



# THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD

## Sixth Form

### Course Booklet

2024-2026



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## Sixth Form Entry Requirements

This subject booklet contains information about the courses we offer to Sixth Form students. We encourage all students to choose three courses from the booklet, which may consist of all A Level, all vocational, or a combination of both. Please take time to look at the available options, as they offer different learning and assessment styles, and all three pathways can lead to fantastic destinations. Students also have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification, which will enhance their independent skills and strengthen their preparation for university.

We believe that learning goes far beyond the subject curricula and therefore offer a wide range of enrichment activities to develop our students into young women who are ready and flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

### A Level Pathway

- Meet the individual subject grade requirements (see subject booklet & prospectus for course subject details)
- Have a minimum of grade 4 in either English literature/Language or mathematics. If students do not have grade 4 in either English or mathematics, they must enrol in a resit group for the subject for which they have not achieved a grade 4 at least.

### Vocational Pathway

- Meet the individual subject grade requirements (see subject booklet & prospectus for course subject details)
- Have a minimum of grade 4 in either English literature/Language or mathematics. If students do not have grade 4 in either English or mathematics, they must enrol in a resit group for the subject for which they have not achieved a grade 4 at least.



## Art

**Exam board:** EDEXCEL (FINE ART 9FA0)

**“Art does not just open doors of opportunity, it creates them!”**

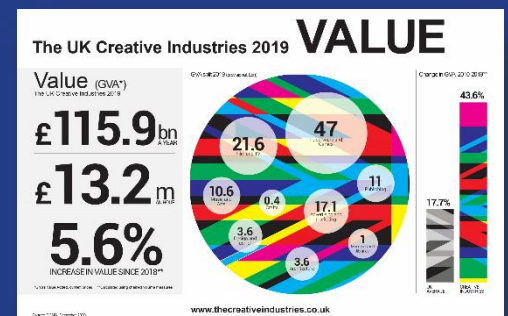
**Why study Art?** *The creative industries are the fastest growing sector with a 34% growth in 5 years with ‘the greatest potential for wealth and job creation’ -UK Gov*

*A third of London industries are creative led.*

*Students say ‘more attention and time is given at Ursuline’, ‘I feel welcome and could not imagine myself anywhere else’, ‘community spirit’, ‘Ursuline teachers are from the creative industries’*

*Ex -A level students now work in Media, TV, Architecture, Animation, Design schools*

Studying A-level Fine Art can be a valuable choice especially if you are interested in pursuing a career in the creative and design industries, which are among the fastest-growing sectors in the UK. (£115.9 billion)



A-level Fine Art can be beneficial in develop lateral thinking skills:

- You'll have the opportunity to explore and develop your skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and some digital art. These skills are fundamental for any career in the creative and design industries.
- During a 2-year course you'll create a portfolio of your artwork. This portfolio is a valuable asset when applying to art schools, design programs, or creative industry jobs. It showcases your creative abilities and demonstrates your commitment to the field.
- Fine Art encourages creative thinking and problem-solving. As you work on art projects, you'll often encounter challenges that require innovative solutions. This fosters the development of lateral thinking, which is essential in creative and design professions where unconventional solutions are often sought.
- Art is a powerful means of expression helping you develop the ability to communicate ideas, emotions, and concepts through visual means. Effective communication through art is a valuable skill in many creative roles.
- Critical Analysis involves the analysis and critique of both your own work and the work of other artists. This critical thinking and analytical ability are transferable skills that can be applied to evaluate design concepts and creative projects in various industries.
- The creative and design industries encompass a wide range of professions, from graphic design and fashion design to advertising, architecture, and animation. A-level Fine Art opens doors to these diverse career paths and equips you with the skills needed to excel in them.



**Growing Industry:** *The creative and design industries are indeed among the fastest-growing sectors in the UK and worldwide. The demand for creative professionals continues to rise as businesses and organisations recognise the importance of design and creativity in their products and marketing efforts.*

### Entry requirements

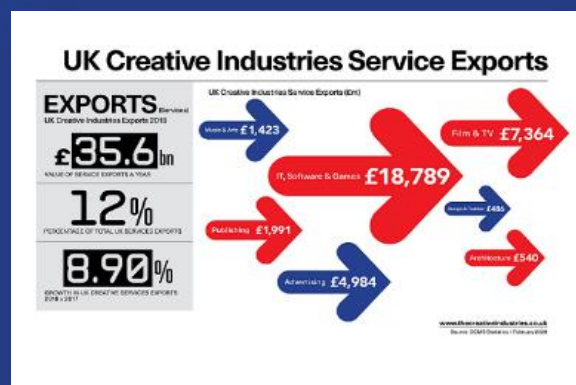
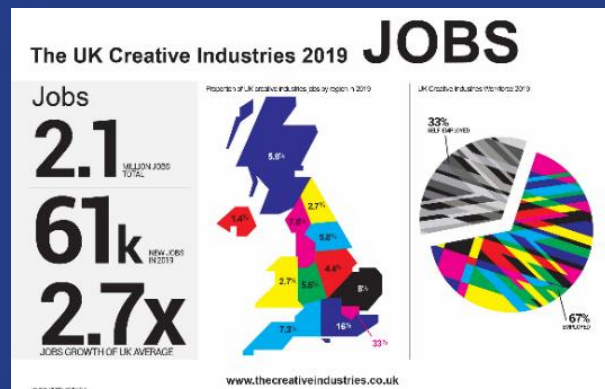
- GCSE Art Grade 6
- GCSE English Grade 5
- GCSE Maths Grade 4
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

### Higher education

BA (Hons) degrees with a creative element (e.g. Fine art, illustration, architecture, animation etc.)  
Creative apprentices (e.g. advertising, art therapist etc.)

### Careers

*Graphic Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Art Director, Animator, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Architect, Industrial Designer, Web Designer, Multimedia Artist/Animator, Art Conservator/Restorer, Museum Curator, Art Educator/Teacher, Art Therapist, Exhibition Designer, Photographer, Set Designer, Package Designer and Art Gallery Manager/Owner*



### Equipment requires for the course

It is assumed that students would have basic art materials to begin (an art folder, graded pencils, rubber, sharpener, watercolour set etc.) however specialised art materials such as acrylic and oil paints are supplied.

Year 12 work is mainly on A3/A2 cartridge paper, (supplied) whereas Year 13 coursework would be recorded in hardback A2 sketchbooks and mdf boards (not supplied)

### Assessment overview

Every student’s progress is closely monitored by the A level tutor and detailed feedback is given on current attainment and how to progress further. There are regular portfolio reviews, as well as feedback on individual art pieces. Students are guided, taught and assessed through a variety of ways; either in conjunction with discussions, critiques or analytical debates. Work produced is further assessed alongside practical demonstrations and 1:1 tuition, ensuring that the students’ development and progression is tailored for them. Passion for the subject is essential.

### For more information on this course email:

Mr R Butler (Head of Art)  
rbutler@uai.org.uk



# Biology

**Exam board:** Edexcel

*"By life, we mean a thing that can nourish itself and grow and decay." Aristotle*

## Why study Biology?

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life. The study of the subject delves into questions like:

How does your body work? Should we use biotechnology and genetic engineering to 'improve' the human genome? Why are plants so important to us? Why should we conserve and preserve ecosystems? Biology is a wide-ranging science, from the microscopic examining of cell ultrastructure, understanding the central dogma of DNA > RNA > Proteins, to the macroscopic study of ecosystems and understanding how human activities can, disrupt and preserve the delicate balance that is our Earth. As well as developing your practical and analytical skills, you will consider the ethical, social and economic issues associated with many controversial topics, such as cloning, stem cells, DNA technologies and preserving biodiversity. On the microscopic scale you will study not just the structure of cells but also the structure, properties and function of a wide range of biological molecules, as well as understanding their roles in the cell cycle and cell division. You will investigate how substances are transported and how this links with important biological processes like nerve impulses, respiration, homeostasis and excretion in humans, as well as, photosynthesis in plants. You will also study the transmission of diseases and how our immune system defends our bodies. Additionally, you will learn how DNA 'controls' our development; you will look at how genes are inherited and lead to the development of characteristics, with an in depth review of the 'new' DNA technologies. We also look at classification, evolution and all the practical techniques used to investigate ecosystems; this includes a field trip to complete practical work related to measuring the distribution and abundance of organisms.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or
- Grades 77 in GCSE Combined Science
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Physiotherapist
- Radiographer
- Speech therapist
- Geneticist



## Equipment required for the course

A scientific calculator, ruler, pen and pencil are essential at all times

## Assessment overview

- Paper 1: 33.33% - 2hours - The Natural Environment and Species Survival
- Paper 2: 33.33% - 2hours - Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination
- Paper 3: 33.33% - 2hours - General and Practical Applications in Biology(Including pre-release article)

## For more information on this course email:

Dr Osei-Owusu

[josei-owusu@uai.org.uk](mailto:josei-owusu@uai.org.uk)

# Periodic Table



Home History Alchemy Podcast Video Trends

Visual Elements images Temperature 0 K - + 6000 K Classification Metal Non-metal Clear filters

Groups 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Blocks s p d f Periods 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Lanthanides Actinides

Periodic Table																	
H 1																	He 2
Li 3	Be 4	The Royal Society of Chemistry's interactive periodic table features history, alchemy, podcasts, videos, and data trends across the periodic table. Click the tabs at the top to explore each section. Use the buttons above to change your view of the periodic table and view Murray Robertson's stunning Visual Elements artwork. Click each element to read detailed information.										B 5	C 6	N 7	O 8	F 9	Ne 10
Na 11	Mg 12											Al 13	Si 14	P 15	S 16	Cl 17	Ar 18
K 19	Ca 20	Sc 21	Ti 22	V 23	Cr 24	Mn 25	Fe 26	Co 27	Ni 28	Cu 29	Zn 30	Ga 31	Ge 32	As 33	Se 34	Br 35	Kr 36
Rb 37	Sr 38	Y 39	Zr 40	Nb 41	Mo 42	Tc 43	Ru 44	Rh 45	Pd 46	Ag 47	Cd 48	In 49	Sn 50	Sb 51	Te 52	I 53	Xe 54
Cs 55	Ba 56	La 57	Hf 72	Ta 73	W 74	Re 75	Os 76	Ir 77	Pt 78	Au 79	Hg 80	Tl 81	Pb 82	Bi 83	Po 84	At 85	Rn 86
Fr 87	Ra 88	Ac 89	Rf 104	Db 105	Sg 106	Bh 107	Hs 108	Mt 109	Ds 110	Rg 111	Cn 112	Nh 113	Fl 114	Mc 115	Lv 116	Ts 117	Og 118
Lanthanides and Actinides																	
Ce 58 Pr 59 Nd 60 Pm 61 Sm 62 Eu 63 Gd 64 Tb 65 Dy 66 Ho 67 Er 68 Tm 69 Yb 70 Lu 71																	
Th 90 Pa 91 U 92 Np 93 Pu 94 Am 95 Cm 96 Bk 97 Cf 98 Es 99 Fm 100 Md 101 No 102 Lr 103																	

## Chemistry

Exam board: AQA

*“Chlorine is a deadly poisonous gas employed on European battlefields in World War I. Sodium is a corrosive metal which burns upon contact with water. Together they make a placid and unpoisonous material, table salt. Why each of these substances has the properties it does is a subject called chemistry.” Carl Sagan*

### Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is all around us! From the moment we wake up, we see the work of the chemist from products in the bathroom, air, food, drink, refrigerants to keep food cool, fuel (for heating, cooking and transport), medicine, cosmetics and cleaning products. Chemistry is the study of substances; what they are made of, how they interact with each other and the role they play in living things. From research in space, to the depths of the oceans, chemistry helps you understand the world around you. Research chemist come up with ideas for new products including how wonder drugs work to save lives. The quality of many of these products would have been tested by Quality control Chemists. Studying Chemistry enables you to develop many skills that are transferrable to other areas such as analytical and problem solving, thinking logically, data handling and analysis, team working, report writing and laboratory techniques.

### Entry requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or
- Grades 77 in GCSE Combined Science
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE



## Higher education and careers

- Analytical chemist
- Clinical biochemist
- Doctor
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Chartered certified accountant
- Higher education lecturer
- Science writer
- Chemical engineer
- Pharmacologist
- Pharmacist
- Toxicologist
- Environmental consultant
- Patent attorney
- Secondary school teacher



## Equipment required for the course

A scientific calculator, ruler, pen and pencil are essential at all times

## Assessment overview

- Paper 1 (35%) - 2 hours - Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (and relevant practicals)
- Paper 2 (35%) - 2 hours - Organic and Physical Chemistry (and relevant practicals)
- Paper 3 (30%) - 2 hours - Content from Papers 1 and 2 and any practical skills

## For more information on this course email:

Dr Osei-Owusu

[josei-owusu@uai.org.uk](mailto:josei-owusu@uai.org.uk)



## Computer Science

**Exam board:** OCR

*“Everybody should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think.” - Steve Jobs, former CEO and creator of Apple*

### Why study Computer Science?

**Computer Science** is an academically rigorous subject, which considers the way that technology transforms our lives in a fast-paced, digital world. With computational thinking at its core, it encourages the development of solutions for complex problems using analytical skills, problem decomposition, abstraction, logical thinking and algorithms. Problem-solving involves precision, creativity and careful reasoning. Coding using a high-level programming language is at the core of this course. Upon completion of the course, students are equipped with an attractive set of valuable skills and knowledge.

**Computer Science** has strong connections with Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Economics and Business Studies. However, it can be combined with any other subject to address a variety of talents and preferences.

**Computer Science** at A-level is valued by Universities and employers. Russell Group Universities list Computer Science as a useful A-Level for many degree courses including Computing, Mathematics, Sciences, Engineering, Economics, Business Studies and Material Sciences.

**Computer Science** truly prepares students for the future. Computer Scientists are in constant demand and with the appropriate training can secure promising employment in many industry sectors.

### Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 4 in GCSE English Language.
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

If a candidate has taken a formal qualification in Computing/IT, **then there will be reference to their results:** they must have scored at least grade 6 at GCSE Computer Science and Distinction (or equivalent) at any other qualification in IT/ICT/iMedia)

## Higher education and careers

- Applications developer
- Computer forensic scientist
- Cyber security and risk management specialist
- Data analyst
- Games development
- IT consultant (business and technical)
- Software developer
- Software engineer (designer, builder, developer and tester)
- Systems/network architect/manager
- Technical support engineer
- Telecommunications engineer
- Web designer
- University lecturer
- School teacher



## Equipment required for the course

Access to a computer and a high-level programming language

## Assessment overview

**Component 1** (40%) – 2.5 hours written examination – The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices/ Software and software development/ Exchanging data/ Data types, data structures and algorithms/ Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

**Component 2** (40%) – 2.5 hours written examination – Coding using a high-level programming language/ Elements of computational thinking/ Problem solving and programming/ Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

**Programming Project** (20%) – Coursework - Analysis of a business or scientific problem/ Design of the solution / Developing the solution/ Evaluation

## For more information on this course email:

Michael Karatzas

[mkaratzas@uai.org.uk](mailto:mkaratzas@uai.org.uk)





# Drama and Theatre

**Exam board:** AQA

*'The word theatre comes from the Greeks. It means the seeing place. It is the place people come to see the truth about life and the social situation.'*

Stella Adler

## Why study Drama & Theatre?

A Level Drama is about analysis of theatre, creativity, and critical thinking. You will create your own performance work as well as study plays and live theatre. You will learn about theatrical practitioners, ideologies, current work and theatrical history.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 5 or above in Drama
- Grade 5 or above in English
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

An A Level in Drama and Theatre can lead you to courses at university and Drama School.

Career paths include:

Actor, Community Arts Worker, Drama therapist, University Lecturer, Teacher, Runner for television, Director, Playwright, Writer for television/ media channels, Theatre stage manager, Scenographer, Designer, Researcher, Arts Administrator/ coordinator

## Assessment overview

**The A Level Drama and Theatre course is in three parts:**

### **Component 1: Drama and Theatre (40% of qualification)**

Written exam: 80 marks, 3 hours and Open book

#### **Questions**

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays (25 marks)
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays (30 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

This component is marked by AQA.



### **Component 2: Creating Original Drama – Practical Component (30% of qualification)**

- Process of creating devised drama
  - Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
  - Working notebook (40 marks)
  - Devised performance (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### **Component 3: Making Theatre – Practical Component (30% of qualification)**

- Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play
  - Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
  - Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
  - Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts
  - Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)
  - Reflective report (20 marks)
- 60 marks in total

This component is marked by AQA.

### **Will I enjoy this course?**

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You may enjoy creating a play, performing, making costumes, building a set, or operating and creating the lighting and sound design. You will enjoy the study of plays – the communicated meanings and their production values. You will enjoy this course if you thrive when working as part of a team as Drama involves a vast amount of group work.

### **For more information on this course email:**

Ms I Milne  
imilne@uai.org.uk





# Economics

**Exam board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

*“Economics is the Queen of the Social Sciences”, Paul Samuelson, Economist and Nobel Laureate.*

## Why study Economics?

The world only has a finite number of resources. **Economics** is the study of how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions when we can't have or can't do everything we want. Although driven by numbers to a great extent, it's not simply a mathematical study. **Economics** also examines social, cultural and financial perspectives when looking at the way the world operates.

**Economics** is a subject that is involved in all aspects of life, from headline news to everyday decisions such as what to buy for lunch, so everyone can relate to it. It is exciting because lessons are rooted in the “real world”. Students develop their understanding of the reasons behind certain events and become comfortable and confident in discussing current affairs.

**Economics** helps develop an array of highly marketable skills: identification and modelling of the essence of a problem, analytical and reasoning skills (both deductive and inductive), handling and critically examining qualitative and quantitative data, effective communication skills (both written and verbal) and the ability to evaluate and consider alternative viewpoints, constraints and limitations.

**Economics** has strong connections with Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Business Studies, Sociology, History and Computer science. However, it can be combined with any other subject to address a variety of interests and talents.

**Economics** at A-level is academically challenging and highly prized by Universities and employers. Russell Group Universities consider Economics as a suitable A-Level for many degree courses including Economics, Finance, Accounting, Mathematics, Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Business Studies and other Social Sciences.

The study of **Economics** is divided into two parts: Microeconomics (the “small” study of individuals, businesses and markets) and Macroeconomics (the “big” study of entire economies). In Microeconomics, we explore how demand and supply influence pricing, the role of consumers, producers and regulators in different markets and the concept of free markets. In Macroeconomics, we take a more holistic view and analyse the performance of whole economies, helping students to understand wider issues such as economic growth, inflation, and unemployment on both a national and international scale.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language/Literature.
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

- Economist
- Accountant
- Business Analyst
- Management consultant
- Actuarial Analyst
- Data Analyst/Scientist
- Financial Analyst
- Investment Analyst
- External Auditor
- University lecturer
- School teacher



## Equipment required for the course

Watching the news and current affairs programmes is a great place to start. Reading broadsheet newspapers and magazines like The Economist is highly recommended.

## Assessment overview

**Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour (35%)** – 2 hours written examination – The nature of economics/ How markets work/ Market failure/ Government intervention/ Business growth/ Business objectives/ Revenues, costs and profits/ Market structures/ Labour market.

**Paper 2: The National and Global Economy (35%)** – 2 hours written examination – Measures of economic performance/ Aggregate demand/ Aggregate supply/ National income/ Economic growth/ Macroeconomic objectives and policy/ International economics/ Poverty and inequality/ Emerging and developing economies/ The financial sector/ Role of the state in the macroeconomy.

**Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (30%)** – 2 hours written examination – A combinations of topics from the syllabus of Paper 1 and Paper 2

## For more information on this course email:

Michael Karatzas

[mkaratzas@uai.org.uk](mailto:mkaratzas@uai.org.uk)



# English Language & Literature

**Exam board:** OCR

*“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”*

— George R.R. Martin

## Why study English Language & Literature?

Our combined English Language & Literature A Level is an exciting new subject on offer at Ursuline. The course merges an analytical study of literature that students will be used to from GCSE with the exhilarating opportunity to explore pupils’ own voices by producing original writing of their own.

An A Level in English Language & Literature offers the unique opportunity to ‘read like a writer and write like a reader’, combining important skills of literary analysis with linguistic creativity to give pupils the opportunity to critically engage with the words of published writers whilst using what they have learned to hone their own writing skills.

If you have enjoyed English, yet craved the freedom to study a broader, more diverse range of writers and texts with viewpoints and backgrounds that challenge the status quo then this is the course for you. This A Level will offer you the opportunity to read about lives and worlds that you may never have been exposed to in the English classroom before, dismantling the stereotypes about what a writer is and what kind of background they must come from. The texts on offer span from India to South London, 1920s New York to 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. We will explore ideas ranging from being black in modern day Britain to being a woman in Victorian England, from battling islamophobia to dealing with mental illness.

An A Level in English Language & Literature will furnish pupils with a better understanding of the world around them and of how writers use the written and spoken word to articulate their outlooks, agendas and experiences. In our tumultuous and rapidly developing world, it is more important than ever to question dominant narratives, to grapple with a range of perspectives and ultimately to equip young people with the tools to share their own voices with the world. Not only will A Level English Language & Literature put you in brilliant stead for any future career path, but it will prepare you for life more broadly.



## Entry requirements

- Grade 5 or above in both GCSE English Language and English Literature
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

An A Level in combined English Language & Literature provides the ideal foundation for any future pathway that requires excellent written communication, research and analytical skills - which most do. An A Level in English Language & Literature opens the door to a wide range of careers and post-18 options, as well as equipping pupils with the ability to engage with the things they read, hear and watch on a deeper level.

Some traditional options for A Level English Language & Literature candidates include:

- Law
- Journalism
- Fiction writing
- Media & Publishing
- Editing
- Copywriting
- Screenwriting
- Advertising & Marketing
- Public Relations
- Education
- Academia



## Equipment required for the course

- An A4 ring binder and lined paper
- A pencil case containing pens and highlighters
- Set texts (TBC with class teachers)
- A love of reading and a desire to explore your own writer's voice

## Assessment overview

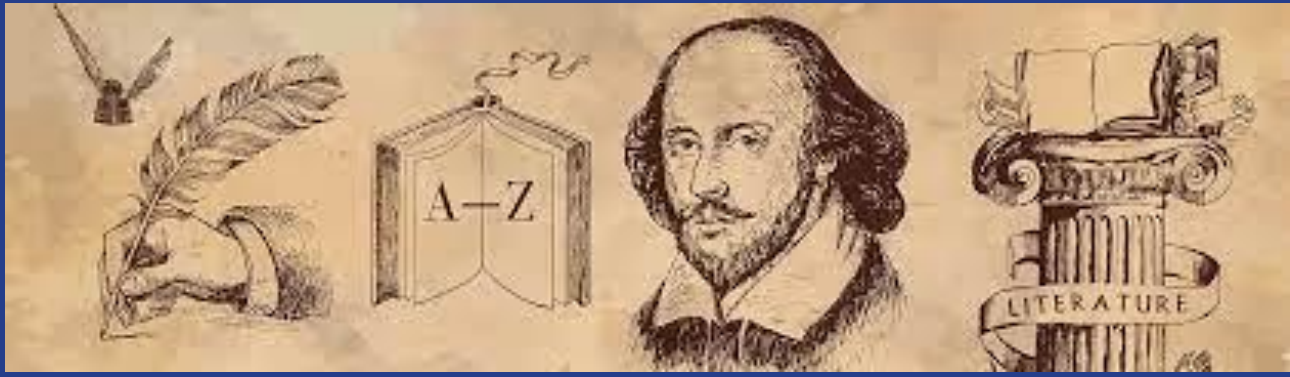
- Three final exams (80% of final grade)
- Component 1: Non-Fiction – 1 hour (16%)
- Component 2: Poetry and Drama – 2 hours (32%)
- Component 3: Reading as a writer, writing as a reader – 2 hours (32%)

### Non-exam assessment (20% of final grade)

- Component 1: One 1500-2000 word assignment based on the reading of two non-fiction texts of different periods
- Component 2: A piece of original non-fiction writing of 1000-1200 words

**For more information on this course email:**

Ms Cooper  
mcooper@uai.org.uk



# English Literature

**Exam board:** Eduqas

*“Reading is one of the most individual things that happens. So every reader is going to read a piece in a slightly different way, sometimes a radically different way.”*

— Margaret Atwood

## Why study English Literature?

Studying English Literature allows us to understand our place in the world, teaching pupils to think critically about complex topics from different perspectives while broadening pupils’ horizons through exposure to a wide range of writers, periods and genres from the literary canon.

Our A Level English Literature course will introduce you to a wide breadth of great literature, including poetry, prose and drama texts spanning from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to the modern day. You will learn how to approach the analysis of texts from a range of different genres, eras and cultures with confidence, while simultaneously learning how to express informed and independent critical opinions and judgements based on sound evidence and detailed textual analysis. You will develop writing and research skills and be given the opportunity to share your passion for reading, and insight into literature, with your fellow students, developing your own personal responses to literary texts by considering how social and historical contexts have influenced writers to present their stories in particular ways and how the stories we explore fit into your understanding of the world around us.

Analytical skills are central to the study of English Literature and you will learn how to identify key literary and linguistic features employed by our diverse range of writers, as well as how to analytically write about and compare the ways in which our different writers use these devices to shape specific meanings for their readers. You will also been exposed to a range of different approaches to literary criticism, allowing you to delve into your own specific areas of interest, whether that be feminist, post-colonial or psychoanalytical theory to name but a few, in order to stimulate a personal, imaginative response to literary texts and to develop the techniques of critical appreciation.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 or above in both GCSE English Language and English Literature
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

An A Level in English Literature provides an important foundation for any degree or career involving excellent written communication, research and analytical skills. English Literature is traditionally a highly valued A Level because it teaches a wide range of transferable skills that are prized by top universities and relevant to most courses. As a result, A Level English Literature opens the door to a wide range of careers and higher education pathways, and provides a multitude of options for students embarking on higher education or careers.

Some traditional options for A Level English Literature candidates include:

- Law
- Journalism
- Fiction writing
- Media & Publishing
- Editing
- Copywriting
- Screenwriting
- Advertising & Marketing
- Public Relations
- Education
- Academia



## Equipment required for the course

- An A4 ring binder and lined paper
- A pencil case containing pens and highlighters
- Set texts (TBC with class teachers)
- A love of reading and an inquisitive mind

## Assessment overview

Three 2 hour exams (80% of final grade)

- Component 1: Poetry (30%)
- Component 2: Drama (30%)
- Component 3: Unseen Texts (20%)

Non-exam assessment (20% of final grade)

- One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods

**For more information on this course email:**

Ms Cooper  
mcooper@uai.org.uk



# Extended Project Qualification

**Exam board:** EDEXCEL

*'Research is formalized curiosity, it is poking and prying with a purpose.'*

Zara Neal Hurson

## Why study EPQ?

Studying an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) can be beneficial for several reasons:

**Research Skills:** The EPQ requires students to conduct independent research on a topic of their choice. This process helps develop strong research skills, which are valuable in many academic and professional settings.

**Critical Thinking:** EPQ encourages critical thinking and analytical skills. Students need to evaluate sources, assess evidence, and make reasoned arguments, all of which are essential in academia and beyond.

**Time Management:** Completing an EPQ involves managing your time effectively. This skill is valuable in any educational or professional context.

**Subject Knowledge:** It allows you to delve deep into a specific area of interest, helping you gain in-depth knowledge in a subject that matters to you.

**University Applications:** Many universities in the UK and some other countries value the EPQ as part of their admissions process. A well-executed EPQ can make your university application stand out.

**Personal Satisfaction:** Researching a topic you are passionate about can be personally fulfilling and a great opportunity for intellectual growth.

In short, studying an EPQ can enhance your skills, help you stand out in university applications, and provide a fulfilling intellectual experience

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in English Language



## Higher education and careers

The EPQ can lead to a wide range of careers in academia, research, and other professions that value strong research, critical thinking, and time management skills.

## Equipment requires for the course

Access to a computer or laptop.

## Assessment overview

- 6000 word dissertation

## For more information on this course email:

Mr G. Irwin

[girwin@uai.org.uk](mailto:girwin@uai.org.uk)





*'Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future'*

## Geography

**Exam board:** AQA

### Why study Geography?

Whether you want to help prevent climate change and natural disasters, or improve quality of life and overpopulation, studying Geography will equip you to make a difference in the world. Your understanding and interpretation of complex issues will stand you in good stead if you choose to specialise in a specific geographic discipline, but equally allow you to work in other careers and industries. Geography is one of the Russell Group universities' facilitating subjects — so called because choosing them at A-level allows a wide range of options for degree study.

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Geography & Average Point Score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

### Higher education and careers?

Geography is considered one of the broadest subject areas. And, it has one of the highest employability rates of all undergraduate degrees! As a Geography graduate you'll be an attractive candidate for most jobs thanks to your range of transferable skills, including problem-solving, critical thinking, data analysis, technical computing, and team working.

The knowledge and skills you will learn in your Geography A-level would enable you to excel in a number of careers. Geography has links to many other subjects including, Biology, Chemistry Government and Politics, Sociology, History, Maths, Economic and Business studies. Some careers linked to Geography include: Business and Finance/ Scientific research/ Architecture/ Law/ Journalism/ Town and transport planning in cities/ Civil service and NGOs/ Conservation/ Sustainability/ Geoscience/ International aid and development/ GIS consultancy / Education Sector/ Political scientist/ Data Analyst/ Forecaster / Economist

**Equipment requires for the course:** 2 large ring bound folders (textbook provided)

### Assessment Structure:

- **2 Exam papers**  
Paper 1: Physical Geography (2 hours 30 minutes) 40%  
Paper 2: Human Geography (2 hours 30 minutes) 40%
- **Coursework**  
Independent research investigation (4,000 words) 20%

**For more information on this course email:**

Miss H Colder (Head of Humanities)  
HColder@uai.org.uk







## History

**Exam board:** AQA

*'We are not makers of history. We are made by history.'*

Martin Luther King Jnr

### Why study History?

A Level History candidates are typically highly motivated students who are well organised and independent learners. You will need to spend time outside of class reading around the subject and be able to meet deadlines. Students will also have good written and verbal communication skills, as History is an essay based subject and many lessons will involve discussion.

In return, students will develop a wide range of transferable skills and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Students will learn how to analyse text and evaluate the works of historians, as well as how to form their own arguments and justify them. They will learn how to research effectively and develop their critical thinking skills, allowing them to discern fact from opinion and identify media that promotes a particular point of view.

At the moment, students study The Tudors, modern US History, and the abolition of slavery, although this may be changed for September 2024.

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in History & Average Point Score of 5.5 or above at GCSE

### Higher education and careers

History provides a multitude of options for students embarking on higher education or careers. Some traditional options for A Level History candidates include:

- Law
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Archives/conservation
- Museums and galleries
- Marketing
- National and local government



History is traditionally a highly valued A Level because it teaches a wide range of transferable skills that are prized by top universities. As a result A Level History can be a gateway into an extremely wide range of careers and higher education pathways, not limited to those listed above.

### **Equipment required for the course**

- Two ring binders and lined paper
- A pencil case containing pens and highlighters
- An enquiring mind and a positive attitude

### **Assessment overview**

- Two 2.5 hour exams (80% of final grade)
- Non-Exam Assessment (20% of final grade)

### **For more information on this course email:**

Heather Mackie  
hmackie@uai.org.uk





# Mathematics & Further Mathematics

**Exam board:** EDEXCEL

*“Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”* – Albert Einstein

*“Nature is written in mathematical language.”* – Galileo Galilei

## Why study A-Level Mathematics?

Choose this course if....

- You want to deepen your understanding of quadratics, trigonometry, statistics, mechanics, algebra and more!
- Learn about new areas of mathematics such as calculus, exponentials and logarithms!
- You like a challenge and have the resilience to learn from mistakes!
- You are considering a future career in mathematics or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related subjects!

## Entry requirements

- Grade 7 or above in Mathematics
- Average Point Score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

- Degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Medicine, Engineering
- Apprenticeships in Finance, Surveying, Engineering

## Possible career options

- Medicine
- Banking, finance
- Engineering
- Data analysts

## Equipment requirements

Scientific calculator approved for A-level mathematics. Teachers will inform you of the type of calculator you need, typical cost is around £35.

## Assessment overview

The course has been reformed and is composed of two-thirds Pure Mathematics, and one-third covers Mechanics and Statistics.

### Year 12

Pure Mathematics: Algebra, Quadratics, Coordinate Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, the Binomial Expansion, Vectors, and Exponentials & Logarithms

Mechanics: Forces and Vectors, Equilibrium, Statics & Kinematics, and Variable Acceleration.

Statistics: Modelling, Representations of Data, Correlation, Regression, Discrete Random Variables, Probability, and Hypothesis Testing.

Students will be assessed regularly throughout Year 12 and at the end of the year.

### Year 13

Pure Mathematics: Partial Fractions, Proofs, Functions, Modulus Graphs, Trigonometry, Parametric Equations, Calculus, and Vectors

Mechanics: Moments, Vectors, Inclined Planes, Friction, Statics & Kinematics, and Variable Acceleration, projectiles

Statistics: PMCC, Conditional Probability, Normal Distribution, Hypothesis Testing.

At the end of Year 13 students will sit two 2h Pure Mathematics exams, and a 2h exam in Mechanics and Statistics.

All three A-Level exams will cover content from both Year 12 and Year 13.

## FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

### Entry Requirements:

- GCSE Maths Grade 8 or 9.
- Average Point Score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

This is a two-year course offering the chance to gain a highly prestigious A-Level. This course is only for the best Mathematics students who have proved their ability to handle abstract concepts in GCSE Mathematics.

Further Mathematics is composed of four modules in the linear course. 50% of the course is the mandatory Pure content. There are then two other choices which could be any two of Further Mechanics, Further Mechanics 2 or Decision Mathematics

### For more information on this course email:

Mr S. Deen (Head of Mathematics)  
sdeen@uai.org.uk



# Physics

**Exam board:** AQA

**“Not only is the Universe stranger than we think, it is stranger than we can think.”**

**Werner Heisenberg**

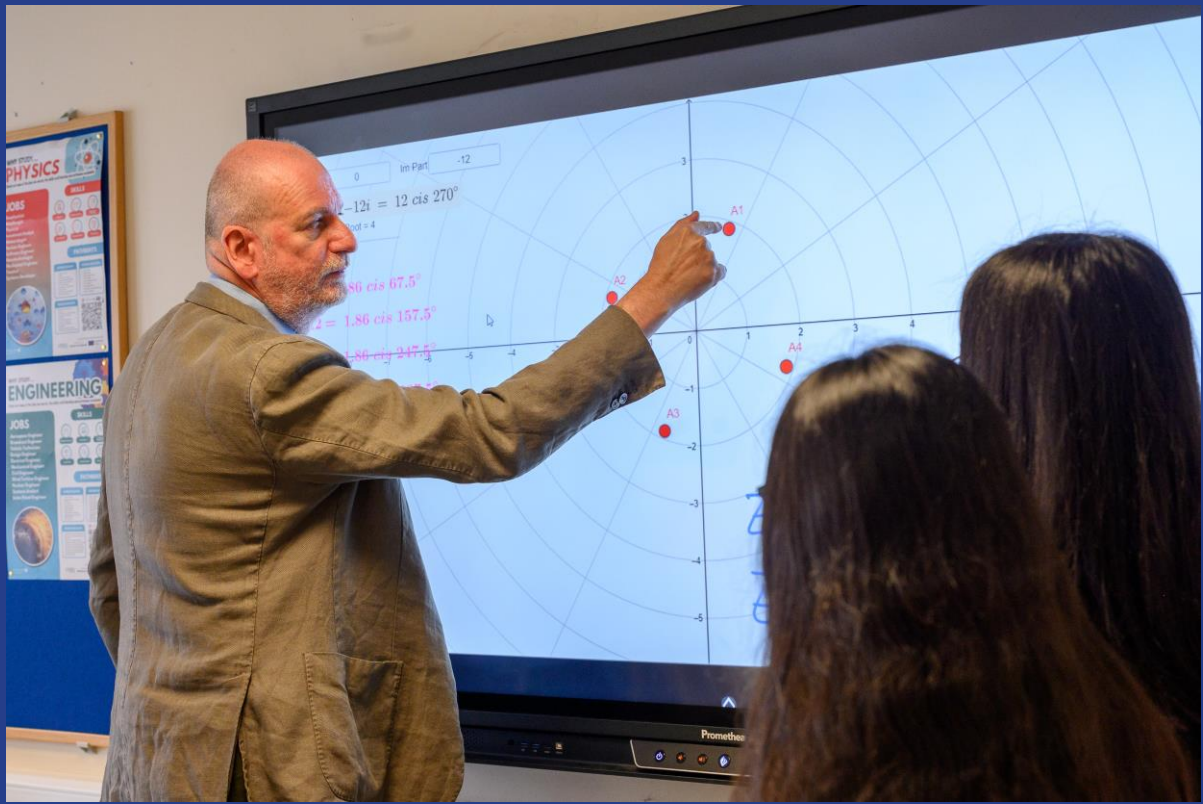
## Why study Physics?

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science. Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives, from healing joints to curing cancer and developing sustainable energy solutions. Physics is the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them. Physics is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting. Physics encompasses the study of the universe, from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Studying physics will help you develop a range of skills that can be applied in many areas, both scientific and nontechnical. These skills include problem solving with a pragmatic and analytical approach, constructing logical arguments, analytical skills and grasping complex problems. Physics is also central to everyday life. It helps improve the quality of our lives through the use of high-tech equipment, such as particle accelerators, which have application in healthcare, playing such a key role in improving the diagnosis and treatment of diseases like cancer. Physics generates fundamental knowledge needed for the future technological advances that will continue to drive the economic engines of the world.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grades 77 in GCSE Combined Science
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE





## Higher education and careers

- Geophysicist/field seismologist
- Healthcare scientist, medical physics
- University lecturer
- Radiation protection practitioner
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Scientific laboratory technician
- Secondary school teacher
- Meteorologist
- Structural engineer
- Acoustic engineer
- Product/process development scientist
- Systems developer
- Technical author

## Equipment required for the course

A scientific calculator and your brain

## Assessment overview

Paper 1 (35%) – 2 hours – Particles and radiation / Waves / Mechanics and materials / Electricity / Further mechanics

Paper 2 (35%) – 2 hours – Thermal physics / Fields and their consequences / Nuclear physics

Paper 3 (30%) – 2 hours – Experimental physics / Option: Turning points in physics

## For more information on this course email:

Luke Robertson  
lrobertson@uai.org.uk



# Politics

**Exam board:** EDEXCEL

**‘If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government,  
then you are doom to live under the rule of fools’**

**- Plato**

## Why study Politics?

In summary, studying politics is essential for understanding the structures of governance, the impact of political decisions on society, and the opportunities for positive change. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in the political process, contribute to policy development, and promote social justice and equity. Whether you're interested in a career in politics or simply want to be an informed and engaged citizen, studying politics provides a strong foundation for these pursuits.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 and above in English Language
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

Career opportunities include but are not limited to the following:

- Politician/elected official
- Policy analyst
- Public relations and communication
- International relations
- Civil Service
- Law
- NGO Leadership
- Journalism & media

## Equipment required for the course

Textbook Provided, Online learning platform-Pre-chewed Politics provided, Lined Paper, stationary and folder.

## Assessment overview

Three two-hour exams at the end of the course all equally weighted:

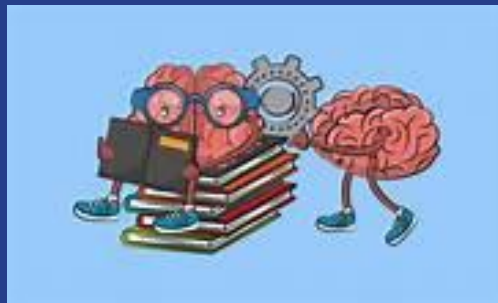
- Unit One: UK Politics
- Unit Two: UK Government
- Unit Three: US Politics

## For more information on this course email:

Mr G. Irwin ( Head of Department)

[girwin@uai.org.uk](mailto:girwin@uai.org.uk)





# Psychology

**Exam board:** AQA

**“The perfect normal person is rare in our civilization.”** Karen Horney

## Why study Psychology?

A-level Psychology provides insight into human behaviour and the workings of the mind. It teaches critical thinking, problem-solving, and awareness of mental health issues, while complementing other subjects like biology and philosophy. A-level Psychology also promotes personal growth and appreciation for diverse viewpoints and cultures, preparing students for further study, university, employment, and life.

A-level Psychology is an excellent opportunity to understand people, enhance your career prospects, think critically, grow as an individual, and make the world a kinder place. It's a fascinating subject that welcomes all learners. If you're curious about human behaviour and enjoy exploring the mysteries of the mind, A-level Psychology is a fun and rewarding choice.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE English and Mathematics
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

A-level Psychology can lead to diverse higher education and career opportunities such as counselling, therapy, marketing, or HR. The skills you acquire are valuable in several other fields where understanding people is crucial. A-level Psychology provides a solid foundation for those interested in studying Psychology at University. It gives you a head start and increases your chances of getting into a psychology-related program, or related fields.

## Assessment overview

3 papers are sat at the end of year 2 and contain multiple choice short answer and extended writing questions up to 16 marks.

- Paper 1 (33%) – 2 hours (Social Influence Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology)
- Paper 2 (33%) – 2 hours (Approaches, Research Methods, BioPsychology)
- Paper 3 (33%) – 2 hours (Relationships, Schizophrenia, Aggression, Issues and Debates)

**For more information on this course email:**

Ruman Basi  
rbasi@uai.org.uk





## Religious Studies

**Exam board:** OCR

*“Taking Religious Studies as an A level was extremely eye-opening. Learning about the philosophical theories of many scholars such as Kant, Descartes etc helped me see the world in a different light. The philosophy and the ethics side both established an understanding of how people morally carry out actions in consideration of different schools of thought. It was an interesting subject to take on and I enjoyed it thoroughly.”* (past student who went on to study Law)

### Why choose Religious Studies?

Knowledge of at least some of the great philosophers’ ideas is part of a broad general education. You will explore the work of some of the greatest minds in history such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Augustine and many modern philosophers from A.J. Ayer to Peter Singer and Mary Daly. If you enjoy thinking about the big questions in life and examining ideas in depth this is a very good subject for you. You need to enjoy reading, debating and evaluating complex issues. The course consists of three components:

**Philosophy of Religion** explores philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief, such as some of the arguments for the existence of God, different types of religious experience and the problem of evil and suffering.

In **Religion and Ethics** learners have the opportunity to study key concepts related to religion and ethics, including various ethical theories such as Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics as well as applied ethics such as euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics.

In **Developments in Christian Thought** students undertake a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought. They explore religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections, how they have developed historically and how they are presently discussed. These include topics as wide-ranging as Christology, life after death and feminist theology.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 5 at GCSE Religious Studies, although students with a good pass in another Humanities subject such as History would also be eligible to study this course.
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

This Religious Studies course prepares for entry to any Arts degree course at university level, particularly Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies, Law, English and History, and for a variety of career opportunities such as Social Work, Journalism, Police, Medicine, Nursing, Teaching and the Civil Service.

## Assessment overview

Each of the three components is assessed in a two-hour-long exam at the end of Year13. In each component candidates are required to answer three essay questions from a choice of four.

There is no coursework.

## For more information on this course email:

Mr. Francis McGhee (Head of Religious Studies)  
FMcGhee@uai.org.uk





# Sociology

**Exam board:** AQA

*'The philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point however is to change it.'*

*Karl Marx*

## Why study sociology?

1. **Understanding Society:** Sociology helps us examine the structure and dynamics of society. It explores how societies are organized, how they change over time, and how they impact individuals and groups. This understanding is crucial for making informed decisions and addressing social issues.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Sociology encourages critical thinking and analytical skills. It helps you question assumptions, challenge stereotypes, and look at the world from different perspectives. This can be useful in various aspects of life, from problem-solving to decision-making.
3. **Social Issues:** Sociologists study various social issues, such as inequality, poverty, crime, education, healthcare, and more. By studying sociology, you can gain a deeper understanding of these issues and contribute to finding solutions or advocating for positive change.
4. **Empathy and Cultural Awareness:** Sociology fosters empathy and cultural awareness by examining the diverse experiences and backgrounds of people. It allows you to better appreciate different cultures, perspectives, and social realities, which is essential in a globalized world.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 6 or above in English Language
- Average point score of 5.5 or higher at GCSE

## Higher education and careers

Related careers include but are not limited to the following:

Social Work, Human Resources, Criminal Justice, Journalism & Media, Social Policy and Government, Market Research, Education and Academia.



## Equipment requires for the course

Textbook (provided), Ring -Binder Folder, Stationary

## Assessment overview

3 equally weighted, 2hour exams at the end of the course:

- Unit One: Education , Methods in Context & Theory & Methods
- Unit Two: Families and Household & Beliefs in Society
- Unit Three: Crime & Deviance and Theory & Methods

## For more information on this course email:

George Irwin - Head of Sociology & Politics/Lead Practitioner  
girwin@uai.org.uk







## BTEC Applied Human Biology

**Exam board:** Edexcel

*"The human body is the only machine for which there are no spare parts"* Hernan Biggs

### Why study Applied Human Biology?

Applied Human Biology is an exciting and holistic course where we delve into the workings of the human body from the vast organ systems to the world of microorganisms and their interactions with humans.

The course is unique in that it is split into four units over the two years with half of them being exam units and the other half being coursework units. All of which leads to an equivalent A level in terms of UCAS points and university applications.

Another unique characteristic of the course is its success rate as there are options for January and July exams plus the additional bonus of possible resits, we have since the introduction of the course maintained at least an overall pass for all students with many achieving the higher merit and distinction criteria. The Distinction and Distinction \* are equivalent to an A or A\* at A level.

The course is fascinating in its broad look into how the body systems work and what could happen if anything goes wrong. Students are encouraged to do research, their own practical investigations and are taught content that is similar to A Level Biology so at university they will not be lacking in content or feel like they have missed out in any way.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE Biology or Grades 44 in GCSE Combined Science
- Average point score 4 at GCSE to study level 3 vocational programme of study.

## Higher education and careers

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Microbiologist
- Biotechnologist
- Lecturer/teacher
- Research Scientist
- Biologist
- Radiographer
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist



## Equipment required for the course

Scientific Calculator, pen, pencil are essential and required at all times

## Assessment overview

### Year 12

- Unit 1- (1.5 hour exam) Principles of Applied Human Biology
- Unit 2- (Internal Coursework) Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

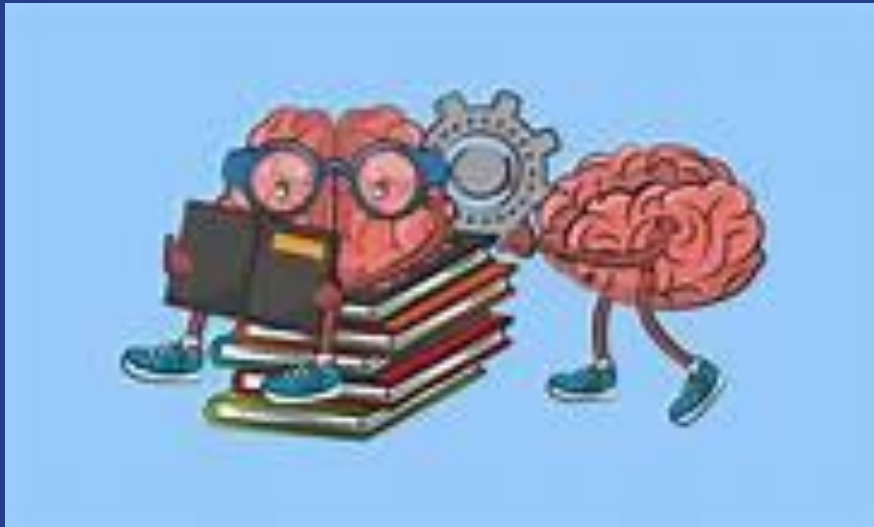
### Year 13

- Unit 3- (3 Hour exam) Human Biology and Health Issues
- Unit 4- (Internal Coursework) Functional Physiology

## For more information on this course email:

Mr M Uddin

[muddin@uai.org.uk](mailto:muddin@uai.org.uk)



## BTEC Applied Psychology

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**“The perfect normal person is rare in our civilization.”**

**Karen Horney**

### Why study BTEC Applied Psychology?

BTEC Applied Psychology provides insight into human behaviour and the workings of the mind. It teaches critical thinking, problem-solving, and awareness of mental health issues, while complementing other subjects like Applied Biology and Health and Social Care. BTEC Psychology also promotes personal growth and appreciation for diverse viewpoints and cultures, preparing students for further study, university, employment, and life.

BTEC Psychology is an excellent opportunity to understand people, enhance your career prospects, think critically, grow as an individual, and make the world a kinder place. It's a fascinating subject that welcomes all learners. If you're curious about human behaviour and enjoy exploring the mysteries of the mind, BTEC Psychology is a fun and rewarding choice.

### Entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE English
- Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics
- Average point score 4 at GCSE to study level 3 vocational programme of study.

## Higher education and careers

BTEC Psychology can lead to diverse higher education and career opportunities such as counselling, therapy, marketing, or HR. The skills you acquire are valuable in several other fields where understanding people is crucial. BTEC Psychology provides a solid foundation for those interested in studying Psychology at University. It gives you a head start and increases your chances of getting into a psychology-related program, or related fields.

## Assessment overview

2 external exam papers are sat in January Year one and January Year 2. They contain short answer and extended writing questions up to 9 marks.

- Unit 1 (33%) – 1.5 hours (Psychological Approaches and Applications)
- Unit 3 (33%) – 2 hours (Health Psychology)

2 internal assessments completed between January and May in Year 1 and Year 2

- Unit 2 (33%) – Conducting Psychological investigations.
- Unit 4 (33%) – Criminal and forensic Psychology

## For more information on this course email:

Ruman Basi

[rbasi@uai.org.uk](mailto:rbasi@uai.org.uk)







## BTEC Health and Social Care

**Exam board:** Edexcel

*"Health is not valued till sickness comes"* Thomas Fuller

### Why study BTEC Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care is a rewarding and eye-opening course that gives you a deep understanding of the workings of healthcare organizations such as the NHS. We cover a range of scientific content relating to the body for example how different systems work and how disorders can affect how they function. We also cover healthcare from a sociological and societal point of view where we study barriers to good health and inequalities in health too and some of the reasons for this.

Another key area the course delves into is the roles that certain healthcare professionals play in providing good health care. This involves many professionals working together such the role of Nurses in delivering key treatment to patients and service users.

The course is unique in that it is split into four units over the two years with half of them being exam units and the other half being coursework units. All of which leads to an equivalent A level in terms of UCAS points and university applications.

Another unique characteristic of the course is its success rate as there are options for January and July exams plus the additional bonus of possible resits, we have since the introduction of the course maintained at least an overall pass for all students with many achieving the higher merit and distinction criteria. The Distinction and Distinction \* are equivalent to an A or A\* at A level.

## Entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE Biology or Grades 44 in GCSE Combined Science
- Average point score 4 at GCSE to study level 3 vocational programme of study.

## Higher education and careers

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Research Scientist
- Physiotherapist
- Radiographer
- Paramedic
- Healthcare assistant
- Outreach worker
- Councillor
- Social worker
- Dental nurse
- Health Visitor

## Equipment required for the course

Scientific Calculator, pen and pencil are essential and required at all times

## Assessment overview

### Year 12

- Unit 1- Human Lifespan Development (1.5 Hour Exam)
- Unit 5- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Internal Coursework)

### Year 13

- Unit 2- Working in Health and Social Care (1.5 Hour Exam)
- Unit 14- Physiological Disorders and their Care (Internal Coursework)

## For more information on this course email:

Mr M Uddin

mamuddin@uai.org.uk



## Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Business

### Exam board: OCR

*“All humans are entrepreneurs not because they should start companies, but because the will to create is encoded in human DNA.”* — Reid Hoffman, entrepreneur and co-founder of LinkedIn.

### Why study Business?

In Business students are introduced to current business developments and real business situations. They learn how leadership, management and decision-making can improve performance in marketing, human resources, operations and financial outcomes. They investigate how different business activities relate to each other and how they affect businesses overall, be they large or small, UK or internationally focussed or operating within different sectors such as services or manufacturing.

In Business students learn how to analyse markets and specific competitive environments. They assess ethical, environmental and technological factors and how they influence decision making. Students utilise a range of quantitative and qualitative data in order to evaluate strategic aims and plans and to assess functional operations. Students develop their understand of how decision-making impacts on stakeholders and how they will respond. The knowledge and skills gained in this course are transferable across a vast range of areas of study, professions and fields of expertise, but can also be used to manage the student’s personal decision-making, planning and finances.

Business has strong connections with Economics, Computer Science and any vocational subject. However, because of its versatile nature, it can be combined with any other subject.

Business is welcomed by Universities and employers. Universities consider Business for many degree courses including Business Studies, Economics, Finance, Accounting, Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science and other Social Sciences and Humanities.

### Entry requirements

- Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 4 in GCSE English Language/Literature.
- Average point score 4 at GCSE to study level 3 vocational programme of study.

### Equipment required for the course

Watching the news and programmes about current affairs is helpful. Reading broadsheet newspapers and magazines like Entrepreneur is highly recommended.

## Higher education and careers

- Entrepreneur
- Business Development Manager
- Business Project Manager
- Business Analyst
- Management consultant
- Market Researcher
- Human Resources Officer
- Digital Marketer
- Investment Analyst
- Customer Services Manager
- Public Relations Officer
- Sales Manager
- University lecturer
- School teacher

## Assessment overview

**Unit 1: The Business Environment** (34%) – 2 hours written examination – Understand different types of businesses and their objectives/ Understand how the functional areas of businesses work together to support the activities of businesses/ Understand the effect of different organisational structures on how businesses operate/ Be able to use financial information to check the financial health of businesses/ Understand the relationship between businesses and stakeholders/ Understand the external influences and constraints on businesses and how businesses could respond/ Understand why businesses plan/ Be able to assess the performance of businesses to inform future business activities.

**Unit 2: Working in Business** (16.5%) – 1.5 hours written examination – Understand protocols to be followed when working in business/ Understand factors that influence the arrangement of business meetings/ Be able to use business documents/ Be able to prioritise business tasks/ Understand how to communicate effectively with stakeholders.

**Unit 3: Business Decisions** (16.5%) – 1.5 hours written examination – Understand factors to be taken into account when making business decisions/ Be able to use financial data to inform business decisions/ Understand how human resource information informs business decisions/ Understand how marketing information informs business decisions/ Be able to use resource, project and change management information to inform business decisions/ Be able to use information to make and justify business decisions.

**Unit 4: Customers and Communication** (16.5%) – Coursework portfolio - Understand who customers are and their importance to businesses/ Understand how to communicate with customers/ Be able to establish a rapport with customers through non-verbal and verbal communication skills/ Be able to convey messages for business purposes/ Know the constraints and issues which affect the sharing, storing and use of information for business communications.

**Unit 5: Marketing and Market Research** (16.5%) – Coursework portfolio- Understand the role of marketing in businesses/ Know the constraints on marketing/ Be able to carry out market research for business opportunities/ Be able to validate and present market research findings.

**For more information on this course email:**

Michael Karatzas

mkaratzas@uai.org.uk





*insiTme  
togEther*

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*“Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart for  
without doubt you will see marvellous things.”*

*St Angela, Prologue to the Counsels, 16-18*

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