



Poole Grammar School

SIXTH FORM COURSE DIRECTORY 2025

Compassion - Integrity - Motivation
Respect - Teamwork - Wisdom

Hello

We're delighted that you are considering doing your A-levels with us at Poole Grammar. This course directory contains information about each of the courses we offer. For more general information about our sixth form please refer to our prospectus.

Programme of study

Students in our sixth form study three main A-level subjects and an additional fourth subject. In this directory we list all the main A-level subjects first. Information on the fourth subjects are at the end of the document.

Entry requirements

To enter our sixth form students first of all require an average grade of 5.5 across seven subjects at GCSE, including grade 5s in English language and mathematics. Additionally students must meet the subject specific entry requirements of the courses they wish to study. These requirements are given on each subject page in this directory. Students must have been male at birth. Our full admissions policy is available on our website.

How to apply

To apply as a new student from another school please fill in the online form which can be found [on our website](#). Current Poole Grammar students do not need to apply in this way – they just need to follow the options process.

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We have made every effort to ensure the information in this directory is correct at the time of publication (November 2024) but it remains subject to change.

General Information

Work experience

Students undertake one week of work experience in year 12. This often allows them to spend time in a workplace in a sector they are interested in, which can be invaluable for university, apprenticeship or job applications.

Careers education

We have a full time careers advisor to provide timely individual advice and guidance. Students also attend career insight talks from speakers in a wide range of sectors. We are proud as a school to have met all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance.

Study support

Our Academic Support Lead arranges support to help all students achieve the best grades they are capable of. Whether an individual needs a quiet space to work at designated times, guidance on their organisation and time management, or regular tutoring sessions from a peer mentor, we try to ensure no-one is left behind.

We have a dedicated Sixth Form Special Educational Needs and Disabilities room for students who need a smaller and quieter room to study in.

Life skills

Our life skills programme covers essential topics for young people stepping into adulthood, including:

- mental health and wellbeing
- health choices and safety
- readiness for work
- next steps
- financial choices
- respectful relationships
- diversity and inclusion
- intimate relationships

Clubs and societies

Sixth form students are involved in many of our clubs and societies. This is not a comprehensive list. Some other clubs are listed on subject pages in this directory.

Sporting clubs:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI football teams
- Climbing club
- Cross country
- Friday Football
- Mountain biking
- Rugby team

Musical groups:

- Big Band
- Jazz Band
- Orchestra (with Parkstone)
- Various other ensembles

Other clubs:

- Chess Club
- Christian Union
- Debating Society (with Parkstone)
- F24 Greenpower Racing
- Gardening Club
- History and Archaeology
- Historical and Archaeological Research Division
- Medical Society (MedSoc)
- Muse (creative writing)
- Stocks and shares

Students also help lead clubs aimed at younger students, and can set up their own clubs with the support of a member of staff.

Additionally, many subjects run clinics and support sessions as lunchtime clubs for parts of the year.

Trips and activities

Most years there is a sixth form ski trip at February half term.

We hope to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to sixth form students in 2025-26.

Please also see the various trips and similar opportunities offered by individual subject areas.

A-level Art and Design: Fine art

Why choose fine art?

Studying fine art is a particularly rewarding subject for the motivated pupil; it extends across a broad range of disciplines, both theoretical and practical. The course is structured to engage pupils both intellectually and creatively, and they are given the confidence to follow their own diverse lines of enquiry, allowing them to develop high levels of self-motivation through the fostering of independent working practice.

Course content

Through their time on the course students will explore several areas of study within fine art such as drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics and printmaking.

Where does it lead?

Most students who study fine art seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as architecture, advertising, illustration, graphic design and even medical illustration.

Many pupils study Fine Art as a complimentary subject to their main academic focus and gain a great deal of enjoyment and benefit from Art's pupil-centred approach.

Specification

[AQA A-level Art and Design \(Fine art\)](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in art

Assessment

Component 1 (60%): Personal investigation. This comprises a portfolio of art work and a written personal study.

Component 2 (40%): Externally set assignment. After a period of preparation, a fifteen-hour timed assignment takes place.

Both component 1 and component 2 are marked by your teachers and externally moderated by the exam board at the end of the two-year course.

Beyond the classroom

During the course pupils will:

- Visit London to explore the art galleries to research a wide breadth of artists and bring this research to their work.
- Benefit from visiting artists who will run workshops where students can gain in-depth knowledge from experts on a range of different practices.
- Be allocated a dedicated sixth form art room and catch-up sessions during lunchtimes.

A-level Art and Design: 3D design / Graphics

Why choose 3D design or graphics?

Whatever field of design they wish to pursue, students benefit greatly from the freedom to choose project ideas that both suit their skillset and inspire them to great interesting ideas. The course is tailored to individual student needs and a unique and individual approach is highly beneficial to success. Whilst a majority of students choose this A Level because it leads directly to a university course, some students may choose it as a complementary subject to their main academic focus.

Course content

Students choose between two pathways.

Three-dimensional Design: This pathway involves studying architects, product designers and other practitioners in the visual arts. Students work in a variety of ways, using traditional materials and CAD software to create various 3D outcomes such as architectural ideas, innovative products and computer game characters (to name but a few).

Graphic Communication: This pathway involves studying graphic artists and other practitioners in the visual arts. Students work in a variety of ways, using traditional materials such as painting and drawing together with CAD software packages such as Photoshop & Illustrator. Outcomes can encompass the world of advertising, packaging, publishing and web-design.

Where does it lead?

Students who choose the 3D design option of the course are able to pursue careers in architecture, engineering, interior design, product design, visual FX and computer game design. Graphic communication can lead to course in advertising, illustration, graphic design, web design and publishing.

Over the years, students have gained entry to many of the top universities in their respective fields (including architecture at Cambridge).

Specification

[OCR A-level Art and Design \(Three-dimensional design or graphic communication\)](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in art & design or design & technology

Assessment

Component 1 (60%): Personal investigation. This comprises a portfolio of design work and a written personal study.

Component 2 (40%): Externally set assignment. After a period of preparation, a fifteen-hour timed assignment takes place.

Both Component 1 and component 2 are marked by your teachers and externally moderated by the exam board at the end of the two-year course.

Beyond the classroom

To help students gain a greater insight and broaden their knowledge of the world of design, we run an annual trip to London for both Year 12 and 13 students. Here they take photos, sketch from life and gather information as part of the research phase of their project work.

In year 12, students visit the Natural History Museum as part of a project on 'biomimicry'. In Year 13, students have the option to visit either the V&A, Natural History Museum or the Science Museum depending on their choice of project for their external examination.

A-level Biology

Why choose biology?

As you study biology, you will learn about the natural world and the biological processes that underpin it. You will develop understanding of scientific methods, as well as problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. You will be able to make links between different areas of biology, applying biological principles and concepts to unfamiliar contexts.

Course content

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology
Module 2: Foundations in biology
Module 3: Exchange and transport
Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
Module 5: Communication and homeostasis
Module 6: Genetics and evolution

Where does it lead?

Biology is a useful subject to consider if you are interested in natural sciences, zoology, conservation, medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, biochemistry, pharmacy, pathology, horticulture, agriculture, ecology, botany, dentistry, biomedical engineering and environmental science.

It is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating subjects' – so called because choosing them at A-level allows a wide range of options for degree study.

Transferable skills developed would also be useful in a diverse range of careers, such as law, business and psychology.

Specification

[OCR A Level Biology A](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in biology or 6-6 in combined science.

Assessment

Component 1 (37%): Biological Processes. The examination is worth 100 marks. It assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. The question styles include 15 marks of multiple choice and 85 marks of short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions.

Component 2 (37%): Biological Diversity. The examination is worth 100 marks. It assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Structured in the same way as Component 1.

Component 3 (26%): Unified Biology. The examination is worth 70 marks. It assesses content from all modules. Question styles include short answer and extended response questions.

Component 4: Practical Endorsement in biology. This non-exam assessment is teacher assessed. It rewards the development of practical competency and demonstrable techniques. Performance is reported separately.

Beyond the classroom

Students can participate in the British Biology Olympiad, the Intermediate Biology Olympiad, the Peterhouse Kelvin Biological Sciences Essay Competition, and Science Journal Club.

A-level Business

Why choose business?

A-Level Business is an exciting subject that gives you a deep understanding of how the world around you operates. From global brands to start-ups, Business teaches you the strategies behind their success. You'll explore key topics such as marketing, finance, leadership, and operations, all of which are essential for any future career, whether in business or beyond.

Not only will this course build your knowledge of real-world enterprises, but it also develops essential skills like critical thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers alike, making business a great stepping stone to a wide range of career paths, including marketing, management, accounting, or entrepreneurship.

Whether you see yourself working for a top company, running your own business, or just want to be better prepared for the working world, this subject opens doors. It combines practical knowledge with academic challenge, giving you the confidence to succeed in the future.

Course content

Students will begin their studies by firstly understanding what the nature of Business is; stemming from the varying objectives of businesses in the modern world, to working out the cold hard cash value of profits.

Then, students will consider the more strategic side of Business – how firms engage with and prepare for changes in the external environment (interest rates, regulatory changes) in addition to internal challenges; financial, marketing, operations and HR to name a few.

This will not only involve students investigating theories from historical and current academia – but also contextualising study through case-study deep-dives. Ever wondered how Amazon have managed to become the global dominator of the E-Book market? Take Business, and you'll find out!

Specification

[AQA A-Level Business](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in mathematics

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%). Multiple choice questions (15 marks), short answer questions (35 marks), two essays (25 marks each). 2hrs.

Paper 2 (33.3%). Three data response questions, each made up of three or four parts. 2hrs.

Paper 3 (33.3%). One case study followed by approximately six questions. 2hrs.

Where does it lead?

The majority of Business graduates at A-Level continue on to university to study in the field of Business/Economics. Ex-students find their exposure to high-level theory in the classroom useful for academic writing and it prepares them well.

Other students have gone onto degree-apprenticeships at varying institutions; BDO, JP Morgan to name a few. Students are supported throughout the whole application process.

Beyond the classroom

Students engage in the real-world of business through our premium access to the Financial Times, and the journal repository JSTOR.

Stocks and Shares club deepens understanding of the content studied in the classroom and gives insight to the world of investment. Students can join the senior club, and/or can help out as aides for the Year 7 and 8 students in our Junior club!

A-level Chemistry

Why choose chemistry?

A-level Chemistry allows students to develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods. Students become more competent and confident in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. They understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society. Students understand how to use theories, models and ideas to develop scientific explanations.

Course content

Through their time on the course students will study physical, inorganic and organic chemistry.

- Practical work forms an important part of the course, students generally working in pairs
- Textbook theory work
- Mathematical calculations associated with Physical chemistry
- Devising Organic Chemistry synthetic routes
- Learning about the elements, their physical and Chemical properties

Students understand how to use theories, models and ideas to develop scientific explanations. By the end of the course they can use knowledge and understanding to pose scientific questions, define scientific problems, present scientific arguments and scientific ideas.

Where does it lead?

Several students each year pursue Chemistry-related degrees at university, including Oxford for Chemistry and Natural Sciences at Cambridge. Many students use their Chemistry qualification to pursue a range of disciplines including medicine, dentistry and engineering. Chemists go on to work in professional careers such as pharmaceutical industries, accountants, investment bankers, teachers and forensic scientists.

Specification

[AQA A-level Chemistry](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in chemistry

Assessment

Paper 1 (30%): Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry.

Paper 2 (30%): Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry.

Paper 3 (40%): General and practical principles in Chemistry.

Overall, a minimum of 20% of the marks across the three papers will be awarded for mathematics.

Practical endorsement - This qualification will give students opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. These skills must be assessed through a minimum of 12 identified practical activities within each qualification. Performance is reported separately.

Beyond the classroom

Students can attend events including A-level Science Live Chemistry in London and Chemistry Twilight Practical sessions at the University of Southampton.

Students run their own Science Journal Club.

Students can take part in a range of competitions including the Chemistry Olympiad, Oxford university race and Cambridge Chemistry challenge.

A-level Computer Science

Why choose computer science?

In today's technology-driven world, the demand for skilled computer scientists continues to grow across various industries. Studying computer science equips you with technical skills, from programming languages to algorithm design, opening a range of career opportunities.

Course content

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- NEA - the computing practical project

Where does it lead?

Almost every major challenge in the world turns to computer science to solve problems. Medical research, education, aid work in disaster areas, sustainability, logistics, business, and the media all rely on computer science. Computing technology lies at the heart of organisations across all industrial sectors.

Computer Science related jobs include computer programmer, network engineer, cyber security consultant, digital forensics consultant, data analyst, games developer, IT consultant, hardware engineer, database administrator, web developer and UX designer.

Students should note that in order to study computer science at more competitive universities, they will often require A-level maths.

Specification

[AQA A-level Computer Science](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in computer science

Assessment

Paper 1 (40%): 2hrs 30mins, on screen exam. Tests ability to program and topic knowledge.

Paper 2 (40%): 2hrs 30mins, written exam. Tests topic knowledge.

Non-exam assessment (20%): Project testing ability to use knowledge and skills gained to solve or investigate a practical problem

Beyond the classroom

We encourage students to take part in challenges to further their knowledge. The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. The Oxford University Computing Challenge further develops students' skills and encourages them to produce programmed solutions to computational problems. The British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) is a very challenging annual computer programming competition for secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

Each year we visit Bournemouth University for a Computer Science Insight Day so students can experience what it is like to study Computing at degree level. We also run a trip to London to take part in a Computer Science in Action Day where students are given the opportunity to listen to a number of renowned speakers from universities, industries and the media.

A-level Design and Technology

Why choose design & technology?

This A-level enables learners to work creatively when designing and making using wood, metal and plastics. Students learn and apply technical and practical expertise. They gain an insight into the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

Course content

Students learn about product design by studying these topics:

- designing and innovation
- materials and components
- processes
- industrial and commercial practice
- product analysis and systems
- human responsibility
- public interaction – marketing and research.

Students will learn about and work with metal, wood and plastics.

Students complete a design and make project, involving the following stages:

- identifying and investigating design possibilities
- developing a design brief and specification
- generating and developing design ideas
- manufacturing a prototype
- analysing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes

Where does it lead?

Careers and higher education courses include: product design, engineering (mechanical, civil, structural, soil and many more), furniture design, industrial design, interior design, and materials science.

Specification

[Eduqas A-level Design and Technology \(Product Design\)](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in design & technology or art & design if such a subject was taken;

or GCSE grade 6 in mathematics or physics otherwise.

Assessment

Component 1 (50%): Design and Technology in the 21st Century exam. 3 hours.

Component 2 (50%): Design and make project. Non-exam assessment. Approximately 80 hours. Students will be required to produce the following evidence:

- a design brief developed by the learner
- a final prototype (or prototypes) based on that design brief, and
- additional evidence as necessary, including a design folio

Beyond the classroom

A-level DT students can play an important role as supervisors/ facilitators in extracurricular opportunities and this is a valuable contribution and commitment. Some opportunities have included:

- STEAM Club (Young Engineers),
- Greenpower F24,
- 4x4 in Schools,
- DT Rotary technology Challenge, and
- various student-led clubs.

A-level Drama and Theatre

Why choose drama and theatre?

If you enjoyed GCSE Drama and you are passionate about acting or technical theatre then A level Drama and Theatre is the perfect course for you to study. Drama and Theatre is a unique subject as there is a fine balance between the practical and written elements of the course. This course is a great deal of fun and will allow you to build on your teamwork, communication and creative skills.

Course content

Through their time on the course students will explore several areas of study within Drama and Theatre such as Greek theatre; contemporary plays; practitioners such as Berkoff, Brecht, Stanislavski and Frantic Assembly; Devised Theatre; and Live Theatre analysis and evaluation.

Where does it lead?

Most students who study Drama and Theatre seek a career in the performing arts industries, however the skills gained from this course can be applied to many different subject areas and degrees, for example English, Media, Music, Art, History Politics and Law.

Some students study Drama and Theatre as a complimentary subject to their main academic focus and gain a great deal of enjoyment and benefit from Drama emphasis on communication and teamwork

Assessment

Component 1 (40%): Written Exam. Response to live theatre seen during the course and the study of two set text plays.

Component 2 (30%): Creating Original Theatre. Devised Performance plus working notebook.

Component 3 (30%): Scripted Drama- Three extracts from three plays plus a reflective report.

Specification

[AQA A-level Drama and Theatre](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Drama

and GCSE grade 6 in either English language or English literature.

Beyond the classroom

There will be several theatre trips throughout the two years organised by the school.

Every year there is a chance to be involved in a joint musical production.

Each year, our A Level Drama and Theatre students put on their own theatrical show in which they are responsible for all areas of the production - acting, directing, stage management, sound, lighting, costumes, props, front of house and promotion. Students are given a maximum budget of £500 any profits from their ticket sales are then put back into the department to pay for Drama and Theatre resources and equipment.

Drama and theatre is a consortium subject, with teaching split between Poole Grammar School and Parkstone Grammar School.

A-level Economics

Why choose economics?

Have you ever wondered why Freddos have increased in price by over 200% since 2005? Have you ever wondered why a house costs 9x the average salary in the UK – but it only used to be 3x the average salary 50 years ago? Have you ever wondered why the Congo, a country abundant with cobalt – a necessary component in the hotly-demanded EVs – is still one of the poorest in Sub-Saharan Africa?

If you said yes to any of the questions above (or if they at least made you think a bit), Economics is for you! It is a subject that asks the tough questions (namely on Freddo inflation). But, don't just take the teacher's word for it! Local employers such as JP Morgan, BDO and swathes of HE institutions across the world recognise Economics as a challenging – yet rewarding – A-Level subject. You will develop skills in interpreting data, reading, and challenging written sources from BBC News to The Journal of Economic Integration.

Course content

Students will begin with an investigation into the Microeconomy – how firms and individuals interact with each other, how governments recognise failures in this relationship, and methods through which they remedy it!

Then, once the basics of Microeconomics are assessed; students will begin to study the Macroeconomy – moving from the individual-firm relationship to the individual-global. This will involve investigating concepts such as GDP, inflation, unemployment; and how to fix it through fiscal and monetary measures.

In Year 13 – expert units will be introduced – Financial Markets, Behavioural Economics and International Development to name a few. However these will be studied through a Micro/Macro lens in order to prepare the students for the demands of Paper 3.

Specification

[AQA A-Level Economics](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English language
and GCSE grade 6 in mathematics

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): Markets and Market Failure. 2hrs

Paper 2 (33.3%): The National and International Economy. 2hrs

Paper 3 (33.3%): Economic Principles and Issues. 2hrs

Where does it lead?

Many students go to university to study business and/or economics. Some students opt to combine Economics with History, Politics or Philosophy. Students should note that in order to study economics at more competitive universities, they require A level maths.

Other students go down a degree-apprenticeship route in finance, investment banking and accounting. Students are offered support throughout the whole process in helping them decide on, and preparing for post-18 destinations.

Beyond the classroom

Students are encouraged to engage in the real-world of Economics through our premium access to the Financial Times and JSTOR. They are encouraged also to take part in our Stocks and Shares club – as investors, or as aides for our Junior club's Y7 and Y8 students needing some help!

A-level Electronics

Why choose electronics?

This A level gives students a deep understanding of the nature, processes and methods of electronics as an engineering discipline. Students develop competence and confidence in creative, observational, evaluative, practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills within an electronics context.

Course content

Topics studied are:

- Semiconductor components
- Logic systems
- Operational amplifiers
- Signal conversion
- AC circuits and passive filters
- Communications systems
- Wireless transmission
- Instrumentation systems
- Timing circuits
- Sequential logic systems
- Microcontrollers
- Digital communications
- Optical communication
- Mains power supply systems
- High power switching systems
- Audio systems

Practical work enables learners to see the theoretical knowledge contained in the specification in action and to gain greater understanding of the knowledge in a practical context.

Where does it lead?

Careers and Higher Education courses include: Electronics; Engineering (Electrical/Mechanical, Project, Systems, and Computer systems); Physics; Computer Analysis/Programming/Control; Systems Analysis

Specification

[Eduqas A-level Electronics](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in mathematics

and GCSE grade 6 in physics

Assessment

Component 1 (40%): Principles of Electronics exam. 2 hours 45 minutes.

Component 2 (40%): Application of Electronics exam. 2 hours 45 minutes.

Component 3 (20%): Extended system design and realisation tasks. Non-exam assessment. This consists of two tasks:

1. A design and program task to create a microcontroller system programmed in assembler language to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity.
2. A substantial integrated design and realisation task to create an electronic system to solve an identified problem, need or opportunity.

Beyond the classroom

A-level Electronics students can play an important role as supervisors/ facilitators in extracurricular opportunities and this is a valuable contribution and commitment. Some opportunities have included:

- STEAM Club (Young Engineers),
- Greenpower F24,
- 4x4 in Schools,
- PIC Control,
- various student-led clubs.

A-level English Language

Why choose English language?

Choose this subject if you are interested in language – for example: the ways in which people speak and write; how people's gender, age and social class affect their language; how the English language is changing and its place in the world. You should enjoy analysing conversations and texts, looking beneath the surface meaning. You should enjoy discussions and debating ideas with others.

English language develops your skills of analysis, articulation and evaluation – skills prized by employers. It helps you to become an independent thinker, able to engage at an academic level with developments in language and society.

Course content

Year 12:

- Meanings and Representations – how language is used to represent people and institutions
- Language and gender
- Language and occupation
- Language and social groups/ethnicities
- Accents and dialects of the British Isles
- Coursework: original writing

Year 13:

- Language acquisition: how children learn to speak and write
- Language change: how English has changed over the centuries and how it is changing now
- Varieties of English around the world
- Analysing and writing opinion articles on language issues
- Coursework: language investigation.

Specification

[AQA A-level English Language](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English language

Assessment

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society. 2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of A-level.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change. 2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of A-level.

Non-exam assessment: 20% of A-level.

Assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Two parts:

- Original writing and accompanying commentary (1500 words)
- Language investigation (2000 words)

Where does it lead?

It is a valuable step on the way to a wide range of careers, including journalism, teaching, speech therapy, copy-writing, advertising, marketing, to name a few.

English Language is also useful when applying for a range of university courses. You can study English Language and/or Linguistics in its own right; it is also relevant to courses such as Law, History, Speech Therapy, Modern Languages and more.

English language is a consortium subject, taught entirely at Parkstone Grammar School.

A-level English Literature

Why choose English literature?

Studying English literature is a very enjoyable and rewarding experience for motivated and independent-minded students who enjoy reading. It combines well with other essay writing subjects such as history, the social sciences or modern languages. The course will engage you intellectually and creatively; you will gain the confidence to follow personal lines of enquiry, develop independence and self-motivation through wider reading, class presentations and coursework.

Course content

On the course students will explore texts from different times, genres and themes. A range of plays can be studied together with a Shakespeare tragedy (required). Prose texts link to a topic, such as 'Science and Society' (*Frankenstein*, Shelley; *The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood), or 'Women and Society' (*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Hardy; *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Hosseini). Modern poetry will be selected from *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry*, alongside a range of other authors.

Where does it lead?

Students can gain considerable enjoyment and cultural benefit from English literature, and may aim to later work in creative and media roles that include advertising, journalism or academia. Essay writing and analytical skills are highly prized by employers in professional areas such as law, government, financial services and many other fields where a high standard of written communication is essential.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel A-level English Literature](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English language or literature

Assessment

Drama exam (30%): Open book. 2 hrs 15 minutes. One modern play and a Shakespeare tragedy with a Critical Anthology (60 marks).

Prose exam (20%): Open book. 1 hour. You will study paired prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one text must be pre-1900. Answer one comparative essay question from two choices. (40 marks)

Poetry exam (30%): Open book; includes unseen poetry. 2 hrs 15 minutes.

- Section A: 30 marks. One question from two choices comparing an unseen poem with a named one from *Poems of the Decade*.
- Section B: 30 marks. One question from a choice of two on their studied poet. Analyse form, language, and conventions.

Non-exam assessment (20%): Two chosen texts (poetry, drama or prose) differing from those studied for the exams. May be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Students write one comparative essay of 2500-3000 words.

Beyond the classroom

The Hardy Trip in year 12 is complemented by theatre trips that change according to the programmes offered by local theatres.

A-level Geography

Why choose geography?

Geography is a fascinating subject about the environment, how places differ, how physical systems work and about how people interact with the world. Geography is about real-world events, their impacts and their different interpretation.

With contemporary challenges facing society and the environment it has never been more important to explore and understand that which is central to our being.

Course content

Human geography includes the exploration of Place development and identity, Migration and Human Rights.

Physical geography incorporates Coasts and Earth's life support systems.

The 'debates' units address a selection of Exploring Oceans, Disease Dilemmas, Climate change and Tectonics.

Skills throughout include cartographic skills, data collection, presentation and analysis, interpreting a source, predicting and persuading, evaluating and improving.

The independent investigation is driven by the student and will link to an area of study from Coasts of Places units.

Where does it lead?

Career links are infinite as the skill sets developed allow candidates to turn their hand to a wide variety of work. A Level Geography has helped students gain places as teachers, air traffic control officers, photographers, surveyors, police officers, architects, environmental officers/advisors and cartographers to name a small handful. The skills developed are also useful in banking, insurance, the tourist industry and local government.

Specification

[OCR A Level Geography](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in geography

Assessment

Paper 1 (22%): Physical Systems 1hr30

Paper 2 (22%): Human Interactions 1hr30

Paper 3 (36%): Geographical Debates 2hr30

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (20%): Independent Investigation

Beyond the classroom

The NEA requires you to attend four days 'in the field'. Two of these will be to conduct a pilot/introductory NEA style trip in the local area at the start of year 12. This is intended to give you context to the NEA and sow seeds for future titles. A second two-day trip takes place at the end of year 12 with a purpose of data gathering for the NEA title you will have created. You will have a choice of a coastal or urban environment to undertake this study.

We hope our more experienced geographers will take part on mentoring programs. These help younger geographers to access work or extent their understanding. This may also be in the form of running a 'Survivor' style club that explores extreme environments.

A-level History

Why choose history?

"History is a discipline widely cultivated among nations and races. It is eagerly sought after. The men in the street, the ordinary people, aspire to know it. Kings and leaders vie for it." Ibn Khaldan, writing in the 14th century AD, summed up the complexity and the fascination of the past which ensured that history was a necessary part of what educated, civilized people were expected to have. More than that history is exciting, dramatic, and filled with argument. It also equips you with skills useful in all walks of life: the ability to sift, analyse and evaluate any evidence and present it in a clear and coherent manner.

Course content

- Italy from 1896 to 1943, focusing on the rise and eventual fall of the Fascist regime
- Britain 1930-1997 with a particular focus on Winston Churchill's career.
- The changing nature of warfare from 1792 to 1945, with a particular focus on the French Wars of Revolution, the US Civil War and the Western Front 1914-1918.
- Non-exam assessment which can focus on any topic the student chooses, subject to staff guidance

Where does it lead?

Historians have to read, examine evidence, evaluate sources, understand different viewpoints and reach firm but objective conclusions based on solid evidence. Apart from careers obviously specific to History archival work, teaching etc., these attributes are valuable for management, the Civil Service, law, accountancy, or any profession where it is necessary to sift and analyse facts, weigh up their significance and develop arguments. It is valuable background for degrees in Politics and Economics, and is ideal preparation for a degree and career in Law. Many politicians are trained historians, world leaders, business leaders and media figures are often historians.

Specification

[OCR A-level History](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in history

Assessment

Unit 1 (25%): Britain 1930-1997 – 1 hour 30 minutes – one source exercise and one essay.

Unit 2 (15%): Italy 1896-1943 – 1 hour – one mini-essay and one full essay.

Unit 3 (40%): Changing nature of warfare – 2 hours 30 minutes, one interpretations exercise and two essays.

Unit 4 (20%): Non-exam assessment – unlike most sixth forms, we give you pretty free reign on what you want to study and write. 4000 words.

Beyond the classroom

The department provides a huge variety of opportunities to develop your interest in the past:

- Trips to the Chalke Valley History Festival, Bovington Tank Museum and the War Rooms and Imperial War Museum in London.
- The Historical and Archaeological Society has weekly meetings on Thursdays for a range of topics from 'Iron Age Bog Bodies' to 'Worst Elections in History', from 'Alexander the Great' to 'Eustace the Vilest Monk in the Middle Ages'
- Historical and Archaeological Research Division (HARD) – practical building projects run on Friday lunchtimes,
- Debating Society – hone your ability to argue and discuss by taking on others in verbal battle.
- Departmental Magazine - HARD Magazine which is written by and edited by students in the department.
- Public lectures from leading academics.

A-level Mathematics

Why choose mathematics?

You will gain expertise in powerful mathematical techniques that are relevant across a wide range of subjects. A -level mathematics is also a pre-requisite for many degree courses, such as engineering, economics, physics etc. The qualification is also hugely respected by employers who are looking for the ability to think logically and apply mathematical techniques to solving problems in context.

Course content

You will study pure mathematics and applied mathematics.

Pure mathematics builds on the algebra and geometry of GCSE and introduces many new and powerful concepts including calculus.

Applied mathematics consists of statistics and mechanics. Statistics includes topics such as probability, hypothesis testing and the ability to analyse data. It is very relevant in today's data driven world. Mechanics studies forces and motion. It is very useful for physics and engineering.

Where does it lead?

Mathematics might lead to apprenticeships/ degree courses in engineering, economics and finance, accountancy, computing, actuarial science or architecture. Any scientific discipline will involve mathematics and many universities will require an A-level in mathematics for scientific, engineering or finance related courses.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel A-level Mathematics](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 7 in mathematics.

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): Pure maths. 2 hours.

Paper 2 (33.3%): Pure maths. 2 hours.

Paper 3 (33.3%): Applied maths – statistics and mechanics. 2 hours.

Casio fx-991CW Classwiz calculators are required in all exams.

Beyond the classroom

Students participate in the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust's Senior Mathematics Challenge. Qualifying students go on to sit follow-on rounds including the British Maths Olympiad.

Students going on to study maths at leading universities may need to take other exams, such as STEP, MAT and TMUA. As well as in-school support students can enrol in specialist courses run by the Advanced Maths Support Programme to prepare for these.

Some students have attended the Winchester Summer School at Winchester College.

Please see the other mathematics options available in the 'Fourth Subject' section of this course directory. You will find information there about Core Mathematics and AS/A-level Further Mathematics.

A-level Media Studies

Why choose media?

The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.

Course content

The Media Studies A Level is an exciting and contemporary course that gives students the opportunity to explore how the media shape our world through the study of nine media forms including advertising and marketing, film, television, video games, blogs and newspapers. Additionally, students develop practical skills including the chance to create their own music video and promotion.

Where does it lead?

There are many different jobs in the media, in fact the UK's creative industries are worth a staggering 87.4 billion pounds. Careers can include working in the television or film industry, the web or social media, animation, games, newspapers or magazines, radio or music. Many students study media, english, film or journalism at university which gives them an excellent foundation for a creative vocation.

Specification

[Eduqas A Level Media Studies](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English language or literature.
Confident use of ICT.

Assessment

Component 1: Media products, industries and audiences. This exam carries 35% of the marks.

Component 2: Media forms and products in depth. This exam carries 35% of the marks.

Component 3: Cross-media production non-exam assessment. This NEA is worth 30% of the marks. Students create a cross-media production to include an original music video.

Media Studies is a consortium subject, taught entirely at Parkstone Grammar School.

A-levels in Modern Foreign Languages

Subjects offered

We offer A-levels in French, German and Spanish.

Why choose a foreign language?

Studying a foreign language is particularly rewarding for the motivated student and broadens their horizons. The course allows discussion and reflection on contemporary topics like diversity and culture as well as developing language skills. It gives the opportunity to discover many aspects of a different country through fascinating texts, films and books.

Course content

You will gain individual experience of French/German/Spanish texts and films as well as intensive vocabulary acquisition; awareness of sentence structures and the confidence to use them as one's own. In year 12/13, you will hopefully have the opportunity of visiting the target language country. A small group session each week may be organised for students to practise their speaking competencies, however this will be dependent on next year's staffing and budget. We expect students to read newspapers and magazines, use the internet and watch TV programmes and films in the foreign language independently.

Where does it lead?

Students find their language is useful in such diverse fields as journalism, teaching, business, science, law, and economics.

French and Spanish can lead to other romance languages such as Italian and Portuguese. German can lead to Dutch and the Scandinavian languages.

A language is a useful skill in itself and links directly or indirectly to almost any career and job in the modern world.

Specifications

[AQA A-level French](#)

[AQA A-level German](#)

[AQA A-Level Spanish](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in the relevant foreign language

Assessment

Paper 1 (50%): 2 hours 30 minutes. Listening, Reading and Writing.

Paper 2 (20%): 2 hours. Writing on one text and one film.

Paper 3 (30%): About 20 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time. Speaking, including a 5-6 minute discussion of a stimulus card and a 10 minute discussion of an independent research project.

Beyond the classroom

Sixth form students studying a modern foreign language are invited to attend a weekly conversation class with our departmental language assistant.

In the past, we have organised visits to Paris and various work experience placements in France, Germany and Spain.

Languages are consortium subjects, with teaching split between Poole Grammar School and Parkstone Grammar School.

We also offer AS-levels in French, German and Spanish – see the 'Fourth Subject' section of the Course Directory for more information.

A-level Music

Why choose music?

A-level Music is a dynamic, broad-based academic study recognised by universities as offering a unique range of universal skills. The course offers a significant upgrade in terms of knowledge and skills, and leads you in some fascinating discoveries.

Course content

The course covers: developing higher instrumental/vocal ability; more advanced composing skills; music history and analysis; listening skills. The study of music at this level therefore gives students the opportunity to develop their skills as a performer and composer, as well as helping them to gain a thorough understanding of a wide range of musical styles and genres

Where does it lead?

Study of music at A-level can lead in many different directions towards further study at university or music college, or into the world of work. This subject is a requirement for entry to read music at a higher education institute. The music staff will be pleased to advise on the opportunities available post A-level.

Many pupils study music as a complimentary subject to their main academic focus and gain a great deal of enjoyment from it.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel A-level Music](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Music

Assessment

Component 1 (30%): Performing. Your instrumental work over the course culminating in a final recital.

Component 2 (30%): Composing. Throughout the course, you will work on a free composition. In the final year you do a smaller composition task, from a choice of 4 briefs released by the exam board.

Component 3 (40%): Written/listening exam on the 'set works' studied throughout the course with accompanying listening skills.

Beyond the classroom

We have a fantastic range of extracurricular music activities that take place weekly: Jazz Band; Big Band; Orchestra; ensembles in woodwind, strings, brass and percussion; and PGS Voices.

We also offer instrumental and vocal lessons.

Live music features each term, whether through concerts, assemblies, festivals or trips. Plus, there is our annual Battle of the Bands and Drumathon, which are very popular.

A-level Physical Education

Why choose physical education?

A-Level physical education delivers an introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science, providing a strong base from which to move on to higher education, employment or further training.

You will learn how physical education affects and contributes to society. You will be able to apply your knowledge from this course to any number of different practical situations or career choices.

The emphasis throughout the course is on the development of knowledge, application of knowledge and developing confidence in a wide variety of skills.

Course content

Paper 1 topics:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society

Paper 2 topics:

- Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and technology in sport

NEA:

- Practical performance as a performer or coach
- Analysis of performance

Where does it lead?

A-Level PE enables you to apply for higher education courses in sports science, sports management, healthcare, or exercise and health. It can also complement further study in subjects such as biology, human biology, physics, psychology, nutrition and sociology.

A Level PE can open up a range of career opportunities including: sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, sports journalism, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of PE teachers.

Specification

[AQA A-level Physical Education](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in physical education

Assessment

Paper 1 (35%): Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport. 2 hours.

Paper 2 (35%): Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

Non-exam assessment (30%): Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Assessment as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity (15%) plus analysis of performance (15%). This is assessed internally with an external moderation.

Beyond the classroom

Get involved in Sixth Form Games and represent the school at sport. Use the fitness suite to undertake a personal exercise programme or volunteer to coach younger students. The opportunities to get involved are endless.

A-level Physics

Why choose physics?

Studying physics, teaches skills and ways of thinking that are highly logical, mathematical and analytical. You will develop understanding of scientific methods, as well as problem solving, independence and organisation. You will learn to apply physics principles to unfamiliar contexts and make links between different concepts.

Course content

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics
9. Astrophysics (this option is taken by all students at Poole Grammar School)

Where does it lead?

Physics is essential for all engineering courses and useful for many science subjects such as astronomy, meteorology, medical physics and radiology, renewable energy, robotics and AI, video game design. It is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating subjects' – so called because choosing them at A-level allows a wide range of options for degree study.

Transferable skills developed would also be useful in a diverse range of careers, such as computing, journalism, finance and law.

Specification

[AQA A-level Physics](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 7 in physics or 7-7 in combined science and GCSE grade 7 in mathematics.

Assessment

Paper 1 (34%): The 2 hour examination is worth 85 marks. It assesses content from Topics 1 – 5 and 6.1 (Further Mechanics).

Paper 2 (34%): The examination is worth 85 marks. It assesses content from Topic 6.2 (Thermal Physics) and 7 – 8 with an expectation of knowledge and understanding from Paper 1 content.

Paper 3 (32%):

- Section A: Practical skills and data analysis (45 marks)
- Section B: Astrophysics option (35 marks)

At least 40% of the marks in Physics will require the use of mathematics skills.

Beyond the classroom

Students take part in national competitions such as the British Physics Olympiad, and Senior Physics Challenge. Some students run their own Science Journal Club. We also have groups taking part in team competitions including the UK Space Design Competition and Greenpower Formula 24.

A-level Politics

Why choose politics?

A Level Politics offers an engaging exploration of the political systems and ideas that shape society. It will deepen your understanding of national and global events, helping you make sense of key political issues.

By studying Politics, you'll develop critical thinking skills, learning to analyse complex systems and form well-balanced arguments. It also improves communication abilities, equipping you to debate effectively and express ideas clearly.

Course content

Throughout Year 12, students will study the key political institutions and processes which dictate the political culture of the United Kingdom, including the UK constitution, political parties, and key questions of whether our democracy is in crisis. Students will also study key ideologies such as Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism, along with Nationalism.

In Year 13, students will engage in a comparative study of the politics and government of the United States of America. This will include a study of the Presidency, Constitution and the Supreme Court. Students will draw comparisons with the United Kingdom throughout.

Where does it lead?

Politics is an excellent foundation for careers in law, journalism, government, and public service. It empowers you to be an active, informed citizen, understanding your role in the democratic process. Studying A Level Politics provides valuable skills that are beneficial for further education and a wide range of career opportunities.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel A-level Politics](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in either English language, history or religious studies

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): UK Politics. 2hrs.

Paper 2 (33.3%): UK Government. 2hrs.

Paper 3 (33.3%): Comparative Politics – USA. 2hrs.

Beyond the classroom

Students are encouraged to attend clubs such as Debating Society to help develop key communication skills. We hope to organise a trip to the UK Parliament.

A-level Psychology

Why choose psychology?

The study of psychology will give students a scientific understanding of the human mind and behaviour. It will help students become more aware of what motivates their own behaviour and others. Therefore, it can help students engage with their environment and interpersonal relationships. This should also be beneficial in most areas of employment.

Course content

There are 3 modules. Each module focuses on different aspects of human behaviour.

Introductory topics in psychology:

- Memory
- The importance of early attachments
- Social influence - why we conform and obey
- Psychopathology, focusing on phobias, depression and OCD

Psychology in context:

- Biopsychology, focusing on brain structure and processes
- Approaches of Psychology
- Research methods, focusing on the design of psychological research and its scientific nature

Issues and options in psychology:

- Issues and debates in psychology, including ethics
- Aggression
- Stress
- Romantic relationships

Where does it lead?

The study of Psychology contributes towards a wide variety of careers, in areas such as business, advertising, human resources and education. It will, in essence, be useful in any career which focuses on dealing with, or trying to understand, people.

Specification

[AQA A-level Psychology](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English language

and GCSE grade 6 in biology or 6-6 in combined science

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): Introductory topics in psychology. 2hrs.

Paper 2 (33.3%): Psychology in context. 2hrs.

Paper 3 (33.3%): Issues and options in psychology. 2hrs.

There is an emphasis on extended writing and applying psychological theory and research to human behaviour.

Beyond the classroom

We often arrange talks from clinical staff at St Anne's and other external speakers (usually ex-students).

There is also a Psychology club which is run by Year 12 and 13 students.

A-level Religious Studies

Why choose religious studies?

A-level religious studies gives students the chance to develop their critical thinking skills as well as enhancing their knowledge of religion. The course is designed to enable students to simultaneously learn about philosophical concepts such as ethics and metaphysics, while also exploring theological arguments. This subject augments both a course of studies that is more humanities-based, and one which focuses on the sciences.

Course content

The course is based around discursive essay-writing skills, mixed with shorter questions that test students' knowledge. Three main topics are studied.

Philosophy of religion:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and ethics:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in religious thought – Christianity:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Specification

[OCR A-level Religious Studies](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in religious studies

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): Philosophy of religion. 2hrs.

Paper 2 (33.3%): Religion and ethics. 2hrs.

Paper 3 (33.3%): Developments in religious thought; Christianity. 2hrs.

Where does it lead?

The A-level is designed to allow students to access a huge range of undergraduate courses within humanities and is seen by competitive universities as a 'facilitating subject' which is considered favourable for a plethora of related courses.

Moving on into the future, the RS course is considered a great grounding for careers in law, education, journalism, politics or the civil service.

A-level Sociology

Why choose sociology?

Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? Whether educational achievement is affected by gender, ethnicity or social class? Whether men or women are more likely to commit a crime?

If investigating questions like these sounds interesting then Sociology may be for you. A level Sociology will help you make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. This course combines the study of contemporary social issues and trends in behaviour with sociological theory and research. You have the opportunity to explore these issues via debate, individual and group research, problem solving and discussion.

Course content

Students will analyse societies and cultures. They will show evidence of an understanding of various explanations and research. In all areas, the content will emphasise applied sociology. Students will need to keep up with current events to bring relevant ideas into discussions and written work.

Year 12:

- Families & households – study the different sociological perspectives on the purpose and function of the family including demographic change, marriage, childhood and equality within families.
- Education with research methods – study the structure, role, impact and experience of education including applying sociological research methods to the topic

Year 13:

- Sociology of the media – study the new media, globalisation and the media, effects of the media on audiences, and representations in the media
- Crime & deviance - study crime, deviance, social order & social control and the reasons why people commit crime
- Sociological theory - study, analyse & evaluate the key perspectives & their view on society in depth

Specification

[AQA A-level Sociology](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in either English language, English literature, or a humanities subject.

An appreciation of the scientific method is key to success. There is an emphasis on extended/essay writing, so good written skills are vital.

Assessment

Paper 1 (33.3%): Education with theory and methods. 2hrs.

Paper 2 (33.3%): Topics in Sociology. 2hrs.

Paper 3 (33.3%): Crime and deviance with theory and methods. 2hrs.

Where does it lead?

Sociology is a social science and will provide an excellent basis for many careers, however the following careers have strong links with sociology: local and central government positions, police, probation services, legal profession, counselling, nursing, social services, occupational therapy, social worker, physiotherapist, teacher, criminal profilers, journalism, public relations, marketing, human resources and political researcher.

Sociology is a consortium subject, taught entirely at Parkstone Grammar School.

Fourth Subjects

Students are required to choose three main A-level subjects from the front section of the course directory and a fourth subject from the back section. The fourth subject is usually smaller than an A-level and takes up less time.

It is sometimes possible instead to study four main A-levels from the front section of the course directory, but this is not recommended.

The options available are in the table below, with further details on subsequent pages of this directory.

	Approximate equivalence as a fraction of an A-level	Restrictions
Extended Project Qualification	0.5	
Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths	0.4	Not available to students studying A-level mathematics
AS-level Further Mathematics	0.4	Only available to students studying A-level mathematics
A-level Further Mathematics	1	Only available to students studying A-level mathematics
AS-level in a Modern Foreign Language	0.4	

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Why choose EPQ?

Students are offered the opportunity to undertake the Extended Project as it proves that they can conduct independent learning. The Extended Project is highly regarded by universities and employers as evidence of an individual's ability to work independently and manage a project.

Course content

Students are taught the research skills they need to successfully complete their project.

They then choose any topic that they like as long as it is not something they study in detail as part of their A level courses. Their project can be presented either as an essay (5000 words) or an artefact.

The artefact might be a physical product, a musical composition, a performance etc. All artefacts must be accompanied by a 1 000 written report outlining the process of production.

At the end of their project students make a presentation to an audience of students and staff.

Specification

[AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification](#)

Entry requirements

This qualification is open to any student.

Assessment

While completing their project students must keep a production log. The project and production log are marked together by your teacher and externally moderated.

Where does it lead?

Employers are keen for students to be organised, committed, and to be capable of independent research and analysis. The Extended Project provides evidence that a student has these attributes. Universities value the qualification very highly and some reduce their offer by a grade if a student completes the Extended Project successfully.

Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths

Why choose core maths?

Studying core maths will better prepare you for the mathematical demands of work, study and life. The course has been developed with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for higher education and employment.

Students will develop their mathematical modelling and problem-solving skills, their mathematical reasoning and their ability to analyse data to make decisions.

Course content

Core Maths develops the mathematical skills gained at GCSE. It focuses on using and applying maths to solve problems from other subjects, work and everyday life.

There are three components to our course:

1. Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning

- Probability and Risk
- Statistics
- Estimation
- Finance and Percentages
- Mathematical modelling
- Normal Distribution
- Exponentials

2. Critical Maths

- Regression to the Mean
- Business and Risk
- Randomised Control Trials
- Fermi Estimates
- Scams
- Medical Screening
- Making Decisions with Risk

3. Statistical Problem Solving

- Mean and Standard Deviation
- Normal Distribution
- Problem Solving Cycle
- Sampling Methods
- Spearman's Rank
- Chi-Squared Hypothesis Test

Specification

[OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths A](#)

or

[OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths B](#)

Entry requirements

This qualification is open to any student **except those studying A-Level mathematics.**

Assessment

Students sit two written papers at end of Year 13: Calculators are allowed in all exams.

Paper 1 (50%): Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning. 2 hrs.

Paper 2 (50%): Critical Maths **or** Statistical Problem Solving. 2 hrs.

Students have a choice of which specification they follow from the two listed above, and this determines which Paper 2 they sit at the end of the course.

All papers will have pre-release materials which will be available from the March before the exams.

Where does it lead?

Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential. The statistical, financial and problem-solving skills developed through Core Maths are invaluable in numerous jobs and industries.

The mathematics and statistics encountered in Core Maths particularly supports students studying Biology, Geography, Psychology and Business Studies.

Further Mathematics

Why choose further mathematics?

Further mathematics courses allow you to study beyond the A-level mathematics syllabus, covering topics that other students would only meet at university. It is a great choice if you love maths and have found GCSE easy.

Please see the A-level Mathematics page in the course directory for more information about the subject as a whole.

Where does it lead?

Further mathematics is advantageous to students interested in pursuing engineering, mathematics, computing, physics or econometrics.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 8 in mathematics

You must be studying A-level mathematics as one of your main three A-levels.

AS Further Mathematics

Course content

On top of your A-level maths studies, you will study:

- Core Pure Mathematics 1
- Further Pure Mathematics 1

Assessment

Core Pure Mathematics 1 Exam (50%): 1hr 40 mins.

Further Pure Maths 1 Exam (50%): 1hr 40 mins.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel AS Further Mathematics](#)

A-level Further Mathematics

Course content

On top of your A-level maths studies, you will study:

- Core Pure Mathematics 1
- Core Pure Mathematics 2
- Further Pure Mathematics 1
- Further Mechanics 1

Assessment

Core Pure Mathematics 1 Exam (25%): 1hr 30 mins.

Core Pure Mathematics 2 Exam (25%): 1hr 30 mins.

Further Pure Maths 1 Exam (25%): 1hr 30 mins.

Further Mechanics 1 Exam (25%): 1hr 30 mins.

Specification

[Pearson Edexcel A-level Further Mathematics](#)

AS-levels in Modern Foreign Languages

Subjects offered

We offer AS French, German and Spanish. These are taught in the same classes as our A-levels in those subjects. AS students study the subject during Year 12 only, sitting their exams in May of that year. In Year 13 they continue to study their three main A-levels and gain some private study time.

Please see the A-levels in Modern Foreign Languages page in the course directory for more information about these subjects as a whole.

Languages are consortium subjects, with teaching split between Poole Grammar School and Parkstone Grammar School.

Specifications

[AQA AS French](#)

[AQA AS German](#)

[AQA AS Spanish](#)

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in the relevant foreign language

Assessment

Paper 1 (45%): 1 hr 45 mins. Listening, Reading and Writing.

Paper 2 (25%): 1 hr 30 mins. Translating from English, and writing on one text or film.

Paper 3 (30%): About 15 minutes. Speaking.

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