forces.
- Quantitative study of kinetics: ability to predict quantitatively the direction and the extent of chemical change.
- Application of previous knowledge; understanding of organic chemistry, how to do the synthesis of chemicals.
- Improve further their laboratory skills.

Textbook:

Any A Level text book as long as it follows the Edexcel syllabus, *Edexcel AS/A Level Chemistry Student Book 1* *Edexcel A Level Chemistry Student Book 2*

Useful websites: Edexcel.com and others given in the lesson depending on the topics.

ECONOMICS

(Edexcel 9EC0)

Exam Code: 9EC0 Economics A

Theme 1: An introduction to Markets & market failure

Theme 2: The UK Economy – performance & policies

Theme 3: Business behaviour & the labour market

Theme 4: The global perspective

Percentage in examinations: 100%

Exam structure:

- Paper 1: Themes 1 & 3 (100 marks) weighing 35% (2 hours)
- Paper 2: Themes 2 & 4 (100 marks) weighing 35% (2 hours)
- Paper 3: Themes 1, 2, 3 & 4 (100 marks) weighing 30% (2 hours)

Percentage in controlled assessment: 0%

Topics taught:

- The market economy
- International and development economics
- Market failure
- Macroeconomics
- Behavioural economics

Skills taught: Problem solving, modelling and data application, analytical and quantitative evaluation of theoretical and practical concepts. Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

Textbooks:

Economics 6th Ed. - Alain Anderton

Edexcel A Level Economics - Books 1 and 2 - Peter Smith

Economics 19 - Paul Samuelson, William Nordhaus

Useful websites:

- www.tutor2u.net
- www.bized.ac.uk
- <http://brynsaseconomicsblog.blogspot.com>
- www.economicshelp.org/blog
- www.memrise.com/courses/english/economics/

ENGLISH LITERATURE

(OCR H472)

Exam codes and exam papers: H472 English Literature

Exam 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 Shakespeare Drama and Poetry Pre- 1900 (Closed text)	2 hours, 30 minutes (60 marks)	40% of total A-Level
Exam 2: Comparative and Contextual Study Close reading (Unseen) Comparative and Contextual essay (Closed text)	2 hours, 30 minutes (60 marks)	40% of total A-Level
Non-Examined Assessment Component: Literature post- 1900 Critical piece OR recreative writing piece with commentary Comparative essay	One critical or recreative piece with commentary based on one text One essay based on two linked texts (40 marks)	20% of total A-Level

Exam structure

Paper 1: Written paper-closed text- 2 hours and 30 mins

Paper 2: Written paper-closed text- 2 hours and 30 mins

Course summary

Aims and learning outcomes:

The aims of this specification are to encourage learners to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:

- Read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- Engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- Develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in writing
- Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.

Topics taught

Paper 1: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and selected poetry by Christina Rossetti.

Paper 2: F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Skills taught

The OCR A Level in English Literature will require learners to develop judgement and independence as they synthesise and reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and ways of reading them. It will require learners to show knowledge and understanding of:

- The ways in which writers shape meanings in texts
- The ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time
- The ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
- The significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

Textbooks

Mastering English Literature, 3rd Edition, Richard Gill

Hamlet (Cambridge School Shakespeare) Cambridge University Press; 3rd Revised ed. Edition 2014

A Doll's House, Henrik Ibsen, (Student Editions) Paperback, 2008

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Penguin Modern Classics, 2000

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck, Penguin Modern Classics, 2000

Useful websites: www.ocr.org.uk

FRENCH

(AQA 7652)

Exam codes and exam papers:

Paper 1 untiered 2hrs 30mins 50 % of total (Listening, Reading, translating)

Paper 2 untiered 2hrs 20 % of total (Writing: 2 essays)

Paper 3 untiered 25 mins approximately 30 % of total (Individual Research Project and conversation about Stimulus Card)

Percentage in examinations /coursework 100%

in examinations, no coursework.

Exam structure:

The A2 in French comprises of TWO externally assessed papers (Paper 1 and Paper 2) and an oral exam (Paper 3) assessed externally at the end of the class of TAL. There is no coursework in this specification.

Course summary:

- Acquire and understanding knowledge about the 12 subthemes listed below.
- Develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking on a French film or book, build up skills to write essays.
- Develop an extended range of vocabulary and language skills, for both practical and intellectual purposes. Develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain
- Build fluency and confidence in communication situation.

Topics taught: 12 subthemes:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends: "*la famille en voie de changement*", *la "Cybersociété"*, *le rôle du bénévolat*,
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues: "*les aspects positifs d'une société diverse*", "*Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?*", "*Comment on traite les criminels ?*".
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: "*une culture fière de son patrimoine*", "*la musique francophone contemporaine*", "*le cinéma le septième art.*"
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: "*Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique*", "*Manifestations, grèves : à qui le pouvoir ?*", "*La politique et l'immigration.*"

Two works are studied over the course:

A literary book: *L'étranger* d'Albert Camus **AND** A film: *Au revoir les enfants* de Louis Malle (1987) OR *Un long dimanche de fiançailles* de Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004) OR *Entre les murs*, de Laurent Cantet (2008).

Skills taught:

- Understand and respond in speech to spoken language including face-to-face interaction, in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources.

- Understand and respond: in speech to written language drawn from a variety of sources, in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources.
- Manipulate the language accurately, in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure.
- Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.
- Enhance their linguistic skills
- Develop as independent researchers through the language of study.

Textbook:

No Textbook. *L'Etranger* de Camus.

Useful websites:

You can find out about all our French qualifications at aqa.org.uk/french.

You can find everything you need to prepare for our exams, including:

- past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports
- specimen papers and mark schemes for new courses
- Exampro: a searchable bank of past AQA exam questions • exemplar student answers with examiner commentaries.

Other information:

French is compulsory.

FRENCH IN PAL/YEAR 12

AS French (AQA 7651V)

Paper 1 - Listening & reading 90 marks - 45% (1h45min)

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world and Grammar

Paper 2 - Writing 50 marks - 25% (1h30min)

- One text or one film from the list in the specification and Grammar

Paper 3 - Speaking 60 marks - 30% (15min + 15min)

- One sub-theme from Aspects of French speaking society: current trends
- One sub-theme from Artistic culture in the French-speaking world. No dictionary allowed.

Skills Taught:

Students study social and technological change alongside highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema. Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study a text or a film. Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where French is spoken, and their language skills; they will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French. Students following this specification will develop their language knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- using language spontaneously to initiate communication;
- using language-learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies;
- listening and responding to spoken covering different registers and types;
- reading and responding to a variety of texts including contemporary, historical and literary texts;
- inferring meaning from complex spoken and written material, including factual and abstract content;
- assimilating and using information from spoken and written sources, including material from online media;
- summarising information from spoken and written sources; • translating an unseen passage from French into English • translating unseen sentences from English into French.

Topics Taught:

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

The changing nature of family (*La famille en voie de changement*); The 'cyber-society' (La «*cyber-société*»); The place of voluntary work (*Le rôle du bénévolat*)

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

A culture proud of its heritage (*Une culture fière de son patrimoine*); Contemporary francophone music (*La musique francophone contemporaine*); Cinema: The 7th Art (*Cinéma: le septième art*)
Literary texts and films chosen by teachers among a list.

Books: AQA French A LEVEL YEAR 1 AND AS - Oxford University Press (ISBN 978-0-19-836688-1)

Other information: French is compulsory.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

(Edexcel 9FM0)

Exam unit codes and exam papers to be taken:

All exams taken at the end of TAL

Maths

9MA0/01 Pure Mathematics 1

9MA0/02 Pure Mathematics 2

9MA0/03 Statistics and Mechanics

Further Maths

9FM0/01 Core Pure Mathematics 1

9FM0/02 Core Pure Mathematics 2

9FM0/3B Further Statistics 1

9FM0/3C Further Mechanics 1

(9FM0/4B Further Statistics 2) optional

(9FM0/4C Further Mechanics 2) optional

Course summary:

Further Maths is **two-year** course consisting of 7 **final exams**. This course leads to **two** A Levels and consists of **two subject choices** at the start of PAL. 3 exams, 2 Pure and 1 Applied, are taken to complete the A Level in Maths and 4 exams, 2 Pure and 2 Applied, are taken to complete the A Level in Further Maths. All exams are taken at the end of the second year. Only the most able pupils should take this course and pupils must have achieved a **grade 9** at **IGCSE**. This option is particularly recommended for pupils wishing to study Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Economics or related fields at top universities.

Skills taught:

Problem solving, logical thinking, data handling, data analysis.

Textbooks:

Edexcel's GCE Mathematics (2017) Specification AS and A Level Series:

Edexcel Pure Mathematics Year 1/AS (**ISBN 9781292183398**)

Edexcel Pure Mathematics Year 2 (**ISBN 9781292183404**)

Edexcel Statistics and Mechanics Year 1/AS (**ISBN 9781292232539**)

Edexcel Statistics and Mechanics Year 2 (**ISBN 9781446944073**)

Edexcel Core Pure Mathematics Book 1/AS (**ISBN 9781292183336**)

Edexcel Core Pure Mathematics Book 2 (**ISBN 9781292183343**)

Edexcel Further Statistics 1 (**ISBN 9781292183374**)

Edexcel Further Mechanics 1 (**ISBN 9781292183312**)

Calculator:

Casio fx-991EX Classwiz

Useful websites: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html> <https://www.desmos.com/calculator>

GEOGRAPHY

(Eduqas A110QS)

Exam codes and exam papers:

Component 1: Changing Landscapes and Changing Places

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (20.5% of qualification)

Component 2: Global Systems and Global Governance

Written examination: 2 hours (27.5% of qualification)

Component 3: Contemporary Themes in Geography

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (32% of qualification)

Component 4: Independent Investigation

Non-exam assessment: 3000 to 4000 words (20% of qualification)

Course summary: 2-year linear A Level course including Changing Landscapes and Changing Places, Global Systems and Global Governance and Contemporary Themes in Geography.

Topics taught: Coastal landscapes and studies of the home place, a contrasting place and other places in the UK, the water and carbon cycles, global migration and governance of the Earth's oceans, tectonic hazards, ecosystems and economic growth and challenge, China.

Skills taught: Quantitative skills will include cartographic, number and statistical calculations, graphical, digital and geo-located data. Qualitative skills will be used to collect data through non-numerical techniques.

Textbook: A Level Study Guides for each component are available from Hodder Education, students should also subscribe to Geography review magazine (ordered through the teacher).

Useful websites: The exam board: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk>

Royal Geographical Society: <https://www.rgs.org/>

Other information: Fieldwork is a compulsory requirement and there will be a residential trip towards the end of the first year in order to complete the individual investigation which is then written up and submitted early in the second year. Previous fieldtrips have been to Snowdonia to study glaciated environments, the Dorset coast, Barcelona for urban studies and Denmark for ecosystems.

GERMAN

(AQA 7662)

From 2020

Exam Structure and percentage:

Paper 1 Listening, Reading, Writing

•• Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes •• 100 marks •• 50 % of A-level

Paper 2 Writing

•• Written exam: 2 hours •• 80 marks in total •• 20 % of A-level

Paper 3 Speaking •• Oral exam: 21 – 23 minutes

(including 5 minutes preparation time) •• 60 marks in total •• 30 % of A-level

Course summary:

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where German is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German.

Topic taught:

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society
- Grammar
- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Individual research project

One of four themes: Aspects of German speaking society **or** Artistic culture in the German-speaking world **or** Multiculturalism in German-speaking society **or** Aspects of political life in German-speaking society

Skills taught:

It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where German is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German.

Textbook: *AQA A-Level German*, Hodder Education, by Amy Bates, Louise Fenner, Helen Kent, Paul Stocker

Useful website: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/german/specifications/AQA-7662-SP-2016.PDF>

HISTORY

(AQA 7042)

Exam codes and exam papers:

Breadth Study Component 1J (Britain's Empire 1857-1967)

Depth Study Component 2L (Fascist Italy 1900-45)

Non-Examination Assessment NEA 3 (Mughal India 1700-1813)

Percentage in examinations /coursework

80% in exams; 20% coursework (NEA)

Exam structure:

Two 2.5-hour exams at the end of the second year

Course summary:

A first year in-depth study of Fascist Italy before beginning coursework on Mughal India. The latter serves as a springboard into second year British Empire studies which involves focus on both nineteenth century imperialism and twentieth century decolonization

Topics taught:

British Empire 1857-1967 (1J)

Italy and Fascism 1900-45 (2L)

Historical Investigation - Mughal India 1700-1813 (NEA 3)

Skills taught:

Source Analysis and Interpretation, Evaluation, Argumentation, Research and Academic Writing

Textbooks:

John Hite & Chris Hinton *Fascist Italy*

Philip Morgan *Italian Fascism*

Robert Carr & Anthony Webster *The British Empire 1857-1967*

Nigel Dalziel *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the British Empire*

Useful websites:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.britishempire.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/history

www.aqa.org.uk

Other information: Supporting Study Trip to India during February half-term.

University course possibilities include Law, Journalism, International Relations and Anthropology

ART (CRITICAL AND CONTEXTUAL STUDIES)

(OCR H606)

*Following Ofqual's decision, exams will not be taking place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students taking A Level Art and Design in summer 2021 will not have to study the full course and will not be assessed on all the content:

- **All** students must complete the Component (01): Personal investigation, including the portfolio and related study.
- We have removed Component (02): Externally set task for summer 2021
- **No** pre-release material will be published for summer 2021.
- **All** work submitted for moderation in summer 2021 will be via photographic evidence and/or a digital portfolio.

Exam codes and exam papers:

Component 01: Personal Investigation - OCR H606 (01) **60%** Component

02: Externally Set Task - OCR H606 (02) **40%**

Topics taught:

Drawing, painting, design, mixed media, 3D, video, photography

50% of course

Art History, Critical thinking and responses in **Writing**

50% of course

Course summary:

This is a 2-year course (no AS exam) and combines both Practical Art and Written Art History. It requires students to respond to themes **in painting, drawing and other visual media, as well as in writing**. Students don't have to be fine artists to get a good grade- good writing skills and a willingness to practise and experiment with visual art of all kinds works well. Students learn how to analyse works and put them in a social and historical context.

Choosing between **one or more of the following areas of study**:

Fine art and sculpture • Design • Craft • Art theory • The human form • Landscape and natural forms • Still life and designed objects • Architecture and the built environment • Art movements, styles and genres • Curating exhibitions • Art management and art in the community • Cultural representations within art and design • Multimedia, emerging technologies and their use in art.

Skills taught:

The course aims to deepen students' understanding of contextual studies and to develop ideas, experiment, and advance and apply skills, research, record, analyse, review, create and present outcomes in response to OCR's four Assessment Objectives.

*A response to **one** of a choice of themes set by OCR in their exam paper released on **1st February**.

Students research and develop their ideas in a **preparatory period** from February until they realise their intentions in **May**, producing a final outcome in **15 hours of supervised time** spread over 3 or more days.

Reference books: a longer list is provided on course.

Story of Art by E.H. Gombrich

Ways of Seeing John Berger

The Shock of the New Robert Hughes

The Art Book Phaidon

The Obstacle Race Germaine Greer

Women Artists in the 20th and 21st century Taschen

ISMS Understanding Modern Art Sam Phillip

50 Modern Artists you should know Thomas Koster (Ed. PRESTEL)

Art Films and Documentaries, BBC, Channel 4, etc...

Useful websites: www.tate.org.uk www.nationalgallery.org.uk www.vam.ac.uk

Workshops in local galleries: Wallace Collection; V & A; Life model workshop in school

ITALIAN

(Edexcel 9IN0)

Exam and papers codes: 9IN0/01, 9IN0/02, 9IN0/03

Exam structure and Percentage in examinations:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 2 hours - 40% of the qualification - 80 marks

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of the qualification - 120 marks

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed

Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, this includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time - 30% of the qualification - 72 marks

Course summary:

The Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Italian consists of two externally-examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing and a non-examined speaking assessment.

The speaking assessment is externally set and conducted by a teacher-examiner.

Topics taught: The four themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Italy and Italian-speaking countries and communities. Themes 1, 3, and 4 focus on aspects of society or history of Italy only.

Theme 2 requires students to broaden their knowledge across **any** Italian country/countries and/or community/communities.

Skills taught:

- enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of Italy and the Italian-speaking world
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of Italian
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of Italian in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study
- develop as independent researchers through the language of study.

Textbook: G.Iacovoni *Gramm.it*, N. Ammaniti *Io non ho paura*

MATHEMATICS

(Edexcel 9MA0)

Exam unit codes and exam papers to be taken:

All exams taken at the end of TAL

9MA0/01 Pure Mathematics 1

9MA0/02 Pure Mathematics 2

9MA0/03 Statistics and Mechanics

Percentage in exams:

Course Summary:

Mathematics is a **two-year** course consisting of **3 final exams**: 2 Pure Maths and 1 Applied Maths (Statistics and Mechanics). These exams are all taken at the end of the second year. Pupils are expected to have **at least grade 7** at IGCSE. This subject is highly recommended for those wishing to study Physics and Economics.

Topics taught:

Pure: Algebra, trigonometry, differentiation, integration, sequences, logarithms, vectors, and numerical methods.

Applied: Mechanics: Forces, statistics, dynamics, kinematics, moments, momentum.

Statistics: Regression, correlation, random variables, normal distribution, probability.

Skills taught:

Problem solving, logical thinking, data handling, data analysis.

Textbooks:

Edexcel's GCE Mathematics (2017) Specification AS and A Level Series:

Edexcel Pure Mathematics Year 1/AS (**ISBN 9781292183398**)

Edexcel Pure Mathematics Year 2 (**ISBN 9781292183404**)

Edexcel Statistics and Mechanics Year 1/AS (**ISBN 9781292232539**)

Edexcel Statistics and Mechanics Year 2 (**ISBN 9781446944073**)

Calculator:

Casio fx-991EX Classwiz

Useful websites:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator>

PHYSICS

(Edexcel 9PH0)

Exam codes and exam papers:

9PH0 - three papers + practical endorsement.

Percentage in examinations: 100% + practical endorsement (see below)

Exam Structure (written papers):

Paper 1 30%; 1h 45m 90 marks taken at the end of TAL

- Further mechanics; Electric and magnetic fields; Nuclear and particle physics
- Some AS (PAL year) topics

Paper 2 30%; 1h 45m 90 marks taken at the end of TAL

- Thermodynamics; Space; Nuclear radiation; Gravitational fields; Oscillations
- Some AS (PAL year) topics

Paper 3 40%; 2h 30m 120 marks taken at the end of TAL

- General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications
- Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals).

Exam Structure (Practical assessment in Physics):

There are 16 core practical's in A Level (8 in PAL & 8 in TAL). Core practicals are assessed in class by the teacher and awarded as a "Science Practical Endorsement" Pass or Fail on the A level certificate in addition to A level grade.

Topics taught: see exam structure above and also the topics covered in PAL which are Mechanics; Electric Circuits; Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals); Materials; Waves and the particle nature of light.

Skills taught: Learn understand and apply concepts, develop logical arguments, plan scientific investigations, practical skills, quantitative skills, working in groups.

Textbooks:

Required (PAL year)

Edexcel AS/A Level Physics Student Book 1 (2015 specification)

ISBN-10: 1447991184 or ISBN-13: 978-1447991182

Highly recommended as a subsidiary textbook for the whole course:

Advanced Physics for You 2nd Edition (or 1st Edition 2nd hand)

ISBN-10: 408527375 or ISBN-10: 0748752966

Useful websites:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/physics-2015.html>

Other information:

Physics A-Level is one of the "facilitating subjects" recommended by Russell Group and other top UK Universities and is valued by virtually all courses. Taking Mathematics A-level at the same time is not absolutely essential but is highly recommended as 40% of Physics A level is Maths!

POLITICS

(AQA 7152)

Exam codes and exam papers:

There is single entry with one code for the whole qualification.

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the US

Paper 3: Political Ideas

Course summary:

- Build knowledge and understanding of the Government and Politics of the United Kingdom and United States of America.
- Use this knowledge to compare and contrast the institutions and political processes in these two countries.
- Develop theoretical and practical knowledge of political ideas and ideologies.
- Develop understanding of political institutions, processes, concepts, theories and issues.
- Use this knowledge to analyse contemporary political information and opinion.
- Evaluate political information arguments and assertions.
- Construct arguments of your own, come to substantiated judgements and draw conclusions.

Topics Taught:

- Government and Politics of the UK: British Constitution, Democracy and Participation, Parliament, PM and Cabinet, Judiciary, Devolution, Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Structures of the EU.
- Government and Politics of the US: American Constitution, Congress, Presidency, Judiciary, Elections, Pressure Groups, Political Parties, Civil Rights.
- Also Comparative Politics looking at similarities and differences between the US and UK Systems.
- Political Ideas: Conservatism, Socialism, Liberalism, Feminism, Nationalism, Environmentalism, Multiculturalism, Anarchism.

Skills Taught:

- Knowledge of political structures, ideas and issues.
- Informed understanding of contemporary politics and political issues within their historical context.
- Critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes.
- Informed understanding of the influences and interests which impact political decisions.
- Understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups.
- The ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information.
- The ability to form arguments and make judgement.
- Clear, concise, efficient and analytical writing.

Exam structure:

Each exam follows the same pattern and structure.

Section A consists of 3 questions each worth 9 marks. These require students to explain and analyse the different political institutions, processes, concepts, theories set out in the specification.

Students have to develop and substantiate (at least) 3 points in a structured, analytical answer, making use of appropriate political vocabulary and examples to substantiate their answer.

There is no choice of questions. There will be 3 questions and students must do all 3. This means they need solid understanding of the whole course. However, these are an opportunity to pick up marks quickly without the need for introductions, conclusions or to build detailed arguments.

Section B is an extract question. It requires students to comprehend and interpret the argument contained in a piece of political information (an article of some kind). They then use their knowledge and understanding of the issue to analyse and evaluate the argument put forward.

The answer should be balanced, maintain a “sustained line of reasoning” and lead to a reasoned conclusion. The response should be communicated with “relevance, clarity and coherence”.

Section C is an essay question. These require students to analyse and evaluate a given statement using their knowledge and understanding of the topic and issue under discussion.

The question may draw from British and American sections of the specification, which means students will need to identify and substantiate parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics studied.

The answer should be a structured and balanced argument, maintain a “sustained line of reasoning”, “communicated with relevance, clarity and coherence” and lead to a reasoned conclusion.

Percentage in examinations / coursework:

A Level Government and Politics is 100% externally assessed. There is no coursework. Each exam is 2 hours long and is worth 1/3 of the course.

Textbooks:

UK Government and Politics for A-Level (Fifth Edition) by Philip Lynch

US Government and Politics for A-Level (Fifth Edition) by Anthony J Bennett

Political Ideas for A-Level by Neil McNaughton

Website:

AQA Politics website.

Politics Review Magazine is very useful. Subscriptions and other A Level Politics information and advice can be found at the Hodder Education website.

SPANISH

(AQA 7692)

Exam codes and exam papers:

PAPER 1 (7692/01): Listening, Reading and Writing (Topics, Grammar and Translation). 2 hours and 30 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of A-Level.

PAPER 2 (7692/02): Writing (Essay Writing on Works: the Movie and Novel chosen by the teacher). 2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of A-Level.

PAPER 3 (7692/03): Speaking (Individual Research Project + Conversation on a Topic). Recorded and submitted, 16'-18' minutes, 60 marks, 30% of A-Level.

Exam structure:

The AQA A-Level in Spanish assesses all topics, materials and works from both years of the course and comprises THREE externally assessed exams which take place at the end of TAL. The grading system is the traditional A-U.*

Course summary:

AQA has designed a stimulating two-year programme which will enable students to develop their linguistic skills alongside their understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken. Students will learn the Spanish language through the study of technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society, and of the Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations. They will also study about aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world. Finally, students will explore the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities, will study texts and films and will also have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Topics taught:

PAL - Aspects of Hispanic Society: *Modern & Traditional Values, Cyberspace and Equal Rights*. Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World: *Modern Day Idols, Spanish Regional Identity and Cultural Heritage*. Film: *Guillermo del Toro's "El Laberinto del Fauno (Pan's Labyrinth)" (Spain/Mexico/USA, 2006)*.

TAL - Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society: *Immigration, Racism and Integration*. Political Life in the Hispanic World: *Today's Youth and Tomorrow Citizens, Monarchies and Dictatorships, Popular Movements and Spain's 20th Century History*. Film: *Pedro Almodóvar's "Volver" (Spain, 2006)*. Book: *Federico García Lorca's play "La Casa de Bernarda Alba" (Spain, 1936; Argentina, 1945)*.

Skills taught:

This syllabus aims to: • *Enhance students' linguistic skills and develop their capacity for critical thinking.* • *Turn students into confident, accurate and independent Spanish speakers.* • *Engage pupils critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other authentic materials in the target language.* • *Equip students with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, problem-solving, independent research and a linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.*

Textbook: *AQA A-Level Spanish* (ISBN: 978-1471858093), Hodder Education 2016.

Exercise/Revision books: **PAL:** *AQA A-Level Spanish Revision & Practice Workbook Themes 1 & 2* (ISBN: 978-1510416727), Hodder Education 2018. **TAL:** *AQA A-Level Spanish Revision & Practice Workbook Themes 3 & 4* (ISBN: 978-1510416758), Hodder Education 2018. *AQA A-Level Spanish Grammar & Translation Workbook* (ISBN: 978-0198415558), Oxford U.P., 2017.

Useful websites: www.educationperfect.com and www.languagenut.com (subscriptions paid for by the Lycée).