



A Level Options

- English
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Portuguese
- Business
- Spanish
- Sociology
- Physical Education
- Art

Pupils must choose 3 subjects for their A Level studies during year 12 and 13.

English Language and Literature

Course outline

The revised A level specification covers six set texts and is made up of three components:

Component 1 – Voices in Speech and Writing

Students study:

- Voices in speech and writing in literary, non-literary and digital texts
- Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology – non-literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st centuries
- One drama text from a prescribed list.

Component 2 – Varieties in Language and Literature

Students study:

- One compulsory prose fiction text ('anchor' text) from a choice of two and one other literary text (from a chosen theme). Both 'anchor' texts may be studied if desired.

Component 3 – Investigating and Creating Texts

Students study:

- A free choice of two texts.

One must be fiction and one non-fiction.

Fiction texts may be selected from genres such as prose fiction, poetry, drama or short stories.

Non-fiction texts may be selected from genres such as travel writing, journalism, collections of letters, diaries and reportage.

Course details

Component 1 – Voices in Speech and Writing- 40% of A level grade

Written examination consisting of two sections.

Open book examination – a clean copy of the prescribed drama text can be taken into the exam.

Section A: Voices in 20th- and 21st century Texts

One comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th- or 21st century sources and one text from the anthology.

The unseen extract will be taken from a genre which has been studied in the anthology – for example, speeches, diaries, articles and so on.

Section B: Drama Texts

One extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text.

- The assessment is 2 hours 30 minutes.
- The assessment consists of eight questions. Students answer two questions.
- The assessment consists of 50 marks – 25 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B.

Component 2 – Varieties in Language and Literature- 40% of A level grade

Written examination consisting of two sections.

Open book examination – clean copies of the prescribed texts can be taken into the exam.

Section A: Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts

One essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract from a choice of four. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme.

Section B: Prose Fiction and Other Genres

One comparative essay question from a choice of four on one prose fiction 'anchor' text and one other text from a theme.

- The assessment is 2 hours 30 minutes.
- The assessment consists of eight questions. Students answer two questions.
- The assessment consists of 50 marks – 20 marks for Section A and 30 marks for Section B.

Component 3 – Investigating and Creating Texts- 20% of A level grade

Assessment consists of two assignments.

- Assignment 1: two pieces of original writing; one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing (AO5 assessed).
- Assignment 2: one analytical commentary reflecting on their studied texts and the two original writing pieces they have produced.

Advisory word counts:

Total for assessment: 2500–3250 words.

Assignment 1 total: 1500–2000 words

Assignment 2 total: 1000–1250 words

- Internally assessed, externally moderated.
- The assessment consists of 60 marks – 36 marks for the writing pieces and 24 marks for the commentary.
- Assignments must be submitted at the end of the course.

Career prospects

English Language and Literature is a good foundation for any arts-based university course, or for university admissions involving a science discipline where a breadth of knowledge and experience is favoured. English Language and Literature is particularly suitable for careers where the ability to communicate ideas clearly and coherently is of prime importance, for example: Law, Journalism, Broadcasting, Teaching, Personnel Work, Theatre, Advertising and many other professions.

Mathematics

Course outline

Mathematics has wide applications from areas such as business and finance to industry, science and technology. A qualification in mathematics can help you towards a future career in these areas and others. There is currently a national shortage of qualified mathematicians.

Course details

Pure Mathematics Proof, Algebra & functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences & series, Trigonometry, Exponentials & logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors.	Statistics and Mechanics Statistical sampling, Data presentation & interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing. Quantities and units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws.
Examination A Level	
PAPER 1 and 2- Pure Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Proof, Algebra & functions- Coordinate geometry- Sequences & series- Trigonometry- Exponentials & logarithms- Differentiation- Integration- Numerical methods- Vectors Each paper worth 33.33% of the A Level grade	PAPER 3- Statistics and Mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Statistical sampling- Data presentation & interpretation- Probability- Statistical distributions- Statistical hypothesis testing- Quantities and units in Mechanics- Kinematics- Forces and Newton's laws- Moments 33.33% of the A Level grade

Career prospects

Degrees in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Astronomy, Engineering, and Computer Science often tend to require Mathematics A-Level. Many others, including Medicine, Architecture and Social Sciences, have a certain amount of mathematical or statistical content and your Mathematics A-Level will be of great assistance to you.

Biology B

Course outline

Biology is the study of life. It gives you a better understanding of the world around you and the interdependent nature of living organisms. People who study Biology may go on to study a related subject, such as Medicine or Zoology, while others go into different fields. Whatever path you take it is a rewarding and challenging course. Biology is an academic A level and compliments a wide combination of other subjects, especially Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Psychology.

Course details

All exams are taken at end of year 13.

Paper 1 Advanced Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics Topic 1: Biological Molecules Topic 2: Cells, Viruses, and Reproduction of Living Things Topic 3: Classification and Biodiversity Topic 4: Exchange and Transport Topic 5: Energy for Biological Processes Topic 6: Microbiology & Pathogens Topic 7: Modern Genetics A written paper of 1hr 45 mins (30% of final A-Level grade)	Paper 2 Advanced Physiology, Evolution, and Ecology Topic 1: Biological Molecules Topic 2: Cells, Viruses, and Reproduction of Living Things Topic 3: Classification and Biodiversity Topic 4: Exchange and Transport Topic 8: Origins of Genetic Variation Topic 9: Control Systems Topic 10: Ecosystems A written paper of 1hr 45 mins (30% of final A-Level grade)	Paper 3 General and Practical Principles in Biology This paper will include questions from Topics 1 -10 written paper of 2hr 30 mins (40% of final A-Level grade)
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Career prospects

Biology is a good choice if you intend on a career path in a Health or Clinical profession such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy or Pharmacy; or other related areas such as Zoology, Biological Sciences and Marine Sciences.

Business

Course outline

Business at this level encompasses many disciplines and covers different forms of organisations and business activity. This course aims to make you think critically about business, in terms of both their positive and negative aspects. This course integrates ideas drawn from various disciplines, including Economics, Accounting, Law, Politics, Sociology, and Psychology.

Course details

Theme 1 Marketing and People Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Customer needs● The market● Marketing mix● Managing people● Entrepreneurs	Theme 2 Managing Business Activities Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Raising, planning and managing finance● Resource management● External influences
Theme 3 Business Decisions and Strategy Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Objectives and strategy● Business growth● Decision-making techniques● Assessing competition● Managing change	Theme 4 Global Business Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Globalisation● Global markets● Business● Expansion● Global marketing● Multinationals

Examination A Level		
Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global businesses Written examination 2 hours from themes 1 and 4 (35% of final A-Level grade)	Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy Written examination 2 hours from themes 2 and 3 (35% of final A-Level grade)	Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment Written examination from all themes (30% of final A-Level grade)

Career prospects

Many students use their Business Studies A-Level to go directly into employment in a related field of work. When combined with Economics, Mathematics, Information Communication Technology, Sociology or English it makes a strong combination for a number of related degrees in many fields of Management, Finance, Law and Economics.

Physics

Course outline

Studying Chemistry should be a practical experience for students. There are practical activities embedded in each unit to reflect the nature of Chemistry. A strong mathematical ability is a requirement as there are many stoichiometry calculations at both AS and A Levels. The aim of this course is to increase the enjoyment and understanding of Chemistry together with providing students with the skills needed to study science at higher levels. It enables motivating, contemporary Chemistry contexts to be learnt and students study aspects of Chemistry that are often in the media and affect their lives including climate change, green Chemistry, pharmaceuticals & Chemistry research.

Course details

There are 11 topics covered in the AL Physics course that will cover knowledge, understanding and skills:

- Mechanics
- Materials
- Waves
- Electricity
- Further Mechanics
- Fields
- Particle Physics
- Thermodynamics
- Radiation
- Oscillations
- Cosmology

A Level Exams:

Paper 1 – Advanced Physics I (30% of A level)

Paper 2 – Advanced Physics II (30% of A level)

Paper 3 – General and Practical Principles in Physics (40% of A level)

Career prospects

Physics can lead to a wide range of courses and degrees. It is usually essential for any engineering degree. Students could use Physics to support other qualifications or progress onto further studies or employment, ranging from the Higher National Diplomas to degree courses. Physics relates to courses in the Sciences, Medicine, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Engineering and Biotechnology.

Chemistry

Course outline

Chemistry is all around us is linked to everything that we do. How we cook and eat food, how vehicles are fueled, medication we take when we are sick, clean water we drink and clothes that we wear, and air are a few examples of how we use chemistry in our daily lives. Studying chemistry will help you get a deeper understanding about the intrinsic ways that chemistry is all around us. Studying Chemistry at A level compliments other subjects such as Biology, Physics, Math's and Psychology and can lead to a wide variety of careers including pharmacy, medicine, forensics, engineering, biotechnology, teaching and research.

Course details

Paper 1 – Advanced inorganic and physical chemistry (30% of A level) 1h 45 minutes; 90 marks

- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding and structure
- Redox I & II
- Inorganic chemistry and the Periodic Table
- Formulae, equations and amounts of substance
- Energetics I & II
- Equilibrium I & II
- Acid-base equilibria
- Transition metals

Paper 2 – Advanced organic and physical chemistry (30% of A level) 1h 45 minutes; 90 marks

- Bonding and structure
- Formulae, equations and amounts of substance
- Organic chemistry I, II & III
- Modern analytical techniques I & II
- Kinetics I & II

Paper 3 – General and practical principles in chemistry (40% of A level) 2h 30 minutes; 120 marks

- All topics
- Written assessment of practical skills

Career prospects

This course can facilitate you in getting accepted into university courses such as Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Environmental chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry and Polymer and Materials chemistry and can lead to a range of careers as varied as medicine, dentistry, forensic chemistry, geochemistry, R & D management, pharmacy, chemical engineering, petroleum engineering and perfumery and teaching.

Portuguese

Course outline

Our A level qualifications are designed to be appealing and engaging to students, while preparing them for future study and work.

The qualification has a clear structure, which will enable students to develop advanced-level, transferable language alongside a deeper cultural appreciation of lusofonia and the Portuguese speaking culture. There is an emphasis on promoting understanding of grammar to allow spontaneous, creative use of language to suit different purposes. The themes are engaging and relevant, combining familiar and new content. Popular texts and films have been chosen, both classical and contemporary.

Course details

Specification content is now based around social, political and cultural themes, relating to the Portuguese language, culture and communities. This will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the culture related to their language of study, and ensure smooth progression to further study. Themes 1, 3 and 4 focus on aspects of the society and politics of Portugal only. Theme 2 focuses on artistic and political culture in the wider Portuguese-speaking world. Students will study four themes:

- Theme 1: Changes in the contemporary society
- Theme 2: Artistic and political culture in the Portuguese-speaking world
- Theme 3: Migration
- Theme 4: How history shaped politics

Assessment structure

Paper 1	Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (research question) in Portuguese	2 hours 30 minutes	40%
Paper 2	Translation into Portuguese and written response to works	2 hours 40 minutes	30%
Paper 3	Listening, reading and writing in Portuguese	2 hours 15 minutes	30%

Career prospects

Having an A Level in Portuguese means that you are a rare gem. You instantly stand out from others as you have taken the time and put in the effort to learn someone else's language at a higher level. Language graduates can follow careers in interpreting, translating, international relations, humanitarianism, education, foreign language intelligence etc. Language study provides you with a wide range of transferable skills that will be a benefit to any employer.

Business

Course outline

The Business course is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society. Students will study key contemporary developments, such as, digital technology and business ethics, and globalisation. Real-life case studies are used to make it easier for students to relate to and apply their knowledge and skills developed throughout the course.

The course will look at starting and growing businesses, business operations, marketing, finance and human resources as well as business strategy and planning.

Theme 1: Marketing and people Students will develop an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meeting customer needs• the market• marketing mix and strategy• managing people• entrepreneurs and leaders.	Theme 2: Managing business activities Students will develop an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• raising finance• financial planning• managing finance• resource management• external influences.
Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• business objectives and strategy• business growth• decision-making techniques• influences on business decisions• assessing competitiveness• managing change.	Theme 4: Global business This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• globalisation• global markets and business expansion• global marketing• global industries and companies (multinational corporations).

Course details

Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (35% of the total qualification)

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy (35% of the total qualification)

Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment (30% of the total qualification)

Career prospects

After studying Business at A Level, students often go onto studying at degree level. A degree in Business opens up careers in areas such as: Accountancy, Advertising, Banking, Investment and Financial Services, General Management, HR/Personnel, Management Consultancy, Public Relations, Retail Management, Sales and Marketing.

Spanish

Course outline

A Level Spanish is a two-year course. All exams are taken at the end of the second year. This course encourages a deeper understanding of Spanish society and culture. Students will develop their fluency in speaking and writing through the study of various topics, a book and a film in Spanish.

Specification content is now based around social, political and cultural themes, relating to the Spanish language, culture and communities. This will enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the culture related to their language of study and ensure smooth progression to further study. The themes and assessment model are also designed to promote the development of transferable skills.

Theme 1 The development of Spanish society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The changing family structure• World of work• Impact of tourism in Spain	Theme 2 Political and artistic culture in Spanish speaking countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music• Media• Festivals and traditions
Theme 3 Immigration and multicultural society in Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The positive effect of immigration• The challenges of immigration and integration• The state and social reaction to immigration	Theme 4 The Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The civil war and the rise of Franco• The Franco dictatorship• The transition from dictatorship to democracy
Grammar <p>A Level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course -</p>	
Literary texts and films <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must study one text and one film from a prescribed list	
Individual research project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken.• They must select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources including the internet.• The aim of the research project is to develop research skills.• Students may choose a subject linked to one of the themes or sub-themes or to one of the works.	

Course details

Paper 1	Listening, reading and translation Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4	2 hours	40%
Paper 2	Written response to works and translation Literary works/film	2 hours 40 minutes	30%
Paper 3	Speaking (internally conducted and externally assessed) Independent research, plus Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4	21–23 minutes, including 5 minutes' preparation time	30%

Career prospects

Language graduates can follow careers in interpreting, translating, international relations, humanitarianism, education, foreign language intelligence etc. Language study provides you with a wide range of transferable skills that will be a benefit to any employer.

Sociology

Course outline

Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology encourages learners to think sociologically about contemporary social, cultural and political issues. The syllabus provides opportunities to explore key concepts and debates that underpin the discipline of sociology and to develop the skills of interpretation, application, analysis and evaluation while studying a range of stimulating topics and real-world issues. Our approach in Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology encourages learners to be:

Confident, communicating sociological ideas and arguments to others, and exploring contemporary social issues with maturity and insight

Responsible, recognising the importance of culture and community and able to appreciate cultural differences and alternative perspectives on social issues

Reflective, reviewing and refining their skills of analysis and evaluation and drawing connections between specific examples and wider issues~

Innovative, developing informed views about real-world issues, and an ability to think sociologically to understand problems and respond to questions

Engaged, learning through independent study and collaboration; debating issues and using research findings to tackle sociological questions.

Course details

Paper 1 Socialisation, identity and methods of research 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions Section B: one essay (26 marks) from a choice of two Externally assessed 25% of the A Level	Paper 2 The Family 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions Section B: one essay (26 marks) from a choice of two Externally assessed 25% of the A Level
Paper 3 Education 1 hour 15 minutes 50 marks Candidates answer four compulsory questions. Question 4 is an essay (26 marks). Externally assessed 20% of the A Level	Paper 4 Globalisation, Media and Religion 1 hour 45 minutes 70 marks Candidates answer two essay questions (35 marks each). Section A: Globalisation Section B: Media Section C: Religion Each section has two essay questions. Candidates select one question from two different sections. Externally assessed 30% of the A Level

Career prospects

Students of Sociology go on to study a hugely diverse range of higher education courses, including degrees in Journalism, Business, Philosophy, Social Science, Teaching and Social Work.

Physical Education

Course outline

PE is a two-year course. The syllabus consists of four components detailed below:

Component 1: Scientific Principles of Physical Education includes two topics:

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology

Topic 2: Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis

Component 2: Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education includes 3 topics:

Topic 3: Skill acquisition

Topic 4: Sport psychology

Topic 5: Sport and society

Component 3: Practical Performance - skills performed in one physical activity as a player/performer or as a coach

Component 4: Performance Development Programme - in the role of player/performer or coach analyse two components of a physical activity. They will also analyse, implement and evaluate a Performance Development Programme

Course details

The written assessments consist of short, long and extended answer questions in component 1 and 2. Component 3 and 4 are both assessed internally and moderated externally.

Career prospects

Possible career pathways for those with A Level PE include Match Analyst, Nutritionist, Journalist, Sports Development Officer, Physiotherapist, Sport Teaching/Lecturing and many more. For those with career aspirations elsewhere, A Level PE has many commonalities with a number of other courses and is complimented particularly well by Biology, Psychology, History and to a lesser extent Mathematics and Physics. Physical Education courses also provide future applicants with evidence of the development of their social and interpersonal skills which are often not accessible courses and always looked upon favourably by employers and admissions officers.

Art & Design

Course outline

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art and Design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

Alongside improving your practical expertise, you'll learn how to:

- Develop, refine and record your ideas
- Present a personal response that realises your intentions
- Improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies
- Successfully use visual language and the formal elements (colour, line, form, shape, tone and texture)
- Use drawing skills for different needs and purposes.

Course details

Component 1- Personal Investigation (60%)

Part 1: practical work (72 marks)

- From personal starting points
- Students submit:
 - supporting studies
 - personal outcome(s)

Part 2: personal study (18 marks)

- Students submit a piece of continuous prose of a minimum of 1000 words

Total marks available: 90

Component 2- Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- Externally-set, broad-based theme released to teachers and students on 1 February.
- Sustained focus period of 15 hours of controlled assessment in which students create final response(s) to the theme.
- Students submit:
 - preparatory studies
 - personal outcome(s)

Total marks available: 72

Career prospects

Studying A level Art can lead to further Art courses and careers in areas like: Interior Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, Fashion, Photography, Illustration, Concept Art, Digital Art, Game Design, Film & Media Production, Fine Art, Theatre & Stage Design and Make Up Artistry.