

THE LEIGH
TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



ACT ENTERPRISINGLY | WORK IN PARTNERSHIP | ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

POST SIXTEEN
COURSE GUIDE 2010

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Post 16 Course Guide shows all the courses we are offering for the academic year 2010 – 2011. There is additional information that you will need to be aware of before you select potential courses for your Post 16 study.

Entry requirements

The general entry requirement to be considered for a place in Post 16 at The Leigh Technology Academy is 5 grades at GCSE (or equivalent) at grade C or above.

Individual courses have their own additional requirements as outlined in each section.

Some courses are not open to students who have failed to gain Grade C in English or Mathematics. In this case students will need to first pass these qualifications at grade C or higher by either applying elsewhere for Year 12 and returning to us in Year 13 to start advanced courses OR take courses with us that do not require English or Maths at C grade and take the taught re-sit classes here.

It should be noted that students may gain the general entry requirement to join Post 16 and yet not be able to join their preferred courses.

Course selection

All students MUST be enrolled onto a minimum of THREE post 16 courses. This is a central Government requirement, as we do not get funding for students taking fewer than three courses.

Most students will be expected to take four courses in Year 12, with the possibility of reducing to three in Year 13. This will be based in part on your average GCSE points score. As you will not know that at the time of application, ALL students must select a shortlist of four courses on application.

Remaining on courses

All students will have a 'Continuity Test' in Module 2 (December) to ensure that the academic requirements of the courses are being met. This may be a test taken under examinations conditions, a piece of coursework or some other task closely related to the topics studied up to that point. Students will be expected to pass these tests in order to continue into Module 3.

Students must achieve a pass grade (E or above) in external examinations at the end of Year 12 to continue into Year 13.

Students who, for whatever reason, fall below three studied subjects will be unable to remain on roll.

Information

The wide variety and number of courses we offer means that some lessons may be taught during Period 5. This is timetabled from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.

Courses offered may be subject to change. If there is insufficient demand for particular courses we will be unable to run them.

If courses are oversubscribed and we are unable to staff an additional group, places will be allocated based on the student's GCSE results; preference being given to those students who achieved the higher grades in Year 11.

Application procedure

All applicants will be interviewed to ensure that course selections are sensible and appropriate. It is highly advisable that students have a careers interview with Connexions prior to application.

Late applications, those that we receive after the published deadline date, will be kept on file and added to the 'reserve' list, however they will not be considered until all previous applications have been processed.

ART & DESIGN

We offer 2 endorsements from the A level Edexcel Art & Design suite

- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication

Entry Requirements

All applicants will be interviewed. 5 GCSEs at A-C grade are preferred. Art GCSE is strongly recommended. Students should be able to present a portfolio of work that demonstrates commitment and enthusiasm to Art & Design.

About The Course

Year 12 AS Outline

For each course the AS level comprises of 2 units. Unit 1 is a broad based introduction to a range of media, processes and techniques within the discipline and exploring a given theme. Unit 2 is an externally set assignment of 8 hours.

Year 13 A2 Outline

In Year 13 students complete units 4 and 5. Unit 5 is an externally set assignment of 12 hours. Unit 4 will involve an in-depth practical investigation and a written personal study into a chosen area of interest within the endorsement.

Assessment

Units 1 and 2 are assessed at the end of Year 12 for the award of AS or can be carried forward to Year 13 and added to Unit 4 and 5 which is assessed at the end of Year 13 to complete the full A Level award. There are 4 specific assessment objectives to meet for each of the 4 Units.

The Future

After successful completion of the course, students are able to apply for pre-degree Foundation courses.

BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

At least a BB grade in GCSE Double Science or a MERIT grade in BTEC/OCR Nationals Applied science with a B grade in English and Maths.

Please note: it is not possible to take this course in combination with either single or double applied science.

The Salters-Nuffield (Edexcel) Biology course (SNAB), new at AS for 2008, is taught through real-life biology. For example, most A-level biology courses start with cell biology or biochemistry. We don't. We start with an account of Mark, a 15-year-old who had a stroke, and Peter, an adult who had a heart attack. We then go on from the details of their cases to look at the factors that make it more likely that any of us will suffer from a stroke or heart attack.

Year 12 AS Outline

In the AS year you study four topics.

Topic 1 Lifestyle, health and risk

- The concept of risks to health, how these can be assessed, and what affects our perceptions of risk.
- The heart and circulation, and understanding how these are affected by our diet and activity.
- The biochemistry of food and why this matters.

Topic 2 Genes and health

- How changes in DNA can cause genetic disease, using cystic fibrosis as an example.
- Cell membrane structure, how substances move across membranes, and how proteins are made.
- Treatments for genetic disease, and the ethical issues raised by today's genetics.

Topic 3 Voice of the genome

- Gene structure and function.
- Stem cells, their potential in medicine, and the arguments for and against their use.
- Regulation of gene expression and the control of development in organisms.

Topic 4 Biodiversity & natural resources

- What is biodiversity? classification, adaptation and natural selection. Disappearing biodiversity.
- Plant anatomy and function; human use of plants.

Examinations

The examinations in SNAB reward your ability to reason biologically and to use what you have learnt in new contexts. Most of the examinations questions are structured, though as you go through the course you begin to do short essays, building up to longer ones.

What is the coursework like?

At AS, the coursework includes you writing a report either on a biological issue that interests you, or on a visit to a place you have been to where biology is used. The other aspect of the coursework is based on the practicals you do.

Year 13 A2 Outline

A2 topics

Topic 5 On the wild side

- Photosynthesis as the primary process underpinning the majority of ecosystems.
- How ecosystems work.
- Evidence for climate change, evolution and extinction.
- Scientific understanding and our responsibilities as stewards of the environment.

Topic 6 Infection, immunity and forensics

- Techniques used by forensic pathologists to determine the cause of death, and how long since death occurred.
- Evolutionary battles between invading pathogens and their hosts.
- The hosts' barriers and internal mechanisms to combat infections.

Topic 7 Run for your life

- Physiological adaptations that enable strenuous exercise in humans and other animals.
- Biochemical requirements for respiration and the links between homeostasis, muscle physiology and performance.
- How medical technology enables more people to participate in sport.
- Can the use of performance-enhancing substances by athletes be justified?

Topic 8 Grey matter

- Sight and the nervous system.
- Brain structure and functioning, the response to stimuli and the development of vision and learning.
- Genetics and the use of animal models in understanding brain structure.
- Comparing nature and nurture in brain development.
- The ethics of using animals for medical research.

What is the coursework like?

At A2, the coursework includes you carrying out an individual investigation and compiling a scientific report. This work is usually carried out during a fieldwork visit to the Isle of Wight.

ICT

There are animations on such things as protein synthesis, the control of heart rate, and cell division. These help you to understand the more difficult bits of biology. There are maths and chemistry tutorials to help you with these concepts as you meet them in biology. There are also review tests (so you can check you know what you need to know before starting the next topic), more formal end-of-topic tests, an interactive glossary to explain terms in the student books, and so on. You access all this via the internet.

The Future

Biology is currently the fastest growing research area of the sciences and has seen spectacular advances in topics such as biotechnology and genetics. It is useful for a wide variety of careers including medicine, nursing, sports science, genetics and the growth area of environmental science. It also complements most other subjects for those who just wish to study biology because they enjoy it.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that students should have an average GCSE point score of 5.5 or better (including English and Mathematics at least grade C).

Year 12 AS Outline

The new OCR A Level encourages students to develop a critical understanding of businesses and other organisations and the markets they serve. This is an exam based subject, with no coursework. For some units the exam is based on pre-released case studies. There are two AS units and two A2 units.

Unit 1 – An Introduction to Business covers:

- The nature of business
- How businesses can be classified
- The aims and objectives of businesses
- External influences on businesses

Unit 2 – Business Functions covers:

An introduction to different aspects of businesses, including:

- People in organisations
- Operations Management
- Accounting and Finance
- Marketing

Year 13 A2 Outline

At A2, the OCR specification allows students to focus on a particular area of interest (one of the four key functional areas of business: finance, marketing, people in organisations or production). Finally it considers the effects that external factors can have on businesses and how a business can plan for and manage change, including leadership style and change in business culture.

Unit 3 covers:

Specialisation in one optional unit from:

- Finance
- Marketing
- People in Organisations
- Production

Unit 4 Strategic Management covers:

How business objectives and strategy are formulated and applied. Issues related to business analysis. External influences and how businesses deal with change.

Assessment

The AS consists of 2 written examinations. The A2 also consists of two written examinations. For each unit and on completion of the qualification, students work will be graded A – E or U.

The Future

Many students have continued their study of Business at university in related subjects such as Marketing, Accountancy, Human Resource Management, Law and Information systems. In addition some students have entered employment in banking, retail management, ICT and general management.

BUSINESS ADVANCED GCE APPLIED SINGLE AWARD

Entry requirements

It is recommended that students should have 5 A*-C grade GCSEs, or better, (including at least C grade English and Mathematics).

Advanced GCE in Applied Business offers ideal progression from a range of level 2 qualifications including GCSE and Applied GCSE, but it is not necessary to have studied Business at GCSE level to take the qualification.

About the qualification

This is a new qualification that replaces the VCE in Business (Single Award) and was first taught nationally in September 2005.

The qualification provides students with the opportunity to explore the world of business in a practical way. By adopting an investigative approach, students develop a range of business-related skills.

Unlike the VCE, it has an AS/A2 structure like the existing GCE A Level Business. (In short, the AS units are slightly easier than the A2 units.) The qualification consists of six equally weighted units. AS is the first three units of the course and A2 the second three units.

Course structure

Single Award AS GCE in Applied Business (3 units) Units 1-3.

Single Award Advanced GCE in Applied Business (6 units) Units 1-3, 8 plus two from 9 to 14.

AS Units

- Unit 1: Investigating People at Work (externally assessed)
- Unit 2: Investigating Business (internally assessed)
- Unit 3: Investigating Marketing (internally assessed)

A2 Units

- Unit 8: Business Development (externally assessed)
- Unit 9: Managing and Developing People (internally assessed)
- Unit 10: Marketing Decisions (externally assessed)
- Unit 11: Impact of Finance on Business Decisions (internally assessed)
- Unit 12: International Dimensions of Business (internally assessed)
- Unit 13: Organising an Event (internally assessed)
- Unit 14: External Influences on Business (internally assessed)

Assessment

At AS Level and at A2 Level two of the three units are internally assessed by producing a portfolio of evidence and one of the units is externally assessed through a written examination. In total therefore, the Single Award GCE in Applied Business consists of four internally assessed units and two written examinations. For each unit and on completion of the qualification, students work will be graded A – E or U.

The Future

Advanced GCE in Applied Business qualifies for UCAS points. Students who successfully complete the qualification will be well equipped to move on to degrees, HNDs or Modern Apprenticeships. Many Leigh CTC students have continued their study of Business at University in related subjects such as Marketing, Accountancy and Human Resources Management. In addition many students have entered employment in banking, retail management, ICT and general management.

BUSINESS ADVANCED GCE APPLIED DOUBLE AWARD

Entry requirements

It is recommended that students should have 5 A*-C grade GCSEs, or better, (including at least C grade English and Mathematics).

Advanced GCE in Applied Business offers ideal progression from a range of level 2 qualifications including GCSE and Applied GCSE, but it is not necessary to have studied Business at GCSE level to take the qualification.

About the qualification

This is a new qualification that replaces the VCE in Business (Double Award) and was first taught nationally in September 2005. It is worth two A Levels.

The qualification provides students with the opportunity to explore the world of business in a practical way. By adopting an investigative approach, students develop a range of business-related skills.

Unlike the VCE, it has an AS/A2 structure like the existing GCE A Level Business. (In short, the AS units are slightly easier than the A2 units.) The qualification consists of twelve equally weighted units. AS is the first six units of the course and A2 the second six units.

Course structure

Double Award AS GCE in Applied Business (6 units) Units 1-3, 6 plus two from 4, 5 or 7.

Double Award Advanced GCE in Applied Business (12 units) Units 1-3, 6 plus two from 4, 5 or 7 plus 8, 10 plus four from 9, 11 to 14.

AS Units

- Unit 1: Investigating People at Work (externally assessed)
- Unit 2: Investigating Business (internally assessed)
- Unit 3: Investigating Marketing (internally assessed)
- Unit 4: Investigating Electronic Business (internally assessed)
- Unit 5: Investigating Customer Service (internally assessed)
- Unit 6: Investigating Promotion (externally assessed)
- Unit 7: Investigating Enterprise (internally assessed)

A2 Units

- Unit 8: Business Development (externally assessed)
- Unit 9: Managing and Developing People (internally assessed)
- Unit 10: Marketing Decisions (externally assessed)
- Unit 11: Impact of Finance on Business Decisions (internally assessed)
- Unit 12: International Dimensions of Business (internally assessed)
- Unit 13: Organising an Event (internally assessed)
- Unit 14: External Influences on Business (internally assessed)

Assessment

At AS Level and at A2 Level four of the six units are internally assessed by producing a portfolio of evidence and two of the units are externally assessed through written examinations. In total therefore, the Double Award GCE in Applied Business consists of eight internally assessed units and four written examinations. For each unit and on completion of the qualification, students work will be graded A – E or U.

The Future

Advanced GCE in Applied Business qualifies for UCAS points. Students who successfully complete the qualification will be well equipped to move on to degrees, HNDs or Modern Apprenticeships. Many Leigh CTC students have continued their study of Business at University in related subjects such as Marketing, Accountancy and Human Resources Management. In addition many students have entered employment in banking, retail management, ICT and general management.

CHEMISTRY

Please note: it is not possible to take this course in combination with either single or double applied science.

Entry Requirements

At least GCSE BB in Science and a B in Mathematics and C English.

This is a modern and relevant Chemistry course with an integrated and concise practical assessment model to aid learners. There is comprehensive coverage of all major topics with an emphasis on relevance to everyday life, green issues and economic awareness.

For AS:

F321: Atoms, Bonds and Groups

- Atoms and Reactions
- Electrons, Bonding and Structure
- The Periodic Table

F322: Chains, Energy and Resources

- Basic Concepts and Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols, Halogenoalkanes and Analysis
- Energy
- Resources

F323: Practical Skills in Chemistry 1

- AS Internal Assessment

For A2:

F324: Rings, Polymers and Analysis

- Rings, Acids and Amines
- Polymers and Synthesis
- Analysis

F325: Equilibria, Energetics and Elements

- Rates, Equilibrium and pH
- Energy
- Transition Elements

F326: Practical Skills in Chemistry 2

- A2 Internal Assessment

Y13 AS Outline

In Y13, students further explore the principles and concepts first seen in Y12. It also allows them to develop further their practical skills and abilities. The course includes many different aspects of contemporary chemistry including: climate change; green chemistry; pharmaceuticals; chemistry research.

Assessment

Assessment is by 3 units at AS and 3 units at A2. Each year is assessed by 2 examinations and a piece of practical coursework.

The Future

Chemistry forms the central part of the three main Sciences. It plays a pivotal role in the discovery, research and development of many other main fields. A qualification in Chemistry can lead to a very diverse range of courses and vocations. The need for people who possess the skills and abilities demonstrated by successful chemists is in great demand. Chemistry has a key role to play within the giants of manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, chemical manufacturing industry and the steel industry to mention but a few.

An understanding of Chemistry is seen as very useful in medicine, dentistry, fuel technology and metallurgy.

COMPUTING

Entry Requirements

It is a requirement that students have a minimum of four GCSE's at grade C or above. These must include Mathematics and English. Alternatively the equivalent of a grade C or above in an applied GCSE ICT, combined with Mathematics and English at Grade C would suffice.

Year 12 Outline

The AS studied is valued at half the value of a full "A" level or a full AS level.

The AS can be converted to a full "A" level by further study in year 13 at A2 level.

Year 12 is split into two modules.

Module one comprises, Computer Systems, Programming, Information and Data representation, concluding with Communications and Networking, Applications and Effects, Files and Databases, Operating Systems and Hardware Devices.

Module two is based on project work, which broadly encompasses the skills of analysing, designing, implementing, testing and evaluating. The emphasis in module two switches to more practical tasks.

Year 13 Outline

The A2 level of computing is split into two modules:

Module three comprises, Machine Level structure, Programming concepts, Machine operation and Assembly language, Data Representation and Operating systems, Applications and effects, Files and databases, Systems Development, hardware devices and Networking.

Module four is a practical project specified by the exam board.

Assessment

Modules one, two and three are assessed by examination. Unit three is assessed by examination based on a practical project set by the examination board. Module four is internally assessed and then moderated.

The Future

By taking this course students will both satisfy the requirements of higher educational institutions and equip themselves with a recognised qualification in the world of employment. Additionally this course will equip students with analytical skills that are in increasing demand in our modern world of industry and commerce.

DANCE

Why choose Dance?

The AQA AS and A Level Dance specification provides candidates with the opportunity to acquire experience of performance and choreography and to engage in critical thinking about dance. The content allows candidates to study a subject which can be extended through higher education and promotes a healthy lifestyle through an awareness of the importance of exercise and training.

For the Advanced Subsidiary award the focus is on:

- solo choreography
- performance of own choreography
- performance within a duo/trio
- training, technique, health and safety of the dancer
- analysis of choreography and performance within professional repertoire

For the Advanced Level award candidates have the opportunity to develop skills and extend and apply knowledge gained at Advanced Subsidiary level. The focus is on:

- group choreography
- knowledge and understanding of a specific area of study related to the development of one of the following: modern dance, ballet, jazz dance
- performance skills related to one of the specific areas of study
- training, technique, health and safety of the dancer
- the analytical study of one set work and its cultural and artistic context.

The course is designed to encourage candidates to broaden their knowledge and understanding of dance, by looking at a range of dance works and choreographers from a

variety of genres and styles, in order to inform their own work and their appreciation of dance as an art form. Study at Advanced Subsidiary level provides a sound foundation for Advanced Level, where candidates have the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of specific study areas and professional works as well as connecting areas of practice with their own developing skills and theoretical understanding. This provides a suitable foundation for study in higher education and for employment. For the Advanced Level award candidates can choose from three areas of study related to the development of modern dance, ballet or jazz dance. The choice of set works reflects the repertoire within these three areas.

DANCE (CONT)

Unit 1

- The dancer as performer: knowledge and understanding of the demands made in practice and performance on the dancer
- The process and craft of choreography: own work and that of professional repertoire
- The significance of dances: own work and that of professional repertoire

Unit 2 Choreography and Performance

- The process of solo choreography from investigation and research of ideas through to outcome
- The development of physical and interpretative skills in relation to performance of the solo choreography
- The development of performance skills within a duo/trio performance context

Unit 3 Dance Appreciation: Content and Context

The Set Work

Candidates study one set work from a choice of three and answer one question from a choice of two. The questions require the critical analysis and appreciation of one set work. The set works for examination 2010–2012 are:

Beach Birds for Camera (Cunningham, 1991)
Cinderella (Ashton, 1948)
Revelations (Ailey, 1960).

Unit 4 Group Choreography and Solo Performance

- The process of group choreography from investigation and research of ideas through to outcome
- Group Choreography
- Performance of a solo in relation to a specific practitioner

Why Choose Dance at the Leigh?

- Excellent Facilities:
 - Purpose built dance studio and theatre space
- Excellent Opportunities:
 - Take part in workshops and perform with professional dancers
 - Theatre trips
 - Take part in the various extra curricular clubs
- Committed Staff

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRODUCT DESIGN 3D

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 5 GCSE (or equivalent) grades A – C, including one Design & Technology course completed at GCSE level or BTEC level 2.

Year 12 AS Outline

Students will complete one project which will go towards the final AS or A Level grade. The project will focus on materials, electronics, properties of materials, CAD/CAM, marketing, social and environmental aspects of Design and Technology, product analysis and Technology in industry. We also explore Design culture which includes various visits.

Year 13 A2 Outline

The focus in Year 13 will be one major project. The main project will show evidence of a single, substantial product design activity. Each student will complete a project through to a full working prototype.

Assessment

Year 12 students will sit one examination, based primarily on materials and components. Year 13 students will sit one exam based on the two year course. Coursework is assessed throughout the year and moderated for submission to the board in late April of each year. The whole course is split equally between two pieces of coursework and two examinations.

The Future

It is possible to study a number of Design and Technology degree courses, or equivalent. Students who wish to study engineering or the Arts will also benefit from taking this course. A Level Product Design is a useful course to complete, as it shows a candidate can think laterally and address problem-solving constructively.

PRODUCT DESIGN: TEXTILES

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 5 GCSE (or equivalent) grades A – C, including GCSE Textiles.

Year 12 AS Outline

Students will complete a design project which will go towards the final AS or A Level grade. The project will focus on using textiles and industrial methods of manufacture to complete garments. Students will also benefit from visits locally.

Year 13 A2 Outline

The focus in Year 13 will be one major piece of work. Students will be asked to design, develop and produce a textiles project to meet a need.

Assessment

Year 12 students will sit one examination, based primarily on materials and manufacture. Year 13 students will sit one exam based on the two year course. Coursework is assessed throughout the year and moderated for submission to the board in late April of each year. The whole course is split equally between two pieces of coursework and two examinations.

The Future

There are a number of foundation, degree courses that include textiles, industrial manufacture, materials and contemporary fashion. Currently a number of our students are interested in a career path involving printed fabrics.

ENGINEERING BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL AWARD

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 5 GCSE (or equivalent) grades A – C, including one Design & Technology course completed at GCSE level or BTEC level 2 in Engineering. Good Mathematics will also be useful.

Year 12 AS Outline

Students will complete 3 units of work all of which are internally assessed. Students will also participate in the Greenpower challenge. They will get the opportunity to design, build and race an electric car.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Students will complete 3 units of work that show competence in a range of engineering environments. Knowledge and understanding of CAD/CAM and traditional engineering tasks will be explored. Students will have the opportunity to complete 2 projects during the year.

Assessment

The BTEC National award in Engineering is a two year course and equivalent to an A level.

Students will complete 6 units of work during the course all assessment and success will be based around their performance in each assignment.

Areas for assessment:

- Communication through drawings and presentations
- Electronics
- CAD/CAM
- Welding
- Fabrication techniques

The Future

Most Engineering courses at Degree level require A levels in Maths, Science.

Students will be able to specialise and may consider a career path in mechanical engineering, motorsport engineering or architectural engineering.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Requirements

Passes in GCSE English and English Literature at Grade B or above.

Year 12 AS Outline

At the Leigh Technology Academy we follow the AQA Specification A course, which has recently been re-designed. The AS Level consists of two modules. The first module, called Texts in Context, aims to encourage students to both, read widely within the module's theme (either World War One Literature or The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature), and to study one poetry text in detail. Prescribed texts include texts in translation for the first time. There is a two-hour open book exam in May.

The second module involves two coursework essays – one on one of the prescribed prose texts from the chosen theme ('WW1 Literature' or 'Identity in Modern Literature') and another on one of the drama texts from the chosen theme.

The course is designed to encourage students to develop interest and enjoyment in literary study, through reading widely and critically. The AS provides a platform from which students may move to deepen and widen their studies at A level and the A2 builds on the foundation offered by AS studies.

Year 13 A2 Outline

The A2 course consists of two modules, the first of which is "Reading for Meaning". This component has the theme Love through the Ages as its focus. It involves a course of reading and study, which spans the centuries and explores the theme as it is expressed through all genres and by both genders. There will be a two and a half hour closed book examination in June consisting of unprepared texts, thematically grouped.

The final module "Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study" consists of an extended comparative essay of 3,000 words presented as coursework. The essay will discuss three texts; one text will be a Shakespeare play, the other two will wider reading texts of any genre, all sharing a common theme.

Assessment

Assessment is through a mixture of Open and Closed text examination. In Open Text examinations students will be allowed to consult a copy of the text under examination.

Key Skills

The nature of English Literature as a subject makes it an ideal vehicle to assist students in the development of knowledge and understanding of the Key Skills of communication, analysis and Information Technology.

The Future

English Literature A Level is a popular and well-respected qualification leading to many degree courses and essential for careers in Law, Journalism, Business, Media or any field in which the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study and accurate writing are valuable.

Please note that students who have already completed their AS in English in Year 11 may choose to continue towards a full A Level in Year 12.

FINANCIAL STUDIES

Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) – an AS equivalent course

Diploma in Financial Studies (Dip FS) – an A2 equivalent course

Entry requirements

It is recommended that students should have 5 A* - C grade GCSEs, or better, including at least C grade English and Mathematics.

Overview

CeFS and DipFS are offered by the Institute of Financial Services (ifs), the training arm of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

CeFS and Dip FS are accredited by QCA. CeFS carries a UCAS tariff of 60 points at A grade, 50 at B grade, etc., just like AS qualifications. DipFS also carries a UCAS tariff of 60 points at A grade.

CeFS is usually taken by Y12 students, but is also being offered to Year 13 students. Dip FS is taken by students who have completed CeFS.

Students are given access to the ifs website and have their own log-in and password which allows them to use on-line study materials especially designed for the courses. They receive an ifs ring binder to build up a set of study materials. The first two units of each course are tested by a multiple choice examination and the final unit is a traditional written examination. All three units of each course are finished within the academic year, including a free re-sit of each unit, if necessary. It is essential to pass each unit within two sittings in order to complete the course.

Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) Outline

CeFS aims to help young people make informed and confident decisions about their finances. It has been designed to help address poor levels of financial awareness in the UK. It helps students to:

- Understand the concept of "money".
- Develop an understanding of typical individual financial needs, the range of financial services products available to meet those needs and the financial services providers offering these products.
- Develop an awareness and appreciation of risk and reward.
- Appreciate the role and scope of the financial services industry.

Diploma in Financial Services (DipFS)

Dip FS is an A2 Level extension of the CeFS course. It follows on from CeFS and applies what students have learnt to the broader financial environment. The course looks at personal financial planning in detail, as students become aware of the financial environment within which they live. It helps students appreciate a financial services provider's perspective and gives them an in-depth understanding of financial services products ranging from current accounts, credit cards and bank loans to stocks and shares, insurance products and pensions.

The Future

In addition to providing an essential life skill, these courses help students stand out from the crowd at interview. They are a talking point for students seeking a university place and for students interested in a career in financial services, they obviously give job candidates an advantage. The Dip FS gives students 15 credit points towards the ifs Applied Diploma in Retailing Financial Services.

GENERAL STUDIES

Entry Requirements

It is advisable that students have attained grade C in English and Mathematics GCSE.

About the course

Year 12 AS outline

The AS is made up of two units. These are called 'Conflict' and 'Space'. These units cover a wide range of subject matter from Science and Technology; Society and Politics; Arts and Media; Industry and Commerce and Beliefs and Values. Assessment of the AS year is in three written papers.

Year 13 A2 Outline

Year 13 students undertake a further two units of study which completes the four units of the full A Level. The A2 units develop the themes introduced in the first year. The units are called 'Power' and 'Change'. Students study space exploration, climate change, migration of people, urban and rural environments, art and public space, global media, use of the land, buying and selling, multiculturalism and 'green' values.

Most universities accept the UCAS points awarded to this qualification as part of their offer to candidates. It is generally regarded that students who complete this course will have received a broad-based enhancement to the study of their other subjects, which is understood to improve the chance of examination success in other subjects.

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements

Students must have a C grade at GCSE. If student have not previously studied Geography GCSE they must have C grades in English and Science.

Year 12 Outline (AS)

There are two units: **Global Challenge** looks at the meaning, causes, impact and management of global challenges and how we can influence global challenge through our own lives. **Geographical Investigations** considers how physical and human issues influence lives and can be managed. Field work is a compulsory requirement of this unit.

Year 12 Outline (A2)

There are two units: **Contested Planet** which looks at the use and management of resources which are a key issue for Geography and today's world. **Geographical Research** focuses on tectonic activities and hazards.

Assessment

Each unit has an external examination. Two at the end of Year 12 and two at the end of Year 13. They include a range of compulsory and selected questions. All exams comprise of resources booklets and in Year 13 students receive research focus pre released material four weeks before the exam.

The Future

A level Geography can lead to a wide range of university course in both science and arts faculties. Geography is welcomed by many employers who value students' ability to collect and analyse data, as well as their understanding of environmental and social issues.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs (Grade C or above), which must include English at grade C or above.

AS = Two exams (Unit 1 and Unit 2) 1 hour 20 minutes each.

A2 = As AS plus two further exams (Unit 3 and Unit 4) 1 hour 30 minutes each.

Unit 1: Introduces students to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages them to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation.

Unit 2: Introduces students to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages them to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions.

Unit 3: Introduces students to key themes in political analysis: Introducing Political Ideologies.

Unit 4: Extends students' understanding of key themes in political analysis: Other Ideological Traditions.

Unit 1

People and Politics – Direct and indirect democracy, political parties, pressure groups, elections, referendums.

Unit 2

Governing the UK – Constitution, Parliament (including reform), types of government (representative, responsible, parliamentary and presidential), role of the prime minister and cabinet, the judiciary.

Unit 3

Key Themes in Political Analysis – Introduction to Political Ideology: Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Anarchism.

Unit 4

Extended Themes in Political Analysis – Nationalism, Feminism, Ecologism and Multiculturalism.

HISTORY

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs (Grade C or above), which must include English at grade C or above.

AS – Two exams (Unit 1 and Unit 2) 1 hour 20 minutes each.

A2 – As AS with one further exam (Unit 3) 2 hours and coursework (Unit 4).

Unit 1: Historical Themes in Breadth:

Students study two topics in order to gain a broad overview of a particular theme and will assess the historical significance of events, ideas, attitudes and beliefs and how these influenced behaviours and actions.

Unit 2: British History Depth Studies:

Students will study a period of British history in order to develop an in-depth understanding of attitudes, beliefs and structures of society.

Unit 3: Depth Studies and Associated Historical Controversies:

Students will undertake a depth study to explore the nature of challenges and conflict relating to societies and/or political systems in the period studied, and to explore an issue of historical debate.

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry:

Students will carry out an enquiry which will address the aspects of a chosen theme over a period of at least 100 years. They will examine both the short-term significance of an individual, movement or event, as well as the factors affecting change throughout the whole period.

Topics

Unit 1

Pursuing Life and Liberty: Equality in the USA 1945-68 – Black Civil Rights Movement and Black Power. Conflict and Retreat: the USA in Asia, 1950-73 – Korean and Vietnam War.

Unit 2

Britain and the Nationalist Challenge in India, 1900-47 – India and Britain 1900-47, the rise of nationalism in India and independence for India.

Unit 3

The United States, 1917-54: Boom, Bust and Recovery – economic, social and political events in the United States during the 1920s, Roosevelt and the New Deal, the impact of the Second World War and anti-communism.

Unit 4

Russia 1860 – 1970. This focuses on the effect of World War I on the development of Russian society and politics.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY – BTEC

This is a two-year course leading to the equivalent of one or two “A” levels (UCAS points apply).

The course content is wide and varied, ranging from the actual Construction and Architecture of computers to the management and development of Web Sites. Units are chosen by mutual agreement between Teachers and Students. Some Cisco qualifications can also be used as partial accreditation on the course.

On this course you will become aware of the intricate design and workings of computers and further your understanding of how computers can be used in the Community and Workplace. The course is followed by many firms and is recognised in industry.

To qualify for this course you must have achieved five GCSE's at grade C or above including Maths, English and ICT. For students joining from other colleges the ICT requirement may be dropped if the students' former college did not offer ICT as a subject for examination. However, in this case Science would be expected at grade C or above.

The course is comprised of separate units. Six for one “A” Level and Twelve for two “A” Levels. The course is assessed by this coursework alone, there are no examinations.

The work related aspect of this course combined with its academic rigour makes this an excellent choice for future choices in either the workplace or further education including university study.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY APPLIED AS/A LEVEL ICT (SINGLE AWARD)

Applied ICT will give you an understanding of information technology and relevant practical skills at advanced level. Using work-related contexts, innovative teaching and assessment methods, these awards offer a broad introduction to this vocational area.

Entry Requirements

It is required that students have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C or above. These must include Mathematics, English and ICT. Alternatively the equivalent of or a grade C in an Applied GCSE course combined with Mathematics and English at Grade C would also be acceptable.

Year 12 Outline

AS level

The year comprises of three units covered, which are portfolio based (coursework) and one which is assessed by an examination. The topics covered include, Using ICT to Communicate (a study of the effects of new developments in technology), How organisations use ICT (A study of how and why ICT is used by Organisations), ICT solutions for individuals and society (A study of how information is used).

Year 13 Outline

A level

The year consists of one mandatory unit “Working to a Brief” and two other units which are chosen from a wide range of ICT related subjects. Where possible the units chosen will be negotiated with the students.

The mandatory unit is externally examined and the majority of the remaining units are Portfolio only.

A double Award option is available which comprises double the number of Units described above.

The Future

By taking this course students will equip themselves for both higher education and the needs of employers. The vocational nature of the course is one that many employers will view enthusiastically.

LAW

Delivered by Video conference.

Entry Requirements

This is a demanding course delivered mostly by distance learning and self-study.

You must have GCSE grade B, or higher, in English and an overall GCSE grade point score average of 5.5.

Year 12 AS Outline

The first part of this course explores the English Legal System, including the courts and judiciary, police powers, principles of sentencing, the provision and funding of legal services, Acts of Parliament and law reform. Students will be encouraged to visit local magistrates' courts and other places where the legal system can be observed in action.

Content:

- European Law
- Legislation
- Doctrine of Precedent; legal reasoning; court hierarchy
- Law reform
- Personnel; structure; judges and magistrates

Year 13 A2 Outline

This course concentrates on Contract Law.

Content:

- The function of the law of contract
- Freedom of contract and statutory encroachment
- Nature and essential requirements of contract

Assessment

In year 12 the course is assessed by two modular examinations in June which will involve students in a range of tasks from essays to problem solving.

The assessment of the year 13 course is by examination.

The Future

This is a popular subject at degree level and there is considerable competition for places to study Law. Career opportunities exist in management, the business world and the legal profession.

Please note: for some undergraduate courses, SOME universities prefer students not to have studied Law at A-Level. Please consult prospectuses of individual colleges and universities.

MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements

Grade B or above at higher tier GCSE Mathematics is required to begin an 'AS' course in Mathematics.

About the course

At AS/A level student follow a modular course.

Year 12

Three modules are studied in Year 12 leading to a qualification is AS Mathematics. Core unit 1 and Core unit 2 are compulsory modules, which cover the basic concepts of Pure Mathematics and develop on the algebra studied at higher tier GCSE. In addition students study an applied mathematics module selected from Statistics 1, Mechanics 1 or Decision Mathematics.

Year 13

The Year 13 course follows a similar pattern with students once again completing three units, the two compulsory units Core 3 and Core 4 and an applied unit.

Assessment

The course is approximately 20% coursework and 80% examination.

MEDIA STUDIES

Entry Requirements

A student must have at least a B in English Literature and a grade C or above in at least 5 different GCSE subjects.

What is Media Studies?

It is the study of Mass Media, such as film, newspapers, News and more. The Media Student is expected to explore work practically and theoretically. This requires addressing semiotics and Mis en Scene when looking at concepts such as film and TV, and exploring how society represents itself within the Mass Media and the impact that this can have on sociological concepts.

The AS comprises of three units. Two units are tested through external examination, the other is a practical production course work unit.

Candidates study a range of media texts and topics, as well as the construction and deconstruction of media products, in the context of the key conceptual areas of Media Forms and Conventions, Media Institutions, Media Audiences and Media representations.

A2 Media Studies

The A2 comprises of three further units. Two units are tested through external examination, one unit is advanced practical production assessed through course work.

Candidates study topics which build upon their AS studies to broaden knowledge and understanding of Media Forms and Conventions, Media Institutions, Media Audiences and Media Representation.

The Future

Media Studies and other related topics such as Film Studies and Drama are very popular degree level subjects and courses are varied and interesting. This is a very useful qualification for students considering working in the international Media market. A qualification in Media Studies does not just prepare you for this field; the training it provides can be used in many forms of employment.

iMEDIA

OCR Level 3 Certificate/Diploma for iMedia

iMedia leads on from everything you may have learnt from gaming and creative new media. It enables you to gain relevant workplace skills and techniques to keep you one step ahead. You can choose to specialise in digital and interactive media areas such as web authoring, 3D game engines, digital animation or interactive multimedia design.

If you're passionate about creative media, iMedia is for you. You might be looking to grow your artistic IT skills or seeking entry into a career in a creative media environment.

Entry requirements

You will need 5 grades at GCSE (or equivalent) at grades C or above. You do not need grade B in English or Mathematics so you should choose this Media course if you think you are unlikely to achieve that grade.

You will need to satisfy staff that you are a creative person by, for example, showing evidence of any websites you have already designed, any animations or films you have made or by showing a portfolio of photography or art that indicates your creativity.

Choose OCR Level 3 Certificate/Diploma for iMedia users if you are:

- Looking to develop your skills and enhance your career progression
- Looking to formalise your current knowledge with an industry benchmark
- Wanting to use these skills for recreational purposes

Progress on a unit-by-unit basis and gain recognition every step of the way by receiving a certificate for each unit passed.

Some of the Units that may be covered are outlined below.

Play with iMedia

Unit 8 – 3D Game Engines

Unit 9 – Game Design

Learn how to:

- Import images and sounds into a 2D game engine
- Create a game room using existing objects and background
- Design a digital game component
- Create several characters for a given plot
- Utilise sound effects to enhance game play
- Design a new game

Create with iMedia

Unit 6 – Digital Video Editing

Unit 7 – 3D Modelling

Learn how to:

- Use a digital video camera to obtain video footage
- Use a computer programme to store digital video
- Import and edit various types of media and audio clips within a digital video editing application
- Produce and edit a short video sequence for use within multimedia
- Understand 3D principles
- Create a 3D model for a particular purpose

Animate with iMedia

Unit 3 – Digital Animation

Learn how to:

- Create a digital animation sequence
- Use a digital animation program to create a digital animation
- Add interactivity to an animation, including different media
- Create a pre-loader for a digital animation
- Optimise a digital animation for publishing

Publish with iMedia

Unit 2 – Web Authoring

Learn how to:

- Create a website structure
- Manage and upload a website
- Plan and design a website structure with enhanced features
- Add rollover buttons
- Insert layers and rich media objects
- Manage and upload a site considering accessibility

Design with iMedia

Unit 1 – Digital Graphics

Unit 4 – Interactive Multimedia Designs

Unit 5 – Digital Sound Editing

Learn how to:

- Use a digital camera to obtain images and transfer these electronically
- Edit a digital graphic for a particular purpose
- Produce, author and evaluate multimedia content from a variety of sources including image, sound, video and text
- Use computer software to create digital sound content
- Obtain digital graphics using a variety of sources
- Manipulate a bitmap digital graphic for a particular purpose
- Plan and develop digital sound files
- Use computer software to create digital sound files to an agreed specification.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES GERMAN, FRENCH AND SPANISH

Entry Requirements

You will need grade C or better at GCSE in the language or languages studied.

Year 12 AS Based around 3 topic areas

The course is:

- Day to Day Matters
- Society
- The Working World

Year 13 A2

The second part of the A Level course is based on a further 2 topic areas:

Module 4 – The Environment and Citizenship

Module 5 – The International Context

Assessment

At the end of Years 12 and 13 students are externally assessed in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Coursework options are available. Students are encouraged to spend some time in the target language culture, in preparation for the speaking examination.

The Future

Opportunities with this subject are progression into Higher Education to study a language in its own right, in conjunction with any other subjects or as part of a wide range of courses. Studying languages is advantageous in many areas of work both in the UK and abroad.

MUSIC – BTEC LEVEL 3 IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

This Edexcel course follows a coursework based specification and there is no final exam. The course is delivered through a series of assignments which are split into two groups. Students follow one group during the first year and the other in the second year.

Students study the following units:

Music Performance Techniques

This unit is focused on two areas: performing and arriving at that point through a structured practice routine.

Music Project

Learners will work as a team to choose performance material that reflects their interests and the event they are planning.

Planning a Music Project

No professional gig or concert can take place without a great deal of considered planning and hard work before the performance itself. There are a wide number of 'behind the scenes' roles involved in putting on a live performance. From the marketing manager to the stage manager, to the composers of the pieces being performed; all roles are equally as important as the performer or performers who may be the 'face' of the show if a performance is to be as successful as possible.

Music Theatre Performance

This unit provides a particular context in which skills acquired in specialist acting, singing and dancing areas of the qualification can be applied and further developed. Musical theatre is a significant area of employment within the live performance branch of the industry with opportunities for chorus and ensemble work as well as leading roles.

Pop Music in Practice

This unit will provide learners considering a profession in music with a thorough grounding in one of the four key art forms that make up the world of music (the other forms being classical music, modern music and world music). The unit is designed to enable learners to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of pop music grounded in practical experience of rehearsing and performing relevant works. Learners will, as a result, be familiar with the key characteristics and creators of pop music styles.

Studying Music form Around the World

This unit enables learners to develop their knowledge and musical skills through a study of 'world music'. The unit will explore a number of aspects of the relationship between music and society and will introduce learners to the diverse wealth of compositional systems employed around the world.

There are further options available in the specification and these are considered each year in relation to the specific students.

Current Assignment Briefs:

A	B
Recital (22) Set: start module 1 1st year Due: end module 4 2nd year	Recital (22) Set: start module 1 1st year Due: end module 4 2nd year
Easter Concert (23 & 29) Set: start module 3 Due: end module 4	Winter Showcase (27 & 31) Set: start module 1 Due: end module 2
Summer Show (23 & 29) Set: start module 2 Due: end module 6	African (36) Set: start week 1 module 1 Due: end week 2 module 1
History of the Musical (27) / History of Pop (31) Set: end module 2 Due: start module 3	Indian (36) Set: start week 3 module 1 Due: end week 4 module 1
Musical Workshop (27) / Comparison of 2 Decades (31) Set: start module 4 Due: start module 5	Gamelan (36) Set: start week 5 module 1 Due: end week 6 module 1
Your Role in the Summer Show (27) Set: start module 3 Due: end module 6	Extended Project: Fusions (36) Set: start module 2 Due: start module 3
	Being a self employed musician (38) Set: start module 1 Due: end module 2
	Setting goals / Self promotion (38) Set: start module 3 Due: end module 4

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Music Technology is currently offered at AS and A2 level following the Edexcel specification.

Students at year 12 are required to:

- Produce one sequenced performance (stimulus provided by exam board). This allows students to develop their knowledge of music software (currently we are using Logic) while gaining the experience of how to recreate a live piece of music using only computer generated sounds.
- Produce one multi-track recording (student choice). During this area of the course students have the opportunity to work with studio equipment and to learn different recording techniques.
- Produce one arrangement (choice from two provided by exam board). Students will develop their knowledge of different styles of popular music and, using this knowledge, they will take a piece of music and recreate it into another style.
- Develop their listening and analysing skills with specific reference to the development of music technology and popular music and jazz.

Students are not required to have studied Music at GCSE level but they must demonstrate an ability to read music and know how to play basic level music on the keyboard.

PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING) – BTEC NATIONAL AWARD

This course is worth the equivalent of 1 A Level at C or above, and therefore will cover 1 Option Block.

Entry Requirements:

Grade C or above GCSE English (both Literature and Language).

Grade B Drama at GCSE (or equivalent).

If Drama GCSE was not previously studied you should be able to demonstrate in interest/ involvement in Drama and Theatre.

An interest in studying plays, not just as a performer, but also as a director or designer is also desirable. You will also need an interest in learning about the processes and industry of performing arts, and the different vocational roles within it.

Year 12 BTEC Outline

The intended course structure would include:

- Principles of Acting
- Performing to an Audience
- Theatre in Education

However this is subject to finalisation.

Year 13 BTEC Outline

The intended course structure would include:

- Drama Improvisation
- Devising Plays
- Performing to an Audience

However this is subject to finalisation.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing based on your participation in class, the coursework portfolios that you will develop, and your performance pieces.

In order to be successful you will need to keep up with every piece of class work and independent tasks as this will all become part of your coursework portfolio.

NB:

In order to continue into the second year, you must have achieved a pass grade or above in your Year 12 modules.

PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING) – BTEC NATIONAL CERTIFICATE

This course is worth the equivalent of 2 A Levels at C or above, and therefore will cover 2 Option Blocks.

Entry Requirements:

Grade C or above GCSE English (both Literature and Language).

Grade B Drama at GCSE (or equivalent).

If Drama GCSE was not previously studied you should be able to demonstrate in interest/ involvement in Drama and Theatre.

An interest in studying plays, not just as a performer, but also as a director or designer is also desirable. You will also need an interest in learning about the processes and industry of performing arts, and the different vocational roles within it.

Year 12 BTEC Outline

The intended course structure would include:

- Principles of Acting
- Performance Workshop
- Performing to an Audience
- Performing Arts Business
- Theatre in Education

However this is subject to finalisation.

Year 13 BTEC Outline

The intended course structure would include:

- Drama Improvisation
- Contemporary Theatre Performance
- Devising Plays
- Performing to an Audience
- Approaches to Directing Theatre

However this is subject to finalisation.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing based on your participation in class, the coursework portfolios that you will develop, and your performance pieces.

In order to be successful you will need to keep up with every piece of class work and independent tasks as this will all become part of your coursework portfolio.

NB:

In order to continue into the second year, you must have achieved a pass grade or above in your Year 12 modules.

PHYSICS

Entry Requirements

At least GCSE Grade BB in science and B in Mathematics

Year 12 AS Outline

During this year of the course students will be studying mechanics, radioactivity, electricity, thermal physics, a topic and practical skills.

Practical work is required to support the theoretical aspect of the course and to develop practical skills.

Year 12 AS Outline

During this year of the course students will be studying waves, the universe, fields, forces and practical skills will be further developed.

Assessment

Year 12

January: Unit 1: Mechanics and radioactivity

June: Unit 2: Electricity and thermal physics

Unit 3: Topic and practical test

Year 13

January: Unit 4: Waves and our universe

June: Unit 5: Fields, forces and a further practical test

Unit 5: Fields, forces and a further practical test

Unit 6: Synoptic paper covering entire course

The Future

Physics is a very useful qualification for a variety of careers, as well as involving the acquisition of valuable knowledge and useful skills. Some of these careers are Medicine, Armed Forces, Police, Fire Service, Teaching, Computer Analysis, Telecommunications, Electronic Engineering, Transport and Research. A knowledge of Physics is becoming increasingly important in a modern technological world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A Level

Students will follow the AQA Syllabus

AS Content

Unit 1: Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle

- 60% of AS marks
- 30% of A level marks
- Written examination: 2 hour paper

Topics include:

- Health, exercise and fitness
- Nutrition
- Pulmonary function
- Cardiac function
- Levers
- Skill acquisition
- Information processing
- Opportunities for participation

Unit 2: Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as a performer and/or in an adopted role/s

- 40% of AS marks
- 20% of A level marks
- Internal assessment and external moderation

Section A

Candidates will be assessed in 2 of the following:

- Practical performer
- Official/referee/umpire/judge
- Leader/coach

Section B

Application of theoretical knowledge for effective performance

- Principles of training
- Fitness testing
- Training methods
- Teaching styles
- Types of practice
- Feedback

Unit 3: optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport

- 30% of A Level Marks
- Written Examination: 2 Hours

Topics include:

- Energy Systems
- Elite Preparation and training
- Sports Injuries
- Mechanics
- Personality
- Arousal
- Aggression
- World games
- Sports organisations
- Deviance in sport

Unit 4: Optimising practical performance

- 20% of A level Marks
- Internal Assessment
- External moderation

Activities include:

Football, badminton, athletics, swimming, rugby, horse riding, cricket, table tennis and many other popular sports.

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Students must have GCSE grade B or better in English, Mathematics and Science.

Year 12 AS Outline

This course explores different areas of Psychology (cognitive, social, developmental and research methods) and helps students develop a fundamental understanding of the subject. They will be required to research, understand and report on key studies in Psychology and conduct their own investigation.

Year 13 A2 Outline

This course develops the areas covered by AS Level and requires critical and evaluation skills in relation to theory and current methods of research in Psychology. The course will also explore the relationship of Psychology to social, scientific and cultural issues. Two of the following aspects of Psychology will be explored in depth: forensic psychology; health & clinical psychology; the psychology of education and the psychology of sport & exercise.

Assessment

In year 12 the AS course is assessed by two modular examinations to be taken in June. The assessment of the year 13 course is also by means of two examinations.

A pass grade (E or better) is required in both AS modules for progress onto the second year of the course.

The Future

This is a popular subject at degree level. Career opportunities exist in the management of human resources, advertising and marketing and professions where an understanding of human behaviour is important.

GCE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

AS outline

GCE Religious Studies offers an academic approach to the study of religion and is accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none. The course aims to provide a broader study of religion through two units from:

- Ethics
- Philosophy of religion
- Religion, philosophy and science
- The history of Christianity
- Religion, art and the media
- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- Religion and contemporary society
- the six major world religions including:
 - Buddhism
 - Christianity
 - Hinduism
 - Islam
 - Judaism
 - Sikhism

The course is assessed through two examination papers each lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes and each worth 50% of the marks. Each paper will require the candidate to answer two structured essay questions from a total of four.

The requirements for this course is that candidates should have attained a Grade C or above in GCSE English Language and Religious Studies.

A2 outline

At A2, the specification enables candidates to study in greater depth aspects of one or more religion(s), including textual, theological, historical, ethical, phenomenological and philosophical perspectives through two units from:

Unit 3

- Philosophy of religion
- The history of Christianity the Christian Church in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Religion and art
- The Old Testament and the New Testament
- Religion and contemporary society
- The six major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism

Unit 4

- Life, death and beyond
- Perceptions of ultimate reality
- Religious fundamentalism
- Religion and contemporary society
- Religion and art
- Religious authority
- Ways of moral decision-making
- Ways of reading Christian scripture.

The course is assessed through two examination papers each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes and each worth 50% of the marks. Each paper will require the candidate to answer two structured essay questions from a total of four.

The requirements for this course is that candidates should have attained a Grade D or above in GCE AS Religious Studies.

SCIENCE APPLIED AS/A LEVEL (SINGLE AWARD)

Please note: it is not possible to take this course in combination with either A-level biology or chemistry.

Entry Requirements

Students will need 4 GCSEs (including Science) of grade BB, or better. Mathematics and English are also required at grade C.

About The Course

This comprises 6 Units which will be completed over 2 years, and is the equivalent of 1 'A' levels. The units are divided into Mandatory and Optional units, with 3 or 6 of each being completed. In the first year of the course students will investigate:

- Monitoring the Activity of the Human Body**
- Investigating Science at Work
- Analysis of Science at work

Upon completion of these you will achieve the equivalent of an A level.

In Year 13 students go on to study:

- Investigating the Scientists' work
- Sampling, Testing and Processing**
- Synthesising Organic Chemicals

Assessment

** Denotes that the Unit is assessed externally by exam. These are taken in January and June. Each exam lasts 1.5 hours and consists of short answer questions. 8 of the 12 units are internally assessed through the use of assignments, case studies and presentations. For each unit, and at the end of the course, students will be graded A-E.

The Future

Many Leigh students have continued their study of Science at university in related subjects such as Biological Sciences, Engineering, Sports Sciences, Chemistry, Psychology, Nutrition, Pharmacy and Information Systems. In addition students have entered employment in Pharmaceutical Companies, Pathology Labs, Sports and Leisure Management.

SOCIOLOGY

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE's (Grade C or above) which must include English and Maths at grade C or above.

AS = Two examinations. Unit 1 is 1 hour and Unit 2 is 2 hours.

A2 = Two examinations. Unit 3 is 1 hour 30 minutes and Unit 4 is 2 hours.

Sociology is the study of society and covers the main topics of Families and Households, Education, Beliefs in Society and Crime and Deviance.

Unit 1 – Families and Households

This unit includes:

- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, child-bearing and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
- The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships.
- The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society.
- Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth rates, death rates and family size.

Unit 2 – Education with Research Methods.

This unit includes:

- The role and purpose of education, including vocational education and training, in contemporary society.
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.
- Relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.
- The significance of educational policies, including selection.
- The application of sociological research methods to the study of education.

Research Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; their strengths and limitations; research design.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents, and official statistics; the strengths and limitations of these sources.

- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.

Unit 3 – Beliefs in Society

This unit includes:

- Different theories of ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions.
- The relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability.
- Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice.
- The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices.
- The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.

Unit 4 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- Different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control.
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by age, ethnicity, gender, locality and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime.
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the mass media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes.
- Crime control, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.
- The sociological study of suicide and its theoretical and methodological implications.
- The connections between sociological theory and methods and the study of crime and deviance.

Theory and Methods

Candidates should examine the following areas, which are also studied at AS Level:

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, observation (participant and nonparticipant), experiments, documents, and official statistics.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM BTEC NATIONAL SINGLE AWARD

This course is the equivalent of 1 A level. Unfortunately there is no AS equivalent.

Entry requirements

Good performance at GCSE (5 grades C or better). Students do not need to have studied this subject before.

About the course

Students will study 6 units over the two years. These focus on key aspects of the Travel and Tourism industry including customer service and marketing. They will also have the opportunity to research the appeal of various worldwide destinations. A non compulsory part of the course involves a visit to a major destination such as New York. Students will also investigate various aspects of working in the travel industry.

Assessment

All six units are assessed through coursework assignments, two of which are set by the examination board, the rest designed by our own staff. There are no external examinations.

The Future

The course qualifies for full UCAS points and gives students a wide choice of progression into further study at university, training or relevant employment.

LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA IT PROFESSIONAL (ICT SYSTEMS SUPPORT)

Entry Requirements

All applicants must show an interest in the course and a willingness to work hard and have achieved a grade C at English and Mathematics GCSE.

About The Course

This is a new course that has been developed to address the needs of students wishing to gain employment in the IT industry or gain University entry. This qualification has been designed to develop knowledge understanding and skills in a full range of functions in system support including service delivery, planning and control, the installation of networks and operating systems, the installation and maintenance of applications, the testing of systems and the production of customer support materials. In order to achieve the OCR Level 3 Certificate IT Professional (ICT Systems Support), students are required to achieve 6 units from a range of 19 units; the optional unit requirements of this qualification will be met by students following the CCNA and IT Essentials or Microsoft Professional courses for Windows 2003.

CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY CCNA DISCOVERY

About The Course

The complete CCNA Discovery programme consists of 4 courses each of which is an optional unit for the IT Professional and prepares the student for the Industry Recognised Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification. The course has been designed by Cisco for delivery through Cisco Systems Networking Academies; The Leigh Academy has been a Regional Cisco Academy since 2000. This innovative course is delivered through a combination of computer-based training modules, practical laboratories and instructor-led workshops. It is blended learning with both online and classroom learning.

Courses

- Networking for Home and Small Businesses
- Working at a Small-to-Medium Business or ISP
- Introducing Routing and Switching in the Enterprise
- Designing and Supporting Computer Networks

The content of these courses presents basic networking education to equip students with knowledge and skills that can be applied toward entry-level ICT careers and also CCNET and CCNA certifications.

Assessment

Evidence of learning, understanding and achievement is assessed through on-line tests at the end of each chapter within these courses. Students are given instant feed-back, allowing them to monitor their understanding and learning. Students are required to gain 70% or greater in a final on-line examination and to pass a skill-based practical at the end of each course. The student will also undertake a practical case study. Passing each course is a prerequisite for the sequential courses.

The Future

The course is designed to teach students the skills needed to design, build and maintain small to medium-size networks or ISP. The possession of these skills will provide them with the opportunity to enter the computer networking workforce. OCR IT Professional qualifies for UCAS points.

IT ESSENTIALS

The Cisco Academy also offers a technician level course. IT Essentials has been sponsored by Cisco and can lead to CompTIA's A+ certification. This course is a Level 2 optional unit for OCR IT Practitioner ICT System Support.

A+ certification is an internationally recognised validation of technical knowledge required by companies as an entry-level for computer service technician.

The course consists of two parts a core Hardware and Operating Systems Technologies and a specialist unit for IT Technician . Installation, configuration and upgrading of computer components and operating systems will be covered. Diagnosing and troubleshooting will form a major part of these courses with students learning communication skills required for Help Desk.

Assessment

IT Essentials is online assessments an end of course online examination and skills practical.

Future

OCR IT Practitioner leads to the awarding of 3 GCSEs grade B.

MICROSOFT

Two Microsoft courses are available as part of the OCR Level 3 Certificate for IT Professional (ICT Systems Support), Installing, Configuring and Administering Microsoft Windows 2003 Server and Installing, Configuring and Administering Microsoft Windows XP.

About The Course

This course is designed to develop the skills to implement, administer and troubleshoot information systems that incorporate Microsoft Windows 2003. This could include logging on, accessing and using a computer operating system, identifying the features of a domain and of a directory service, accessing and setting permissions for user and group accounts and the ability to identify common microcomputer Network Operating Systems (NOS).

Installing, Configuring and Administering Microsoft Windows 2003 Server

About The Course

This course is designed to develop the skills to implement, administer and troubleshoot information systems that incorporate Microsoft Windows 2003 Server. This could include selecting and installing a suitable NOS and implementing required file server facilities, configuring the server, installing and configuring protocols, testing/verifying TCP/IP configurations, managing user and group accounts, adding and sharing printers, backing up and restoring files, planning, installing and configuring terminal services and installing applications on a terminal server.

Assessment

Both the Microsoft Windows XP and Server courses are assessed via an online external Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) test.

ORACLE

Entry Requirements

Minimum C grades in Mathematics, Science and English. Interest in Business.

About The Course

Students need an interest in business organisation, project leadership, application development and/or database development and want to learn the difference between information and data and how to turn one into the other.

The ORACLE INTERNET ACADEMY is a two-year course that leads both to its own completion certificates in SQL, database design and JAVA and also towards industry-standard certification in SQL and JAVA. The course has just been expanded from US schools to the rest of the world. All work on the course is placed in a business context and collaborative teamwork is an integral part of the learning process.

Year 12 Outline

The first year of the course involves students learning to identify and map effectively the relationships within and between pieces of business information using Entity-Relationship Diagrams. The student will work with others and have to justify their decisions and approaches to the business plans tackled. The student then covers a practical online interactive course on the techniques involved in creating and maintaining a database; this includes learning and using SQL (Structured Query Language) to manipulate data.

Year 13 Outline

Investigate Requirements for Software solutions is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to understand the procedures involved in investigation and analysis of customer requirements for solutions in preparation for producing relevant software specifications. This unit is delivered through the use of externally set scenario. The unit is practical unit with practical problem-solving skills of candidates being developed and refined. This is a mandatory unit for OCR Level 3 Diploma for IT Professionals.

Alongside the content of the course, the student will cover business skills such as interview skills, presentation skills and CV building and report writing.

Assessment

There are regular on-line assessments during both years, as well as key assessed projects. A final assessment measures suitability to take the certification examinations. The online assessment for the Java course is through Cisco Networking Academy Programme Fundamentals of Java Programming.

GCSE

There may be an opportunity for you to re-take your Mathematics and English Language GCSEs should you have narrowly missed achieving a C grade. Please contact the relevant Director of Studies before enrolment.

MATHS (RETAKE)

Entry Requirements

This is a one-year linear course and is intended for students who have the ability and motivation to gain a grade C in Maths, after a further year of study.

Programme of study

Students are expected to work through the GCSE curriculum by self-study, monitored by Academy Maths staff at regular intervals. They will produce a file showing the study they have made as well as complete online homeworks and tests.

Assessment

Progressive assessment throughout the year will be by test. The final exam worth 100% of the GCSE grade is split into a calculator exam and a non-calculator exam and is sat over two days.

The Future

GCSE Maths is a vital qualification for all students and is a pre-requisite for most employers and colleges of further education.

ENGLISH (RETAKE)

Entry Requirements

This is a one-year course and is intended for students who have the ability and motivation to gain a grade C in English, after a further year of study. Students are expected to have achieved a grade D in their first attempt.

Programme of study

Students are expected to produce a range of coursework assignments, including a Shakespeare and media unit. The course aims to improve literacy skills, develop a variety of writing styles and encourage confidence in reading. The oral component is an important part of the course and students should be prepared to contribute fully to class discussion.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework folder, oral presentations and two examination papers. The examination accounts for 60% of the marks and covers responses to literary and non-literary texts. The coursework folder counts for 20% with the final 20% awarded for Speaking and Listening.

The Future

GCSE English is a vital qualification for all students and is a pre-requisite for most employers and colleges of further education. In most areas of life, proven, competent communication skills are the key to success.

NEW GCSE COURSES

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

This is a course aimed at Post 16 students who do not necessarily have any art background. It is a course in digital photography and may be used as a 'stepping stone' to A-Level photography after successful completion.

Green Street Green Road
Dartford Kent DA1 1QE

T: 01322 620400

F: 01322 620401

info@leighacademy.org.uk

www.leighacademy.org.uk

Mr AFX Green CEO

Mr R Findlay Chair of Governors

The Leigh Technology Academy
consists of four colleges

Brunel College

Principal: Mr A Ryan

Chaucer College

Principal: Mr P Finnegan

Darwin College

Principal: Mr M Poulter

Da Vinci College

Principal: Ms M Leah-Wilkinson

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Registered Office:

Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1QE

