



# Swanlea Sixth Form Course Information Booklet





# Physical Education

## Why study it?

*"I always felt that my greatest asset was not my physical ability, it was my mental ability." - Bruce Jenner - Decathlon Olympic Gold Medal Winner 1976*

The course is for people that want to apply their academic strengths to the real world. This course is about developing scientific, psychological and sociological principles whilst placing them in sporting situations. Moreover students will develop coaching roles, officiating and practical performance.

In 2010, sport and sport-related activity generated a Gross Value Added of £20.3 billion to the English economy – 1.9% of the England total. Sport ranks above insurance, telecoms and accounting as the industry with the highest added value to the UK economy according to the Economic value of sport in England (June 2013). You can be a part of this increasingly growing sector of the British economy by completing the A Level Physical Education course.

## Entry requirements

- Grade B in GCSE PE
- Grade C in English and Science

## What will I learn?

**At AS Level** - Anatomy and Physiology: The skeletal and muscular systems-motion and movement. The cardiovascular and respiratory systems in relation to the performance of physical activity.

Acquiring Movement Skills: Classification of motor skills and abilities; the development of motor skills information processing; motor control of skills in physical activity; learning skills in physical activity.

Opportunities for participation: relating to participation in physical activity: sport and culture; contemporary sporting issues.

**At A Level** - Evaluating Contemporary Issues: Sport in pre and post-industrial Britain; the development of school sport; The Olympics.

Sports Psychology: individual aspects of performance; group dynamics of performance and audience effects; mental preparation for physical activity.

Exercise and Sport Physiology: energy; health components of physical fitness; application of the principles of training; performance enhancement.

## Assessment

**At AS Level** - 60% of the AS Level is based on performance in the summer examination; 40% is based on practical performance, coaching and/or officiating in two sporting activities.

**At A Level** - 60% of the A Level is based on performance in the summer examination. 40% is based on practical performance, coaching and/or officiating in one sporting activity and an oral assessment of an individual sports performer.



## Future opportunities

A Level PE provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers or higher education courses in:

- teaching
- coaching
- medicine
- physiotherapy
- sports development
- the leisure industry
- recreational management
- health
- leisure and fitness
- sports science
- public services
- professional sport.





# BTEC Health & Social Care

## Why study it?

It is predicted that by 2020 the Health and Social Care sector will be the largest employment sector in the UK. The NHS is already England's largest employer with over 1.4 million staff. A qualification in Health and Social Care will allow you to become part of an expanding and dynamic sector which needs psychologists, nurses, bio medical scientists and paramedics to name only a few of the career opportunities available.

Studying Health and Social Care will allow you to develop real world experience through extensive work placements. You will directly benefit from putting theory into practice and will be given the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and subject expertise.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade C in English Language and Maths.
- BTEC grade PASS or GCSE grade C in Science.

## What will I learn?

Level 3 comprises of 180 credits, covered in 18 units and equivalent to 3 A levels. They can be roughly broke n down into 3 disciplines: Sociology, Psychology and Biology. There is also a strong literacy component to Health and Social Care and you will be taught to read and write academically.

Units of study include:

- Psychological Perspectives for Health and Social Care
- Equality, Diversity and Rights
- An Introduction to Counseling skills
- Applied Sociological Perspectives
- Nutrition
- Social Policy
- Academic Literacy for Health and Social Care
- Health Psychology
- Anatomy and Physiology

## Assessment

BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care is 100% coursework, there are no exams.

## Getting prepared

Level 3 Health and Social Care is an intensive course that requires commitment from students to work independently. Prepare yourself by reading the Social Care section of the Guardian newspaper weekly.

You may also benefit from gaining work experience in a Health and Social Care setting before you begin the course.

## Future opportunities

A BTEC in Health and Social Care can give students a competitive edge when applying for university due to the large amount of work experience students do and because of the wide range of independent study skills students develop.

Students go on to a wide range of university courses such as: Psychology, Social Science, Social



## Future opportunities (cont.)

Work, Town Planning and education related degrees.

You can go to Russel group universities with a BTEC qualification too – currently over 50% of students at UK universities have at least one BTEC qualification at level 2 or level 3.

Popular careers with Health and Social Care include:

- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Youth work
- Police Force
- Teaching
- Nursing
- Social Work

## Recommended reading

- Sociology Review (Journal)
- Psychology Review (Journal)
- Nursing Times (Journal)
- The Casual Vacancy – JK Rowling
- Before I go to Sleep – S J Watson
- The Children Act – Ian McEwan





# Religious Studies

## Why study it?

The study of Philosophy and Ethics at A Level is engaging, academically rigorous and excellent preparation for a wide range of courses at degree level. The subject involves a study of philosophical, theological and ethical theories which underpin and structure our world today. An understanding of these ideas is essential to an informed and nuanced engagement with key themes in politics, law, medicine, education, human rights and religion.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language and Religious Studies GCSE.

## What will I learn?

The course will focus on western philosophy including discussions on the arguments for and against the existence of God, differing views on how the world was created, discussions about the nature of religious language and how it can be used to prove and disprove God. We look at how religion influences day to day life and the choices that people make in light of their religious beliefs.

In ethics you will compare and contrast different theories on 'how to be good' applied to ethical dilemmas such as human experimentation. You will question whether you are truly free and what role the conscience plays in moral behaviour. We cover a range of normative ethical theories that are religious and non-religious including Kantian Ethics, Bentham and Mill and hybrid ethical systems such as Aristotle's Virtue Ethics.

## Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus which is assessed through 100% examinations. These exams will contain a mixture of explanation and evaluation questions.

## Getting prepared

You should read a range of books that consider ethical and philosophical opinions – please see the list below. Joining a debating society or discussion group would also be excellent preparation as well.

## Future opportunities

An A Level in Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and is excellent preparation for degrees in Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, PPE, Sociology and Law. Graduates in these subjects may go on to careers in Law, Civil Service, Foreign Office and Teaching. The Ethical theories studied in this A Level are also highly relevant to degrees in Medicine, Science and Business.

## Recommended reading

- Virtue Ethics by R Crisp & M Slote
- Utilitarian Ethics by A. Quinton.
- Moral Problems in Medicine: A Practical Coursebook by M Palmer
- Practical Ethics by Peter Singer
- Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong by L.J Pojman
- Sophie's World by J. Gaarder





# Geography

## Why study it?

Yes. We will be going abroad for our Geography fieldwork at A Level, but Geography is more important than that:

*"So many of the world's current issues – at a global scale and locally - boil down to Geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming as it affects countries and regions, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils from over-use and misuse, the spread of disease, the causes and consequences of migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities."*

Michael Palin CBE- Writer, Presenter and Explorer

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in Geography
- GCSE grade B in English

## What will I learn?

A Level Geography will enable you to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply your own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around you, and to help prepare you to succeed in your chosen pathway.

The specification Swanlea delivers offers an issues-based approach to studying Geography, enabling you to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, energy and water insecurity and climate change.

The specification content gives you the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human Geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become a critical, reflective and independent learner. The skills will prepare you well for the rigour of degrees in any of the sciences, humanities or social sciences (sociology, psychology, government and politics).

## Assessment

This specification has four equally weighted content components (25%), offering both compulsory and optional content, assessed through three external exams and one piece of internally assessed fieldwork.

- Paper 1- Physical Geography: 2 hours- 25%
- Paper 2- Human Geography: 2 hours- 25%
- Paper 3- Synoptic: 1 hour 45- 25%
- Fieldwork- Independent Investigation- 25%

## Getting prepared

If you have had a year when you have not studied Geography then use the summer holidays to look back over your GCSE work as much of the A Level content relates to this. Take an interest in the news as Geography is in the news every day. Read a news website, BBC news for example. Go to [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com) and read their online articles.



## Future opportunities

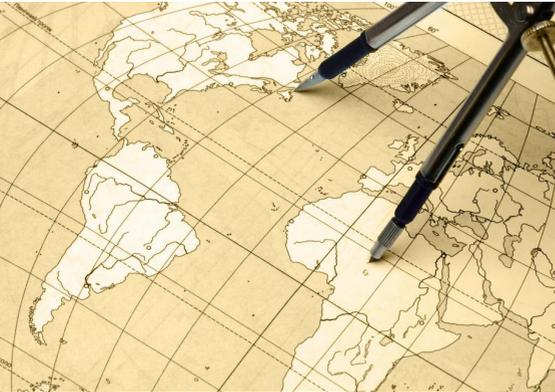
### GEOGRAPHY IS THE FUTURE.

The study of Geography stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places. It helps you make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world. It explains where places are, how places and landscapes are formed, how people and their environment interact, and how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.

Geographical enquiry encourages questioning, investigation and critical thinking about issues affecting the world and people's lives, now and in the future. Fieldwork is an essential element of this. You will learn to think spatially and use maps, visual images and new technologies, including geographical information systems (GIS), to obtain, present and analyse information. Geography inspires you to become global citizens by exploring your own place in the world, your values and responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

## Recommended reading

- A world without bees- Alison Benjamin and Brian McCallum
- How many people can the earth support?- Joel Cohen
- The white tiger- Aravind Adiga
- Climate wars- Gwynne Dyer





# History

## Why study it?

Major events and key individuals continue to shape the world we live in. A world war begins, nuclear weapons are used for the first time, African Americans rise up and begin to fight for their rights in America, and women demand the vote across the world. Today we are faced with social, political and economic changes but how do we begin to make sense of this? How do people's attitudes and actions over time contribute to the society we live in, how can we understand the world we inhabit?

History is the study of the past but also the key to understanding contemporary events. It allows us to explore different perspectives and interpretations and to examine the causes and consequences of events. It equips us with the skills to analyse evidence and develop our own arguments. Because of the skills and knowledge acquired during the course, History is a one of the most highly regarded subjects at A level.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in History
- GCSE grade C in English

## What will I learn?

The course covers a range of British and world History allowing you to study both breadth and depth of topics. History also includes a coursework component which allows you to develop essential independent study skills which will prepare you for university.

## Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus which is assessed through 80% examinations and 20% Coursework. These exams will be essay based and so it is essential you have strong written communication.

## Getting prepared

Read some of the books on the recommended reading list. Subscribe to History Today and make the effort to visit the free museums and exhibitions in London. Familiarise yourself with the AQA History syllabus units 1J and 2N.

## Future opportunities

A level History offers you a strong foundation of academic study and a wealth of opportunities in further education and your future career. History is a facilitating subject. It is a highly regarded subject by universities and employers and allows you entrance into careers such as law, journalism, government, media, finance, teaching and a broad range of other professions.

## Recommended reading

- M Chamberlain, *The Scramble for Africa*, Longman, 2010
- A Jackson, *The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP, 2013
- B Porter, *The Lion's Share: A History of British Imperialism 1850-2011*, Routledge, 2012
- C Corin & T Fiehn, *Communist Russia under Lenin and Stalin*, Hodder, 2002
- D Evans, *Stalin's Russia*, Teach Yourself, 2005

# History





# Government & Politics

## Why study it?

As a UK and world citizen, politics affects every aspect of our lives. From economic and political systems, political ideologies, international relations to democracy and parliament. Politics is a relevant program of study that equips you with strong written communication as well as the ability to build arguments and debate. You will learn about the UK political system and the political theories that underpin the world we live in.

Government and Politics encourages critical thinking and the exploration of competing points of view. It also requires you to keep up to date with current affairs.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language

## What will I learn?

At AS level you will learn about politics in the UK. Democracy and the people, how much freedom we have as individuals and the assertion of our human rights. You will evaluate the powers of Prime minister and Parliament as well as the election process in the UK. You will explore different pressure groups and examine key political parties and their policies. In addition to this you will explore the role of the judiciary looking at key legal case studies.

At A2 we examine different ideologies such as socialism, liberalism, multi-culturalism and anarchism. We critique these theories by comparing and contrasting different beliefs and views and how they apply in world politics. We encourage critical thinking, debate and discussions throughout the course.

## Assessment

We study the Edexcel course and you will sit 100% exam. You will sit an AS exam in Y12 and an A2 exam in Y13 which will combine to give you an overall A level grade.

## Getting prepared

Watching the news and current affairs programmes is a great place to start. Read broadsheet newspapers and magazines like The Economist. Practice coming up with and explaining your own opinion. This is a fundamental skill in Government and Politics.

## Future opportunities

Many of our students have gone on to further study in courses such as Law and International Relations. Government and Politics also combines well with other subjects such as History and Economics at university level.



## Recommended reading

- B Coxall, L Robins and R Leach, Contemporary British Politics (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003)
- J Kingdom, Government and Politics in Britain: an Introduction (Polity, 2003),
- Politics Review, published by Philip Allan Updates four times in each annual volume (September, November, January and April) is the most widely used journal for students of

AS and A-level Government and Politics. It contains a wealth of relevant articles, factual summaries and examination guidance and is available as a competitively priced student subscription.

- Many useful articles can also be found in more mainstream publications such as the Economist.





# Sociology

## Why study it?

Sociology is an immensely challenging and exciting discipline. Its aim is to understand how societies work. It investigates the structures and cultures of different societies throughout the world and throughout history. When you study sociology you will acquire the knowledge and skills to analyse society in the United Kingdom in the 21st Century. You will also gain an understanding of the theories and concepts which form a key part of the current debate about contemporary society and the critical changes taking place.

Sociology will certainly help you to help make sense of your own experiences in society. It can give you new ways of seeing the social world around you. You will also develop the necessary skills to enable you to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on a careful consideration of evidence.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language.
- It is also desirable to achieve a grade B or C in an associated Humanities subject such History, Geography or RE.

## What will I learn?

In Year 12, you will study:

Paper 1 – Education with Methods in Context

- Do children from different social and ethnic backgrounds have an equal and fair chance at school?
- Why do girls do better than boys in exams?
- How do Sociologists research society and in particular the education system?

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology (Families and households)

- Why do we live in families?
- Are women and men equal in families?
- How much power and influence do children have in their families?

In Year 13, you will study:

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology (Beliefs in Society)

- Why do young people have an increasingly low level of participation in religion?
- What are sects and cults?
- Is there an increase in fundamentalism and why?

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- What is crime? How is it different from deviance?
- Who breaks the law and why?
- Is the criminal justice system racist?
- What are sociological perspectives?
- How do sociologists research society and human behaviour?

## Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus which is assessed through 100% examinations. These exams will contain a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.



## Getting prepared

Watching the news and current affairs programmes. Read broadsheet newspapers like the Guardian and Independent. Look at the British Sociological association website for relevant sociological studies, research and lectures. If you can join up to Sociology review online and begin to read about contemporary social issues that would be highly beneficial. Familiarise yourself with the AQA Sociology syllabus via the AQA website.

Begin to observe people's interactions critically, e.g. between youths, in different situations and link their behaviour to social institutions in society such as the family, religion, media or criminal justice system.

## Future opportunities

A Level Sociology provides a good preparation for university as it equips you with the skills needed to succeed in higher education.

It is also important for any career which involves dealing with the general public such as teaching, social work, police and youth work.

Moreover, it is particularly relevant for those working in market research and social science research. Finally, it can lead to careers in advertising, journalism, government policy making, business and law.

## Recommended reading

- Sociology Review
- The Independent
- The Guardian
- The Times
- Barker, E. Making of a Moonie
- Durkheim E. Suicide
- Friedan, B. Feminine mystique
- Greer, G. Female Eunuch
- Griffin, J. H. Black like me
- BBC1 Panorama
- Channel 4 Unreported world
- [www.lse.ac.uk/serials/Bjs](http://www.lse.ac.uk/serials/Bjs)
- [www.mori.com](http://www.mori.com)
- [www.sosig.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.sosig.ac.uk/sociology)
- [www.sociology.org.uk](http://www.sociology.org.uk)
- [www.sociologyonline.co.uk](http://www.sociologyonline.co.uk)
- [www.britisoc.co.uk](http://www.britisoc.co.uk)





# Psychology

## Why study it?

In the 2012 film *Compliance*, ordinary and decent workers in a fast-food diner are persuaded by a policeman to subject a colleague – one of their friends – to increasingly cruel and degrading punishments. Is this a ludicrous film story, or a frighteningly plausible chain of events? Why is somebody in a room with a mirror less likely to pick up and pocket a £20 note lying on the floor than somebody in a room without a mirror? Why if four people stand on the pavement and look skywards do others join them and also look upwards, but if only one person does so then no one else joins in?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. A-Level Psychology will help you start to understand not only why we all behave so differently but also why so often we behave so predictably.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade A in English Language.
- GCSE grade B in Mathematics.

## What will I learn?

The course covers a range of theories explaining behaviour. You examine the individual studies that have been completed to test whether these theories are sensible and useful, and the degree to which they help us understand behaviour.

One of the first topics you will study, Memory, is an example of cognitive psychology. It includes two theories that explain how long and short term memory works: these mean that the evidence of eye witnesses might be flawed when used in a court room. Memory techniques that can be applied to your revision are also covered.

A developmental psychology topic, Attachment, is also studied: attachment is the process by which an infant forms a bond with a primary caregiver. The consequences of the success or failure of this relationship are studied in detail. Social Psychology covers two of the most famous research in Psychology: Milgram's study of obedience and Zimbardo's study of conformity, and how these two factors can influence the behaviour of individuals and, possibly, groups.

Psychopathology looks at definitions that aim to identify who in society might be described as mentally ill, the controversies surrounding this language, and the variety of treatments available. Biological psychology will look at scientific methods for research the brain and nervous system as well as drug treatments and finally biological rhythms.

Throughout you will learn how to take part in psychological debate; looking at the nature vs nurture debate and free will vs determinism. You will also learn the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods; so that you can assess the quality of evidence you are given. You will design and conduct ethical research experiments that will help you mediate between theory and practice, and allow you to analyse data in various forms.

## Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus which is assessed through 100% examinations. These exams will contain a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.



## Getting prepared

Read some of the books on the recommended reading list. Look at the British Psychological Society website and find their "Research Digest" which you can have e-mailed to you once a month: it gives a précis of recent interesting research. Familiarise yourself with the AQA Psychology syllabus.

## Future opportunities

A-Level Psychology is regarded by universities as a Science A-Level. It also allows you to develop your writing and commentary skills. Therefore studying Psychology A Level is excellent preparation for many degree courses. Many students that study Psychology at A Level go on to study Psychology at degree level. After their degree they may take a post graduate qualification in a particular area of Psychology for example, clinical psychology. A post graduate qualification is the first step to becoming a practising Psychologist.

## Recommended reading

- Opening Skinner's Box Lauren Slater
- The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat Oliver Sacks
- Scientific American and New Scientist magazines
- A Very Short Introduction to Psychology
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Mark Haddon
- The Lucifer Effect Philip Zimbardo





# Physics

## Why study it?

Why does the universe behave the way it does? How can an ultrasound create a picture? How fast would you have to travel to fool a speed camera? What force would be necessary to stop a formula one car? What are CERN looking for? These are all questions you can answer by studying Physics.

Physics A Level is one of the most universally accepted qualifications for progression to university. The course content covers the basis of how things work, from the constituent parts of atoms out to the extent of the universe. You will integrate the concepts studied with a range of practical experiments throughout each topic giving the course both an academic and practical focus. You will learn to apply your knowledge of the key concepts to solve problems in a range of different contexts and applications.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE A Grade in Core/Additional Science or B in Single sciences, also B in Maths.
- You must also take Maths A-level alongside A-level Physics.

## What will I learn?

- Physical quantities and units
- Nature of quantities
- Forces in action
- Materials
- Charge and current
- Electrical circuits
- Quantum physics
- Circular motion
- Gravitational fields
- Capacitors
- Electromagnetism
- Medical imaging
- Making measurements and analysing data
- Motion
- Work, energy and power
- Momentum
- Energy, power and resistance
- Waves
- Thermal physics
- Oscillations
- Astrophysics and cosmology
- Electric fields
- Nuclear and particle physics

## Assessment

A Level is covered by three examinations. Total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course. There are a wide range of questions types which include multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

## Getting prepared

A Level is covered by three examinations. Total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course. There are a wide range of questions types which include multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

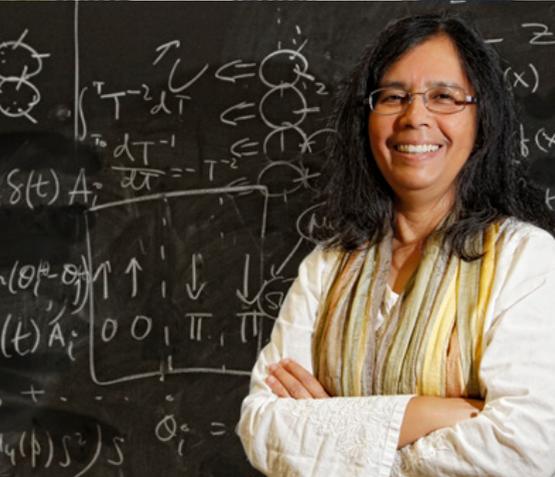
## Future opportunities

Physics opens doors to all STEM degrees, including varieties of Physics, Maths and Engineering. Physics A level can also bring opportunities in advanced apprenticeships in industry, at present these include aerospace, nuclear power generation and electrical power distribution.



## Recommended reading

- How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking by Jordan Ellenberg
- Wizards, Aliens, and Starships: Physics and Math in Fantasy and Science Fiction by Charles L. Adler
- Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges
- The Perfect Theory: A Century of Geniuses and the Battle over General Relativity by Prof. Pedro G. Ferreira
- The Accidental Universe: The World You Thought You Knew by Alan Lightman
- The Science of Interstellar by Kip Thorne
- The Elegant Universe by Brian Green
- Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! by Feynman





# Chemistry

## Why study it?

Why does ice float? Why do people put salt on icy roads? Why do onions make you cry? How does aspirin stop pain in your body? Can you turn lead into gold? These are all questions you can answer by studying Chemistry A Level.

Chemistry A Level will also give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers the key concepts of chemistry and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing. You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE A grade in Science/Additional or B in Single sciences, B in Maths.

## What will I learn?

- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid-base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure
- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Reaction rates and equilibrium
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements
- Organic chemistry
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Emphasis throughout the course is on developing knowledge, competence and confidence in practical skills and problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

## Assessment

There is a total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course. The exams consist of a wide range of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. There is also opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and practical skills through the examinations.

## Getting prepared

Read at least two books from the reading list below to widen your understanding for the context of the course.

## Future opportunities

A Level Chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts. Chemistry can also complement a number of arts subjects.

Chemistry opens doors to a range of career opportunities including chemical, manufacturing



## Future opportunities (cont.)

and pharmaceutical industries and in areas such as forensics, environmental protection and healthcare. The problem solving skills are useful for many other areas, too, such as law and finance.

## Recommended reading

- *Stuff Matters: Exploring the Marvelous Materials That Shape Our Man-Made World* by Mark Miodownik
- *Seven Elements that Changed the World: An Adventure of Ingenuity and Discovery* by John Browne
- *H2O: A Bibliography of Water* by Philip Ball
- *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi
- *The Molecule that made the World* by Nick Lane
- *The Disappearing Spoon* by Sam Kean





# Biology

## Why study it?

Why does your sister look like you? How do medicines work? What is DNA? Do clones exist? Who was Darwin? These are all questions that can be answered by studying Biology A level. A Level Biology will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Biology A highly appealing. You will learn about the core concepts of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will learn to apply your knowledge, investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE A grade in Science/Additional or B in Single sciences, B in Maths.

## What will I learn?

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Biological molecules
- Enzymes
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation
- Transport in animals
- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
- Classification and evolution
- Excretion as an example of homeostatic control
- Hormonal communication
- Photosynthesis
- Cellular control
- Manipulating genomes
- Ecosystems
- Cell structure
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids
- Biological membranes
- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in plants
- Biodiversity
- Communication and homeostasis
- Neuronal communication
- Plant and animal responses
- Respiration
- Patterns of inheritance
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Populations and sustainability

Emphasis throughout the course is on increasing knowledge, developing competence and confidence in practical skills and developing problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society.

## Assessment

Emphasis throughout the course is on increasing knowledge, developing competence and confidence in practical skills and developing problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society.

## Getting prepared

Read at least two books from the reading list below to widen your understanding for the context of the course.



## Future opportunities

A Level Biology is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science. Biology can also complement sports science, psychology, sociology and many more.

A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

## Recommended reading

- Neanderthal Man: In Search of Lost Genomes by Svante Pääbo
- The Invisible History of the Human Race: How DNA and History Shape Our Identities and Our Futures by Christine Kenneally
- Arrival of the Fittest: Solving Evolution's Greatest Puzzle
- The Walking Whales: From Land to Water in Eight Million Years by J. G. M. "Hans" Thewissen
- Almost Like a Whale: The Origin of Species Updated by Steve Jones
- Genome by Matt Ridley





# Maths

## Why study it?

Studying mathematics to an advanced level is a challenging but interesting and enjoyable experience. Students like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a feeling of satisfaction to it. You will find all these aspects in an A level course.

You should also be aware of the wide importance of mathematics, and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics is about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction, calculation within these patterns and structures. When patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country.

## Entry requirements

- B or above for Maths (Higher Tier)
- C or above for English

## What will I learn?

You will learn construction and presentation of rigorous mathematical arguments through appropriate use of precise statements and logical deduction.

You learn how to solve cubic equations in addition to quadratics, you study vectors in three dimensions rather than just two, you explore trigonometry beyond the familiar geometrical context. You will develop your knowledge of probability and statistics from GCSE, so that you can make defensible conclusions in the presence of uncertainty: if you flip a coin ten times and it shows tails every time, would you claim that the coin is fake? Decision Mathematics has become popular in recent decades because of its applications to computer science. Why is quick sort a faster algorithm than a bubble sort? What is the shortest route for a postman to deliver letters to several houses by van and would this change if some roads were one way?

You will study a variety of topics including algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the  $(x, y)$  plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation and integration.

## Assessment

- At AS you will take three exams including Core Mathematics units C1 and C2 plus Statistics 1.
- At A2 you will study Core Mathematics units C3 and C4 plus Mechanics 1.
- All examination papers last 1 hour 30 minutes and each is worth 75 marks. C1 is a non-calculator paper; for all other unit examinations calculators can be used.

## Getting prepared

Students studying AS and A level Mathematics are expected to have covered and mastered all the material in the GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier. This is regarded as basic background knowledge and will not be tested by questions focused directly on it. However, it may be assessed within questions focused on other material from the relevant specification. Therefore it is essential that you are confident in working with A/A\* Number & Algebra topics.



## Getting prepared (cont.)

A secure grasp of GCSE material will give you a very strong foundation for A level study. Aim for an A or A\* grade at GCSE, always attempt the harder questions at the end of practice papers. Develop a confident and accurate understanding of algebra as this is vital for all aspects of A level Mathematics. Do lots of extra practice questions!

## Future opportunities

Those who qualify in mathematics are in the fortunate position of having a wide range of career choices. The ability

- to use logical thought,
- to formulate a problem in a way which allows for computation and decision,
- to make deductions from assumption,
- to use advanced concepts,

are all enhanced by mathematics. For this reason mathematicians are increasingly in demand. With a mathematics degree, you can pursue a career in finance, statistics, engineering, computers, teaching, telecommunications, financial trading and multinational business. This flexibility is even more important today, with the current uncertain economic employment market.

The most recent employment surveys show graduates with a qualification in mathematics or computer science at the top of the income list after graduation.

## Recommended reading

- Any book by: Marcus du Sautoy, Simon Singh and Ian Stewart
- 1089 and All That - David Acheson





# Art

## Why study it?

The world is filled with computers, smartphones, tablets and other portable electronic devices. Almost all businesses have an online presence, with online advertising increasing by the day. We are connected to the internet for long periods, seeking information, socialising, playing, shopping, watching videos and engaging in other forms of online entertainment. The demand for web designers, app designers, software designers, graphic designers, digital illustrators, multimedia artists, video producers, online publishers, animation artists, game designers and many other digital careers is undergoing unprecedented growth.

The National Endowment for the Arts notes that:

A surge in demand for multimedia artists, animators, and illustrators—especially those who are computer – and technology-savvy—is projected for 2018, due to companies' demand for advertising in online and digital formats.

With this in mind, following a creative pathway could put you in a great position for many successful future careers.

During your A Level course you'll find out about a whole range of different media, techniques and processes. From charcoal to computers, you just can't have enough ideas when it comes to expressing yourself. The course is big on hands-on experience too. It's the work you produce that counts.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in Art & Design

## What will I learn?

Art and Design qualifications have a large workload. Students who take the subject must adapt as a matter of survival. While the heavy workload can be an initial shock, those who succeed emerge with the focus, organisational and time management skills that many other students dream of.

The emphasis in this course is learning by doing, so you'll be able to create imaginative personal work. You can choose from six areas of study throughout the course: Fine Art, Graphic Communications, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design, Photography and Art, Craft and Design. In the first year you will produce a portfolio of coursework selected by you and for the externally-set assignment you will create ideas in response to one of the five exciting starting points you will be given. In the second year you will be able to continue with your chosen area of study and create more in-depth coursework and you will be given another externally-set assignment to create ideas in response to one of the eight exciting starting points you will be given.

## Assessment

We follow the AQA specification, which is comprised of 60% coursework and 40% examination. The exam is 20 hours long at the end of Year 13.



## Getting prepared

Visit some of the galleries and museums London has to offer for free over the Summer holidays. Experience Art and Design in all manner of different formats. Take photographs to document your holiday.

Read some of the books on the recommended reading list.

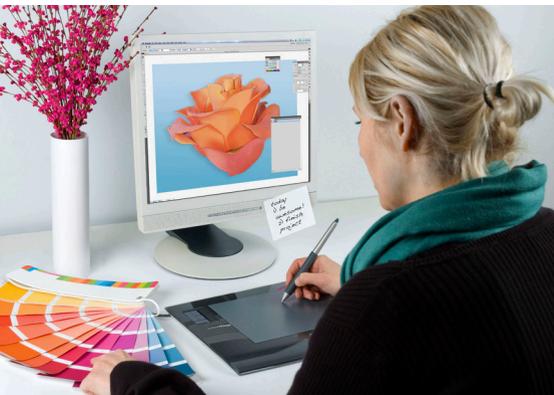
## Future opportunities

Some people have a mathematical brain. Others have strengths in written language. Others excel in creative areas such as Art and Design. If you are lucky enough to excel in two or three of these areas, you are part of a much smaller subset of the population. Those who are multi-skilled are astronomically more useful, well-rounded, hireable and capable of excelling in a much wider range of professions. Unless you are aiming for a degree that requires particular specialism (university websites clearly outline recommended and required subjects), it can be beneficial to select a wide range of subjects.

Many students go on to take higher education in art and design, then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers, photographers to name just a few.

## Recommended reading

- AQA Art & Design Student Handbook published by Nelson Thornes
- The Andy Warhol Diaries Edited by Pat Hackett pub by Warner Books
- The American Leonardo: A Tale of 20th Century Obsession, Art and Money by John Brewer
- I Was Vermeer: The Forger Who Swindled the Nazis by Frank Wynne
- The Shock of the New, by Robert Hughes





# Economics

## Why study it?

As consumers we want lots of goods and services, but there aren't enough resources for everyone to have everything they want. So what goods should we make, how should we make them and to whom should we give them? This is the central economic problem that economists want to solve. In Economics you have to form opinions and think about how to address some of the fundamental changes our societies face.

The department has a long history of delivering outstanding results. All of our students go on to business degrees and significant proportion have moved on to Russell group universities.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language

## What will I learn?

Microeconomics is the study of individuals and firms. You will learn how they make decisions about what to make, what to buy, and at what price. Why does it make sense for train companies to have really high peak time prices? Who should pay for the damage that pollution causes? Should cleaners earn the same amount as doctors, and if not, why not?

In macroeconomics you will look at the bigger picture. You will study what is happening behind the news headlines in the economy as a whole. You will probably have heard words like recession, austerity and inflation, but what do these words mean and why are they important? Should governments aim to make their countries richer, or aim to make their people happier? How do we tackle deep rooted poverty and the problem of unemployment?

Throughout the course you will notice links with other subjects: with science through data analysis, and with Maths when we consider graphs and basic equations. Economics can be very mathematical, but an ability to explain and analyse in excellent written English is near essential. A mathematical way of thinking helps when we use and interpret graphs and it is therefore important that you feel comfortable with that.

There are philosophical and ethical elements to the course: when you learn about economic growth you debate whether happiness is more important than wealth. You will often develop and draw on wider knowledge; for example when considering changes in food prices you will need to think about climate change, population growth and technical advances to understand the whole story.

## Assessment

Economics is taught linearly and you would sit two AS exams in the summer at the end of year 12. Paper 1 is the Introduction to markets and market failure. Paper 2 is The UK economy – performance and policies. To attain the full A level, you would then sit three exams in the summer at the end of year 13. Paper 1 is Markets and business behaviour. Paper 2 is The national and global economy. Paper 3 is Microeconomics and macroeconomics. There are a mixture of shorter questions, data response and essay questions. There is no coursework in economics. Please note that the AS grade does not count towards the A level. The A level grade would be attained purely on the 3 papers you will sit in year 13.



## Getting prepared

Watching the news and current affairs programmes is a great place to start. Read broadsheet newspapers and magazines like The Economist. Practice coming up with and explaining your own opinion. This is a fundamental skill in Economics.

## Future opportunities

Our students will be able to confidently apply for Economics courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as accountancy, banking and business management, investment banking, journalism, government agencies, teaching, overseas employment and more.

## Recommended reading

- The Undercover Economist (Tim Hartford)
- The Logic of Life (Tim Hartford)
- Superfreakonomics (Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner)
- Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness
- (Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein)
- Predictably Irrational (Dan Ariely)





# Business

## Why study it?

Business Studies is one of the most interesting, relevant and varied subjects available. Newspaper and television headlines offer continual reminders of how important the business world is to us all. In recent years much attention has been directed to issues such as fair trade, business ethics, global warming and the credit crunch. You will investigate the success of Apple and Ryanair in comparison to the relative problems faced by other major companies in the economic downturn. The department has a long history of delivering outstanding results. All of our students go on to business degrees and significant proportion have moved on to Russell group universities.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language.

## What will I learn?

You will focus on planning and financing a business, and the key decisions that you will need to take, and also look in detail at managing a business and tackling the issues that may arise. Key topics that we will consider are: finance, people in business, operation management, marketing and competition.

There is also a focus on large businesses which may well be trading internationally. We look at how managers might measure, and more importantly, improve the performance of the business. In the second year you will assess the external factors that can act as catalysts for change, and considers these in relation to a range of businesses. For example, students have studied the impact of the recent UK recession along with social changes and ethics.

## Assessment

Business is taught linearly and you would sit two AS exams in the summer at the end of year 12. To attain the full A level, you would then sit three exams in the summer at the end of year 13. There are a mixture of shorter questions, data response and essay questions. There is no coursework in business. Please note that the AS grade does not count towards the A level. The A level grade would be attained purely on the 3 papers you will sit in year 13.

## Getting prepared

Watching the news and current affairs programmes is a great place to start. Read broadsheet newspapers. Practice coming up with and explaining your own opinion. This is a fundamental skill in business.

## Future opportunities

Our students will be able to confidently apply for business courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as accountancy, banking and business management.



## Recommended reading

- The Entrepreneur's Book of Checklists: 1000 Tips to Help You Start and Grow Your Business (Robert Ashton)
- How I Made It: 40 Successful Entrepreneurs Reveal All (Rachel Bridge)
- My Big Idea (Rachel Bridge)
- Sun Tzu - The Art of War for Managers: 50 Strategic Rules Updated for Today's Business (Gerald A. Michaelson)
- No logo (Naomi Klein)





# BTEC Business

## Why study it?

BTEC's provide a more practical approach to learning. Lessons are made up of a combination of theory and practice. You will use some of your lessons to carry out investigations, work in teams, listening to lectures from external visitors and trips to businesses such as Coca Cola, Cadbury's and car production plants.

The department has a long history of delivering outstanding results. All of our students go on to business degrees and a significant proportion have moved on to Russell group universities.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade C in English language.

## What will I learn?

In marketing you will look at how firms, big and small conduct market research and use it to develop target markets. You will analyse the importance of quantitative data in business and how it helps firms develop marketing strategies at the executive level. In finance you will create all the important documents necessary for a small business start-up. These include a cash flow forecast and breakeven charts. You will also analyse more complex documents such as the trading profit and loss account and the balance sheet. In HR you will analyse the importance of effective recruitment, communication, organisational structures and some theory behind leadership and management. In operations management you will learn about efficient methods of stock control and how this could help lower costs. You will analyse how large firm control costs and why they possess all the cost advantages.

## Assessment

Business is taught over two years. A combination of internal and external assessment is used to determine your final grade. For the internal assessment, you will complete several units of coursework to get your final grade at the end of year 13. You will also sit at least three exams over the two years. There are a mixture of shorter questions, data response and essay questions.

## Getting prepared

Watching the news and current affairs programmes is a great place to start. Read broadsheet newspapers and magazines like The Economist. Practice coming up with and explaining your own opinion. This is a fundamental skill in business.

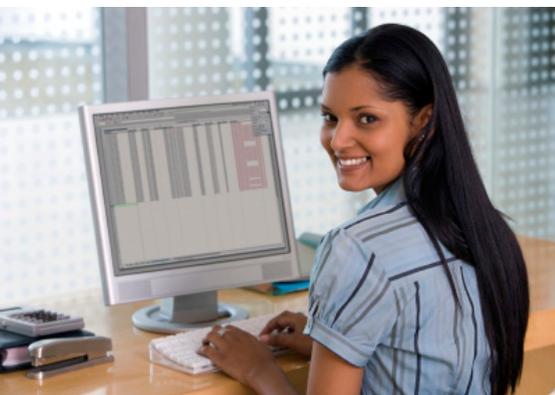
## Future opportunities

Our students will be able to confidently apply for business courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as accountancy, banking and business management.



## Recommended reading

- The Entrepreneur's Book of Checklists: 1000 Tips to Help You Start and Grow Your Business (Robert Ashton)
- How I Made It: 40 Successful Entrepreneurs Reveal All (Rachel Bridge)
- My Big Idea (Rachel Bridge)
- Sun Tzu - The Art of War for Managers: 50 Strategic Rules Updated for Today's Business (Gerald A. Michaelson)
- No logo (Naomi Klein)





# ICT

## Why study it?

- Do you use your computer at home for more than just surfing the net?
- Do you have the patience to work at a problem until you can solve it?
- Do you enjoy Maths?
- Are you curious about how computers really work

In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather process and manipulate data. These skills are now essential as are traditional skills of numeracy and literacy. The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of business and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies. As well as the rapid development of new technologies that gather, organise and share information, familiar technologies like television, telephone and computers are evolving and being expanded by digitised information, causing a convergence of technologies. The course will develop your information management skills and your ability to solve problems using ICT, and also consider these issues from an academic, ethical and social point of view. You will also learn how to tackle major project work by designing and producing your own system to solve a substantial ICT problem.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language.

## What will I learn?

In unit 1, you will gain an understanding of how ICT systems are developed and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding gained, to solve it problems. In unit 2, you will look at the role and functions of ICT, the various issues arising from the use of ICT which affect the individual and society. In unit 3, you will focus on the use and management of ICT in organisations and in unit 4 you will address a significant business problem to create and document a real world ICT solution in consultation with end users.

## Assessment

Assessment on this course is divided into 40% for coursework and 60% for examinations:

Unit 1 – Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World Unit

Unit 2 – Living in the Digital World Unit

Unit 3 – The use of ICT in the Digital World Unit

Unit 4 – Practical Issues with the use of ICT in the Digital World

## Getting prepared

Visiting websites such as [computingweekly.com](http://computingweekly.com)/[Ted.com](http://Ted.com) will allow you to keep in touch with emerging technologies and how these impact organisations and society.

Gain practical experience in using a range of application software e.g. Database & Spreadsheet. This will allow you to understand how ICT systems are developed and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding gained, to design and solve IT problems.

## Future opportunities

Our students will be able to confidently apply for ICT and computing courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as ICT, Business Courses or apprenticeships; Multimedia Design or Business and IT management; Occupations involving IT such as Technical Support, Software development, IT Project Management, Network Manager, Multimedia Designers.

## Recommended reading

- Trigger Happy: The inner life of videogames – (Stephen Poole)
- Accidental Empires – (Robert X Cringely)





# BTEC ICT

## Why study it?

BTECs are industry-led qualifications designed to help you learn more about a particular area of work. As part of the Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT you will discover a range of exciting aspects of ICT that are used in industry. This is a hands on practical course and you will pick up practical skills in areas such as web design, database management, creating digital graphics and installing software and hardware.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of Computer games platforms, computer animation, e-Commerce and technical support in ICT amongst several other exciting units.

The department has a long history of delivering outstanding results. All of our students go on to business degrees and a significant proportion have moved on to Russell group universities.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade C in English language.

## What will I learn?

In marketing you will look at how firms, big and small conduct market research and use it to develop target markets. You will analyse the importance of quantitative data in business and how it helps firms develop marketing strategies at the executive level. In finance you will create all the important documents necessary for a small business start-up. These include a cash flow forecast and breakeven charts. You will also analyse more complex documents such as the trading profit and loss account and the balance sheet. In HR you will analyse the importance of effective recruitment, communication, organisational structures and some theory behind leadership and management. In operations management you will learn about efficient methods of stock control and how this could help lower costs. You will analyse how large firm control costs and why they possess all the cost advantages.

## Assessment

BTEC ICT is taught over two years. A combination of internal and external assessment is used to determine your final grade. For the internal assessment, you will complete several units of coursework to get your final grade at the end of year 13. You will also sit at least three exams over the two years. There are a mixture of shorter questions, data response and essay questions.

## Getting prepared

It would be useful to gain a “hands-on” practical experience of a programming language such as Python. The software is freely available and there are numerous online video tutorials to assist your learning e.g. Youtube.com. This will allow you to develop the thinking skills to effectively analyse a problem and break it down into its component parts.

You could also visit websites such as [computingweekly.com](http://computingweekly.com)/[Ted.com](http://Ted.com) will allow you to keep in touch with emerging technologies and their impacts on everyday life.

## Future opportunities

Our students will be able to confidently apply for ICT and computing courses at university. Following success at university many of them will be able to pursue future careers in areas such as ICT, Business Courses or apprenticeships; Multimedia Design or Business and IT management; Occupations involving IT such as Technical Support, Software development, IT Project Management, Network Manager, Multimedia Designers.

## Recommended reading

- Trigger Happy: The inner life of videogames – (Stephen Poole)
- Accidental Empires – (Robert X Cringely)





# English Literature

## Why study it?

English literature is a broad but highly academic A-level which offers connections to all sorts of cultural and academic studies. It is highly regarded by all the top universities and a good grade at A-level in English literature is seen as a true and accurate indicator of a student's academic ability. Its wide appeal and its status as a top A-level subject makes English literature an ideal choice for any students who wish to study at one of the top Russell Group universities.

When studying English literature at A-level, students will learn about a range of works through the ages from Greek tragedy to 21st century novels. The A-level offers huge opportunities for discussion and thought about the ideas and beliefs that have shaped some of the great works of the English language. A-level English literature students will explore these political, philosophical and historical movements. Familiarity with these critical approaches broaden and deepen a student's knowledge of the ideas that have shaped our culture.

English literature A-level develops and hones written communication skills. Students will learn how to write academic essays and will continue to develop these skills during the course. Literature students are also required to write two coursework essays. These essays require the student to write and research their essays independently. Great skills for any future studies.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language.

## What will I learn?

English literature students at Swanlea will be studying texts within two broad genres: 'Elements of tragedy' and 'Elements of social and protest writing'. In the first component, 'Elements of tragedy', students will explore the nature of the tragic hero or heroine; their flaws; how they suffer and cause suffering; the role of fate; ideas of good and evil. Students will be asked to make connections between texts and identify features that are shared in other tragic texts. In the second component, 'Elements of political and protest writing', students will look at issues of power and powerlessness; rebellion; gender and class struggle. They will be asked to make connections with other texts and identify features that are shared in political and protest texts. In both genres the students will discuss and explore how the small domestic world in the texts reflect the larger issues in the outside world.

The coursework component of the A-level is designed to develop students' independence and their knowledge of literary theory. The coursework provides a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for studying different ways of reading texts. Students are required to write about two different works – one a poem, the second, a novel or play. They will study the texts either through gender/feminist theory, Marxist theory, post-colonial theory or narrative theory. This component allows students to work independently and sharpens and improves their writing skills.

## Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus which is assessed through 80% examinations and 20% coursework.



## Getting prepared

If you are thinking of taking English literature, read some of the books on the recommended reading list. It is important that you enjoy reading books. You are not expected to read a huge amount but you should be able to read the texts on the syllabus independently.

## Future opportunities

English literature is a 'facilitating subject' which means that it is an A-level subject which provides a route to many other subjects at university. English literature can open many subject doors whether it be accountancy, law, the social sciences, philosophy and many more.

## Recommended reading

- The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid's
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
- The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad





# Media Studies

## Why study it?

A Level Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in your daily life. The course introduces you both to media ideas and the practice of production, which gives you the chance to develop a real understanding of media platforms, the contemporary media landscape and the influential role of the media in today's society. You will also become independent in research skills and apply these to your practical work. You will develop your own views and interpretations.

This course helps you develop three relationships with the media. As a 'consumer' you'll become more aware of the many ways in which media messages are presented to us, as well as discovering how the institutions which produce and distribute media products are trying to reach you. And if you want a career in media, producing and evaluating your own media productions will give you a real hands-on understanding of both how media messages are created and what they are aiming to do.

## Entry requirements

- GCSE grade B in English language.

## What will I learn?

You will investigate the media in order to understand and evaluate how meanings and responses are created. The contemporary media landscape and its changing contexts are studied in terms of products, platforms and technologies. You will look more fully at the contexts of media production and consumption – why as well as how texts are created. You will investigate media representation of, e.g. women, ethnic minorities, look at concepts such as reality TV, moral panics, media technology and the digital revolution – changing technologies in the 21st century.

You will analyse media analysis through such concepts as semiotics, Postmodernism and its critiques Politics and the Media, Liberal Pluralism, Audience theories. You will also look at the effects of cross-cultural factors and the effects of globalisation on the media.

## Getting prepared

Take an interest in the media. Ask yourself how are big stories selected to make the news on television or the radio, how does the media sell films and programmes through effective advertising. How do magazines target certain audiences? You must have an open and questioning mind to look at the media critically and beyond the surface images. You must be able to analyse the meaning behind how certain issues are portrayed in the media and be able to accept that there is more than one perspective or critical view.

## Future opportunities

Many students who pursue the study of A level Media go on to study further the Media, Communications, Humanities, the Arts, Business and many others. It is a very good foundation for all types of employment in journalism, advertising or public relations, television & radio, advertising, the film industry and, remember, all modern businesses need an understanding of media for communication and marketing. But an awareness of how the world of media works can also support other careers, such as social work, law, medicine and education. By knowing



## Future opportunities (cont.)

how the media operates you'll be able to decode messages more skilfully, and engage with topics that interest you.

## Recommended reading

- Media Studies: An Introduction – Dutton (Longman)
- Reading Television – Fiske & Hartley (Methuen)
- Women and Soap Opera – Geraghty (Polity Press)
- Ill-Effects: The Media/Violence Debate – Barker & Petley (Routledge)
- Media Studies: The Essential Introduction – Rayner, Wall & Kruger (Routledge)





# BTEC Facts

- 95% of universities accept BTEC.
- Some of the great universities that accept BTEC include; York, UCL, Manchester, London Met, Greenwich, Southbank.
- In 2015, 100,000 BTEC students were accepted into universities across the UK.
- University College London and the Institute of Education, says: "BTEC students have better self-motivation".
- Many university courses prefer BTEC Level 3 because of the extensive work experience that BTEC students have.
- At Oxford University, 30% of students come from a non A-Level background.



## Boys Uniform

- Shirt with collar - t-shirts and polo shirts are not permitted.
- Trousers should be tailored - no jeans or tracksuit bottoms.
- Black or brown shoes - no trainers or canvas shoes.
- Smart jacket - jackets will not be worn inside classrooms.
- Jumper or cardigan - logos are not permitted.
- Hoodies are not permitted.
- Skull caps for religious purposes only - baseball caps or other hats are not permitted.
- Jubbas/Thobhs are not permitted, apart from during prayers.

## Girls Uniform

- Skirt, tailored trousers or dress - jeans, or leggings are not permitted.
- Blouse, shirt or tailored top - tops that expose the abdomen are unacceptable as are tops with logos.
- Black or brown shoes - shoes should not have a stiletto heel, trainers or canvas pumps, flip-flops and boots with trousers tucked in are not permitted.
- Smart jacket - denim jackets are not permitted.
- Smart jumper or cardigan
- Baseball caps or other hats are not permitted
- Head scarfs are permitted.





## How to apply?

Contact the school and request an application form. One will then be sent to you.

**Admissions, Swanlea Sixth Form, 31 Brady Street, London, E1 5DJ**  
**Tel: 0207 375 3267 ext 375**  
**Email: [sixthform@swanlea.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@swanlea.towerhamlets.sch.uk)**