

THE HARVEY

SIXTH FORM



WELCOME

The Sixth Form experience at The Harvey is an exciting opportunity to learn in a stimulating environment where academic endeavour is celebrated and embraced by all. It is a chance to learn in different ways with the opportunity to take more control of your own learning. The Harvey boasts a teaching staff of the highest quality, to expertly guide and support you through your courses. We offer our students both flexibility and range in their choices for Post-16 study.

The Harvey Sixth Form offers much more than expert guidance through examination courses. You will have the chance to participate in a wealth of activities outside the classroom including competitive and recreational sport, drama, music, local and overseas trips, work experience and community-based activities.

These are all designed to help you develop as a rounded individual. We offer high quality care and support and a wealth of expert experience in guiding you to your goals beyond the Sixth Form experience, be that in accessing a top university course, entering an apprenticeship or the world of work. Whatever is the case, you will be in experienced and supportive hands.

Until now, you have had only a limited say in the make-up of your curriculum. You have studied a wide range of subjects, many of them compulsory, having acquired a broad and balanced foundation on which to build your future career. Now you are faced with an exciting prospect; to choose the post-16 courses which interest you most and ensure you make best progress towards making well informed choices for life and learning beyond The Harvey.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following information is available to complement this prospectus:

- **Sixth Form Information Presentation** – Information about The Harvey's Sixth Form curriculum offer, wider enrichment opportunities and the application process via our Curriculum page on The Harvey's [website](#).
- **Post-16 Course summaries** – Links to individual on-demand videos are available for each subject in this prospectus. Alternatively, these subject summaries may also be accessed through the Harvey's [Vimeo Channel](#) using the following password: **HarveyGrammar1**



The current Lockdown, proposed cancellation of summer-term GCSE Examinations and ongoing speculation as to how GCSE Centre Assessed Grades will be awarded this year, make it particularly challenging for pupils to plan ahead for learning beyond GCSEs.

The Sixth Form entry criteria given below reflect what is required to access the Sixth Form and its programmes of study/post-16 courses. Please use these criteria as an indication as to which programmes of study and courses may best suit you based on your aptitude, interests and progress to date. At this stage we are simply looking for an indication from you as to which courses you are most interested in pursuing next year.

Subject and House Staff will over time, through written reports, parents' evening and one-to-one guidance, support you in making well-informed and appropriate choices to ensure you make best progress in the Sixth Form.

SIXTH FORM & SUBJECT ENTRY CRITERIA

The Harvey enrolls Sixth Form students (boys only) in accordance with the criteria below.

ENTRY CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

- GCSE **grade 5 in English** (Language or Literature) **and** GCSE **grade 5 in Mathematics**
- **Entry criteria for individual subjects** must be met in order to access those courses

SIXTH FORM PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

For an **academic programme** of study, students choose **three A Level subjects** and must have met the specific entry criteria for each.

A student who has not met the entry criteria for a full academic programme, may access a **vocational programme** which typically includes **one A Level and a double-award BTEC qualification**, so long as the entry criteria for these courses is met.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are a student at The Harvey, you should complete our Sixth Form Options Form via the school's intranet. This will be accessible from January 31st 2021, after the Y11 Parents' Evening in term 3.

EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

If you are applying to join us from another school or college, please complete your application through UCAS Progress. You will be contacted and invited to visit the school and meet staff and current students. Places in the Sixth Form are offered according to the Sixth Form Admissions Criteria.

APPLICANTS FROM OVERSEAS

It should be noted that any student looking to gain entry from overseas must have equivalent qualifications that can be recognised in the UK and provide an academic reference from someone who has known the applicant, in an educational context, for more than two years.

COURSE CAPACITY AND OVERSUBSCRIPTION

We offer as wide a range of subjects as possible and will do all that we can to accommodate your choices but there is clearly a limit to the number and/or possible combinations available each year. **When selecting your subject**

choices for the Sixth Form we ask you to do so in preference order; 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference, followed by a reserve choice. Applicants' preferences will determine the allocation of places for a particular course. In the event a course is oversubscribed, places will be allocated to applicants in preference order. Where the numbers of applicants with the same declared preference exceeds capacity, we will allocate available/remaining places based on allocating the most appropriate curriculum programme available for the individuals concerned applying the professional judgement of the senior leader with responsibility for curriculum.

Option blocks for next September are drawn up based on demand for these choices. You may modify your choices (with due consultation) at any time before next September but may find that not every change can be accommodated once the timetable for next year has been finalised.

ACADEMIC COURSES OFFERED IN THE SIXTH FORM AND THEIR SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA

ART & DESIGN: FINE ART	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Art
ART & DESIGN: GRAPHICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Art
BIOLOGY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Biology or Combined Science (Trilogy). In addition , you must have scored a grade 7 in either of the Biology papers.
CHEMISTRY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science (Trilogy). In addition , you must have scored a grade 7 in either of the Chemistry papers.
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Design Technology
ECONOMICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Economics or Mathematics
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature
FILM STUDIES	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 5 in English (Language or Literature).
FRENCH	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in French
FURTHER MATHS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics
GEOGRAPHY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Geography
HISTORY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in History
MATHEMATICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics
MUSIC	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Music or a Level 2 Distinction in Music BTEC, or have significant musical experience that is of a similar standard. Performance skills of at least grade 5 ABRSM (or equivalent) standard are required, and receiving professional tuition on your chosen performance instrument
PHYSICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Physics or Combined Science (Trilogy). In addition , you must have scored a grade 7 in either of the Physics papers.
POLITICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 5 in English (Language or Literature).

PSYCHOLOGY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Psychology. Alternatively, if you have not studied Psychology at GCSE, grade 6 in a Separate Science qualification or Combined Science (Trilogy) and a grade 6 in English (Language or Literature)
PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 5 in English (Language or Literature).
SOCIOLOGY	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 5 in English (Language or Literature).
SPANISH	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 6 in Spanish

VOCATIONAL COURSES OFFERED IN THE SIXTH FORM AND THEIR SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA

BTEC DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS (EQUIVALENT TO TWO A LEVELS)	Entry Criteria: Distinction at Level 2 Business BTEC (if this course has been taken in Key Stage 4) and GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths
CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL)	Entry Criteria: GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths
BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (EQUIVALENT TO ONE A LEVEL)	Entry Criteria: Level 2 BTEC Music at Merit or above and GCSE grade 4 in English and Maths
BTEC DIPLOMA IN SPORT (EQUIVALENT TO TWO A LEVELS)	Entry Criteria: Distinction at Level 2 in BTEC Sport. In addition, GCSE grade 4 in English, Maths and Science (Trilogy or a Separate Award)

AFTER THE HARVEY

Whatever your intentions for life after The Harvey, we provide high-quality information, advice and guidance to all about different careers, employment, apprenticeships and Higher Education opportunities. The vast majority of our students continue with full-time education on leaving The Harvey. Of those, a significant proportion attended the Guardian's top 20 Universities (as listed in 2019/20) and/or The Russell Group of Universities. We offer you the best chances of securing top post-16 qualifications but you will find we also place a strong emphasis on Careers guidance regardless of your plans for life after The Harvey.

The Russell Group [Informed Choices](#) guide to making decisions about post-16 education is a useful starting point if considering what universities may be looking for from prospective applicants and which courses are best suited to study at the Higher Level. Harvey pupils are encouraged to use their access to **Unifrog** to investigate the opportunities for Further and Higher Education.

ART & DESIGN: FINE ART or GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Examining Board: OCR

Head of Department: Mr S Bolton

[An Introduction to A Level Art & Graphic Communication](#)

This subject aims to allow you to extend and further develop your abilities gained through GCSE Art and Design and encourages you to experiment with a variety of different processes and methods. It also asks you to consider the work of professional artists in relation to your own work, and to form an understanding of the nature of art and design by developing a body of work that is personal and expressive.

The Art department at The Harvey Grammar School offers the opportunity to study in one of two areas: **Fine Art** or **Graphic Communication**. Either of these courses will give you a foundation of skills and experiences that will prepare you for a future in art and design.

If you are aiming to go on to Art College after A levels, you can choose your other subjects with comparative freedom – your portfolio of work will be the deciding factor. The best arts based degree courses normally expect students to have studied Art at A level and have completed a Foundation Course.

Arts based degree courses include: Graphic Communication, Illustration, Web Design, Fine Art, History of Art, Architecture, Ceramics, 3-D and Product Design, Fashion, Textiles, Furniture Design, Glass Design, Graphic Fine Art, Industrial Design, Jewellery, Photography, Film Studies and Animation. Whether you choose **Fine Art** or **Graphic Communication**, you will acquire a range of skills and experiences that could lead to one of an ever-increasing number of career opportunities in a widening spectrum of fields from Fine Art and Design to TV/Film and Theatre.

Fine Art

The course is project based and will encompass a wide range of media, including Drawing and Painting, Printing, Sculpture, Ceramics and 3-D Design and computer based Graphic Fine Arts. We do not seek to impose a particular dogma of practice or house style but aim to enable the development of an individual approach in an atmosphere of ambitious expectation. Drawing, in its broadest sense, forms the foundation or departure point for most work. After this initial reinforcement of the basic language and technical skills, you will be expected to work with a high degree of self-direction and produce very personal responses. In addition, you will be encouraged to visit exhibitions, work in the local community and spend private study time developing your artwork.

Graphic Communication

The course offers the opportunity to gain a fundamental understanding of visual communication, encouraging you to identify your own strengths and interests in the subject as the course progresses. You will explore a variety of image making techniques, incorporating computer based Graphics, Illustration, Printmaking and Photography. Alongside Drawing you will develop an appreciation of Graphic Arts including Typography, Calligraphy and the use of signs and symbols. Audience and the professional context of Graphic Communication form the focus for the projects. In the Design Studio you will work to strict deadlines and take part in regular group critiques. In addition, you will be encouraged to attend Exhibitions and aim to spend private study time working in the Art department.

Further Information

In both areas of Art and Design trips to galleries and museums form an important part of your project and exam work. Your coursework will be assessed on manipulative and analytical skills, aesthetic qualities, knowledge and critical understanding. There are clearly defined assessment objectives for each of these areas, through which your teacher will guide you.

BIOLOGY SALTERS-NUFFIELD ADVANCED BIOLOGY A (9BN0)

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Teacher in charge of Biology:

[An Introduction to A Level Biology](#)

Salters Nuffield Advanced Biology (SNAB) aims to turn A-Level students into mature and effective biologists. SNAB presents the key concepts underpinning biology today, combined with a structured approach to learning the wider skills needed by the modern biologist.

The course is not lead in traditional themes but instead offers a context approach. Topics are based on a story line or contemporary issue with biological principles introduced when required to aid understanding of the context. The context lead approach encourages students to recognise links between different areas of biology. The SNAB course encourages students to engage in activities integrated throughout the course. Some examples of these activities include: practical work, debates, discussions, research and role play. This approach employs a wide range of teaching & learning styles.

The topics studied in Year 12 consist of:

Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk: Circulatory system and importance of lifestyle choices to health

Topic 2: Genes and Health: Cystic fibrosis: how it is inherited and how it affects the body

Topic 3: Voice of the genome: Development of multicellular organisms from single cells

Topic 4: Biodiversity and natural resources: The biodiversity and wealth of resources used by humans

The topics studied in Year 13 consist of:

Topic 5: On the wild side: Photosynthesis and ecosystems

Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and forensics: Determining cause of death, bacteria and viruses and how the body responds to them

Topic 7: Run for your life: Physiological adaptations to undertake strenuous exercise, including respiration

Topic 8: Grey matter: The complete nervous system and how neurological conditions can be treated

The assessment consists of 3 written examinations each of equal weighting at the end of the course:

Paper 1: 2 hour examination

Assesses topics 1,2,3,4,5,6, relevant mathematical skills and experimental methods

Paper 2: 2 hour examination

Assesses topics 1,2,3,4,7,8, relevant mathematical skills and experimental methods

Paper 3: 2 hour examination

Assesses all work undertaken throughout the A level course and includes questions based on a pre-released article and will ask questions requiring application from several topics, relevant mathematical skills and experimental methods.

Science practical endorsement

Practical competency must be demonstrated in a series of core practicals throughout the course and reported to the examination board. This is assessed as a pass or fail.

An enjoyment of the subject is essential; this will aid your motivation valuably as the level of difficulty increases. Further information about the course, its content and links to other resources can be found at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/biology-a-2015.html>

Possible career areas that require A-level biology include: biological testing, biotechnology, independent research, food science, nutrition, medicine, veterinary science, zoology, animal care, amongst a huge range of others.

BUSINESS - BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

Examining Board: PEARSON

Head of Department: Miss L Fish

[An Introduction to BTEC Business](#)

A BTEC National Diploma is a level 3 qualification that will provide a vocational approach to studying Business. Through analysing real businesses and applying knowledge to 'real life' scenarios, all students will have the opportunity to learn a huge variety of skills that will form a strong basis for them to either use for their progression into university or into the world of business.

This qualification is equivalent to two A Levels.

This course provides a natural progression from Business and Economics. Although it would be an advantage to have completed these, they are not essential prerequisites. We would encourage any student to apply for this course due to the 'real life' approach to its units. The assessments are linked to a variety of businesses to support learning and a number of the units require students to experience the topics.

What is the course structure?

The course is made up of 8 units, 6 mandatory units which everyone takes, and 2 optional units.

Year 1:

Exploring Business	Developing a Marketing Campaign	Personal and Business Finance	Work Experience in Business
In this introductory unit, you study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive	You will examine the marketing aims and objectives for existing products/services and understand the importance of relevant, valid and appropriate research in relation to customers' needs and wants.	You will study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance. They will develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.	This unit examines the benefits of work experience in business. They reflect on their practical workplace skills by completing forty hours of appropriate work experience.

Year 2:

International Business	Principles of Management	Team Building in Business	Managing an Event
This unit studies how UK businesses develop strategies to trade globally. Learners will also consider the factors that influence the implementation of these strategies.	This unit enables learners to understand how the role of management and leadership in the workplace contributes towards business success.	You will study the dynamics of team building, examine the underpinning theory and participate in team activities.	You will work as part of a small group to plan, coordinate and manage a business or social enterprise event and evaluate the skills gained

How is the course assessed?

Units are either internally assessed via an assessed written unit or externally assessed through written exams or controlled assessment tasks. The two options units require students to complete a number of activities outside of the classroom and will complete a week's work experience.

CHEMISTRY

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Teacher in charge of Chemistry: Mr R Guck

[An Introduction to A Level Chemistry](#)

Chemistry is the study of matter, that encompasses the world around us. This course will allow you to develop your understanding of what makes matter different, while at the same time furthering your knowledge and understanding of core aspects in the subject.

There will be an opportunity to gain an appreciation of the contributions Chemists make through their work via both a direct and independent study pathway. You will learn how to obtain useful materials from naturally occurring substances and see how Chemists use modern advances in Information Communication Technology and Instrumentation. Scientific and practical skills will be developed through regular practical activities throughout the course and there will be potential opportunities for external visits to see Chemistry in action.

There are three externally assessed exam papers as indicated below:

Paper 1 Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry 30%

This unit covers topics ranging from atomic structure and bonding to the study of elements in the periodic table. From a physical chemistry perspective, rates of reaction, equilibrium and energetics are studied. In addition, there is an introduction to organic chemistry which is considered in this unit.

Paper 2 Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry 30 %

Once again the core aspects of chemistry relating to atomic structure and the periodic table will be considered here but more content focus will be placed upon organic chemistry and related modern analytical techniques. In addition, relevant inorganic chemistry will also be studied and assessed.

Paper 3 General and Practical Principles in Chemistry 40%

This section may draw from any topics studied in the previous units and will have a synoptic nature. It will assess the conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods that will be experienced directly in the practical lessons.

Science practical endorsement

In addition to the formally examined section of the course, this further section will be internally assessed and moderated externally. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 12 identified activities in which they demonstrate practical competence in the skill listed. This may be recorded on the student's examination certificate.

Chemistry links well with Biology, Physics and Mathematics as well as being essential for those that wish to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. As a facilitating subject, Chemistry will be viewed favourably by Universities and employers alike as it demonstrates a sound academic ability and is highly valued in many other careers such as law and finance.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Head of Department: Mr M Byles

[An Introduction to A Level Design & Technology](#)

This course aims to equip students with the skills to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impacts on today's world.

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology: Written Examination 2 hours 30 minutes 50% of the qualification. This Component covers:

Topic 1: Materials, Topic 2: Performance characteristics of materials, Topic 3: Processes and techniques, Topic 4: Digital technologies, Topic 5: Factors influencing the development of products, Topic 6: Effects of technological developments, Topic 7: Potential hazards and risk assessment, Topic 8: Features of manufacturing industries, Topic 9: Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment, Topic 10: Current legislation, Topic 11: Information handling, Modelling and forward planning, Topic 12: Further processes and techniques.

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project Coursework Centre assessed 50% of the qualification. This Component covers:

Students individually and/or in consultation with a client/end user identify a problem and design context.

- Students will develop a range of potential solutions which include the use of computer aided design and evidence of modelling.
- Students are expected to make decisions about the designing and development of the prototype in conjunction with the opinions of the client/end user.
- Students will realise one potential solution through practical making activities with evidence of project management and plan for production.
- Students will incorporate issues related to sustainability and the impact their prototype may have on the environment
- Students are expected to analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes for prototypes/products made by themselves and others
- Students are expected to analyse and evaluate of wider issues in design technology, including social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts.

Expected outcomes:

- The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Students will produce a substantial design, make and evaluate a project, which consists of a portfolio and a prototype
- There are four parts to the assessment:

o **Part 1: Identifying and outlining possibilities for design**

Identification and investigation of a design possibility, investigation of client/end user needs, wants and values, research and production of a specification

o **Part 2: Designing a prototype**

Design ideas, development of design idea, final design solution, review of development and final design and communication of design ideas

o **Part 3: Making a final prototype**

Design, manufacture and realisation of a final prototype, including tools, equipment, quality & accuracy

o **Part 4: Evaluating own design and prototype**

Testing and evaluation

ECONOMICS

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Mr M Dickenson

STREAM

What is Economics?

Economics is a challenging but fascinating subject. It is a social science; it tries to provide scientific explanations for how economies work and how different approaches can be used to concepts such as how markets work, economic growth, or tackling problems such as recession, scarcity of resources, market failure or poverty and inequality.

You will learn how to think like an economist – to analyse real world problems and choices, to test potential solutions and ideas and to constructively criticise the actions of firms, consumers, governments and even economists themselves.

Of course the key aim of the course is for you to develop an interest and enthusiasm for the subject. You will learn to appreciate how an understanding of economics can contribute to your life, whether as a potential route for further study, or in opening up opportunities for employment or to enable you to understand and cope with the challenges of adult life and to approach any of these with a degree of confidence.

Theme 1: Competitive Markets

An introduction to the nature of economics and how markets work. It involves the study of the theory demand and supply and application to a range of markets – for goods and services, commodities, labour and housing. And where markets fail, how governments can deal with the effects of economic activity, such as pollution.

Theme 2: Managing the Economy

An introduction to macroeconomics, or how the whole economy works. In involves study of key measures of economic performance and the main objectives and instruments of economic policy.

Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market.

This develops the content of Theme 1 to explore what competitive markets look like, how firms can successfully compete, how labour markets work and how and where government intervention can promote competition or efficiency.

Theme 4: A Global Perspective

This unit develops the knowledge and skills gained in Theme 2 so that they can be applied in a global context to issues such as globalisation, financial economics, developing economies or poverty.

Should I study Economics?

Economics is highly regarded as an A Level because it requires a range of highly developed skills such as theoretical analysis, numerical application and evaluation to be applied to the real world. A certain amount of mathematical ability is required, but this is never beyond that required of a grade 6 GCSE student.

Economics can lead to a wide variety of higher education options and careers. Graduates in economics are commonly found working in the manufacturing, transport, communications, banking, insurance, investment and retailing industries, as well as in government agencies, consulting and charitable organisations. In all these settings, employers value economics graduates' understanding of decision-making, their research and analytical skills, and their experience of viewing problems in their national and international context. Visit <http://whystudyeconomics.ac.uk/> to explore how studying economics may be the right choice for you.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Head of Department: Mr S Wise

[An Introduction to A Level English Language and Literature](#)

English Language and Literature are central to how we communicate and make sense of the world. In an increasingly digital age, the ability to communicate fluently and persuasively in English, whether spoken or written, is an integral part of most professional careers. Areas such as Media, Law, Commerce and Education (amongst many others) all demand a high level of literacy and the ability to work well with others.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language and Literature is designed to define and assess achievement of the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be needed by students planning to progress to undergraduate study at a UK higher education establishment, particularly (although not only) in the same subject area, English, English Literature and English Language. This course enables students to:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods for the analysis and study of language
- develop and apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- use linguistic and literary approaches in their reading and interpretation of texts, showing how the two disciplines can relate to each other
- engage creatively and critically with a wide range of texts
- explore the ways in which texts relate to each other and the contexts in which they are produced and received
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language
- undertake independent and sustained studies to develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

This A-Level aims to give a solid grounding in both English Language and Literature. It examines the wide variety of responses that a piece of writing can evoke and extends the ability to articulate perceptions of, and insights into, a range of texts. To study English in the Sixth Form, you should have a love of reading and creative writing, a willingness to engage in discussion and debate (a key aspect of the course) and the ability to learn independently.

Students analyse an anthology comprising a wide variety of non-fiction texts such as diaries, reviews, travelogues and speeches. In the exam they will be asked to compare one of these anthology texts with an 'unseen' text (also non-fiction). They will also explore a play (drama text) and answer a question on it, starting with a printed extract and then moving to consider the play as a whole. Both questions are equally weighted.

Students also study a theme, 'Society and the Individual', and evaluate unseen prose non-fiction texts which consider it. This theme is also addressed by two further literary texts (one prose and one drama), leading to a comparative essay question.

The final component gives considerable scope for Independent Learning: students choose two texts, one fiction and one non-fiction, on a given area of study, for example travel, relationships or conflict. They produce two pieces of original writing, one fiction, one creative non-fiction, and a short commentary reflecting on their studied texts. This unit is internally marked and externally moderated. The advisory word count is 2500-3250.

This A Level in English Language and Literature meets Pearson's World Class Qualification Principles, which ensure that the qualification is demanding, rigorous, inclusive and empowering through internationally benchmarked standards, encouraging deep learning and measuring higher-order skills and is therefore a valued addition to any university application. Successful completion of the course will equip students with the analytical and communication skills essential for degree-level study and future graduate employment.

FILM STUDIES

Examining Board: WJEC

Subject Leader: Miss K Middleton

[An Introduction to A Level Film Studies](#)

Course Content

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Film-making including a focus on Hollywood, American film and documentaries. (Examined unit: 35%)

Component 2: Global Film-making perspectives, including modern British Film, Global Film and various film movements. (Examined Unit: 35%)

Component 3: Practical Production (Coursework) - a creative and task with self-evaluation. (30%). This might require a student to write a screenplay or make their own film.

Why take an A level in Film Studies?

For well over a century, film has represented one of the most powerful global means of communicating the local, national, and transnational stories that matter to humankind. Understanding the power of films to reflect reality is part of being a culturally literate and engaged citizen in the fullest sense. The study of cinema is important on a microcosmic and a macrocosmic scale: it allows you to explore the interconnectedness of personal visions, artistic and technological developments, social changes, as well as processes by which cultures and nations are defined through audio-visual means.

The Film Studies A-Level is designed to develop students' critical thinking, evaluative and analytical skills as well as deepening their understanding of how different cultures express themselves through the medium of film. Students will be exposed to a wide range of film genres and students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film will be greatly enhanced as well as expanding their creativity and practical skills. A variety of forms of assessment are used, with the intention of shaping the students into independent, active learners.

GEOGRAPHY

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Head of Department: Miss A Chapman

[An Introduction to A Level Geography](#)

Geography is the study of the physical and human world. It links these in space and time, helping us to understand how and why the world is changing and to respond to what is happening around us. In a globalised world, geography is a relevant, challenging and topical subject to study, both inside and beyond the classroom.

What topics are covered?

Students will study a total of 8 topics – 4 in Y12 and 4 in Y13. All 8 topics will be examined at the end of Y13 in 3 papers of varying length and weighting. The final element of assessment will require all students to produce an individual investigation of their choice and design which will be internally marked and externally moderated.

In each area of study candidates will consider the values and attitudes of decision makers, consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case

studies. Candidates will also develop a variety of geographical skills, which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge and be employed with a greater degree of independence.

Paper 1 (30%) will cover the following topics:

- Tectonic Hazards
- The Water Cycle & Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle & Energy Security
- Coasts – landscapes & management

Paper 2 (30%) will cover the following topics:

- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- Regenerating Places
- Migration, identity & Sovereignty

Paper 3 (20%) will be based on a resource booklet and will test students synoptic understanding of all aspects of the course through the use of contemporary material and examples.

Paper 4 (20%) an individual investigation of between 3000 - 4000 words based on the student's own data collection.

Students are required to participate in **four days of fieldwork** spread over the two years.

Why choose Geography?

In addition to more traditional Geography, you will also study contemporary issues which infiltrate every level of society; locally, nationally and globally. You will develop many key, transferable skills, which are not only useful in the wider world, but are highly regarded by universities and employers. It is expected that you will demonstrate an active interest in the topics studied by reading and carrying out further research outside of lessons.

What goes well with Geography?

An A Level in Geography is valued by universities and employers alike due to the skills it develops such as the ability to synthesise a wide range of information, evaluate issues from different perspectives and essay writing. Geography is a popular subject with good results; it links well with many subjects including the Sciences, Maths and other Humanities. Each year several students go on to successfully study Geography at university. Geography is an 'in demand' A level and has been defined as a 'facilitating' subject by the Russell Group (24 leading UK universities) meaning that by choosing it now it will allow you access to a wide range of degree level options and careers including courses such as law, archaeology, environmental science and civil engineering..

HISTORY

Examining Board: AQA

Head of Department: Mr P Buckland

[An Introduction to A Level History - Component 1 \(Russia\)](#)

[An Introduction to A Level History - Component 2 \(Wars and Welfare\)](#)

In studying history you will learn

- about the significance of events, the role of individuals and importance of issues
- how and why societies have changed over time
- about different interpretations of history and the language used by historians to discuss their ideas
- to understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used to analyse and evaluate it

As well as studying history to an advanced level, this course will enable you to develop key skills, which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do, including: communication, in particular, presenting a coherent argument and backing it up with relevant evidence; problem solving; working with others; and improving your own learning and performance.

Lessons will involve group discussions, debates and presentations as well as learning to take notes from books and teachers' verbal explanations. Examinations consist of a range of questions, some based on interpretations and others requiring the analysis of causes, change and significance. You should develop the ability to reach independent judgements based on a thorough consideration of the evidence and learn to argue a case convincingly both orally and on paper.

At A-Level, there are three assessment components.

- Component 1 assesses students' understanding of breadth and of historical interpretations.
- Component 2 assesses understanding of depth and of the value of primary sources.
- Component 3 is a Historical Investigation (non-examination assessment).

The topics you will study for A Level are:

Component 1- Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964

This unit explores arguably the most significant event of the Twentieth Century: the rise of Communism in Russia. Students begin by examining Russia under the rule of the Tsars and the development of the long-term causes of the Russian Revolution. Students will study the rise of revolutionary groups and assess whether Lenin was a visionary revolutionary or a brutal dictator. Conclusions will be drawn about the emergence of the Communist dictatorship, starting with Lenin's Russia. Students will then look at the establishment of Stalin as leader and how he transformed Russia from a backwards country into one of the two global superpowers, whilst causing famine and 'purging' his political rivals. The course ends with the rise of Nikita Khrushchev and how events (including the Cuban Missile Crisis) contributed to the plot to remove him from power.

Component 2- Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906-1957

This unit studies a transformative period of British history, at a time when British society underwent dramatic change. Students begin by examining the Liberal governments at the start of the 20th Century and assessing how divisions in British society required leaders, such as Lloyd George, to propose enormous change. Students will study the impact of World War One on Britain, including the role of women and the impact of Irish Nationalism and the violent suppression of the Easter Rising. They will then look at the 'Hungry Thirties' and how economic crisis led to an unstable country threatened by fascism and communism, before finally investigating World War Two and the role played by Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee in forming the country we live in today, including the creation of the NHS.

Part Two: The Emergence of the Affluent Society, 1929–1957

Students will cover the leadership of MacDonald, Baldwin and Chamberlain and will trace the course of the depression, the political development and the challenges to political stability. They will also look at the social and cultural impact of total war on Britain during WWII.

Component 3- Coursework: Tudor England.

In this part of the course, students are taught about the Tudor succession and how the House of Tudor saw ground breaking political and religious change across the nation. Students will independently investigate primary and secondary sources to write one extended piece of assessed work, judging the significance of the roles played by different Tudor monarchs in religious change.

History combines well with all other Humanities subjects and is a popular choice at The Harvey, with students achieving excellent results at GCSE and at A Level. Universities and employers recognise History as a rigorous, academic subject that helps to equip students with good writing and research skills and the ability to analyse material critically.

History is a very good choice for anyone considering a career in law, research, archaeology, data analysis and journalism. Many of our stronger science students choose to study History as a third A Level in order to broaden their sixth form studies.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN IT

Examining Board: OCR

Head of Department: Mr G Meers

An Introduction to Information Technology

This qualification will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning to develop core principles and specialist knowledge and understanding required in the IT sector. You will focus on necessary components of IT usage with particular focus on Global information systems and principles of IT.

This qualification is the **equivalent of one A Level**.

What is the course structure?

Learners will take five units to achieve this qualification.

There are three mandatory units that are externally assessed. These are the Fundamentals of IT, Global information and Cyber security. The first two mandatory units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale and important legal and security considerations. The third mandatory unit reflects an important development in the sector around information security and requires learners to consider how data should be protected and the response of the IT sector to emerging threats such as cyber terrorism. Learners must then take two of the four optional units that are centre-assessed and moderated by OCR.

All units assist in the development of transferrable skills such as communication and problem solving. The optional units encourage the development of time management, research and analytical skills as well as emphasising the need for good written and verbal communication skills.

Key for below – **mandatory units** & **optional units chosen by the department**

Unit No.	Unit Title	How assessed?
1	Fundamentals of IT	Written Exam
2	Global Information	Written Exam with Case Study
3	Cyber Security	Written Exam with Case Study
9	Product Development	Assignment set and marked internally
17	Internet of Everything	Assignment set and marked internally

Where will this course lead?

This qualification is designed for learners 16 years old or over who want to continue their education through applied learning by developing their knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and global information systems. Achievement of this qualification can support progression to go on and study relevant IT degrees in a Higher Education institution such as, Computing and IT, Computing Science, Software Developments, Software Engineering, ICT and Computer Networks or Business Information Systems.

MATHEMATICS

Examining Board: AQA

Head of Department: Mrs H Sutton

An Introduction to A Level Maths

This course aims to develop your understanding of mathematical reasoning and the application of mathematics to other subject areas. It builds on the foundation provided by GCSE to introduce more abstract and theoretical concepts, involving a wider range of techniques, and places an emphasis on solving problems that may involve different areas of the subject. Potential students of Mathematics at A Level should ideally enjoy working at the subject and be competent in the Algebraic methods studied as part of the GCSE course. Mathematics is generally considered to be one of the most challenging choices, and without a full commitment, it is all too easy to fall below the necessary level of achievement.

The A level includes the following Core elements:

Proof	Sequences and Series	Differentiation
Algebra and Functions	Trigonometry	Integration
Co-ordinate Geometry	Exponentials and logarithms	Numerical Methods

The following applied elements are also included:

Vectors	Moments	Statistical distributions
Quantities and Units in	Statistical sampling	Statistical hypothesis testing
Mechanics	Data presentation and	
Kinematics	Interpretation	
Forces and Newton's Laws	Probability	

The traditional combination of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry forms a good, coherent set of subjects which involves similar skills and abilities and which leaves many options open in the Sciences or Engineering. Also, taking Mathematics and certain Humanities courses such as Economics, Business Studies or Geography can be a strong basis for a wide range of non-scientific HE courses.

FURTHER MATHS

This course is available if you wish to study Mathematics in more detail and is taken in addition to an A level in Mathematics. It is **very** useful if you intend to study Mathematics or Computing to degree level. (It may actually be essential for entry onto Mathematics degree courses at some of the more prestigious universities).

The core content includes the following

Proof	Further Calculus	Differential Equations
Complex Numbers	Further Vectors	Trigonometry
Matrices	Polar Co-ordinates	Co-ordinate geometry
Further Algebra and Functions	Hyperbolic functions	

Additional content covers Discrete Mathematics/Statistics/Mechanics

The course is really only suitable for the most talented Mathematics students and you should only consider it if you are aiming to study Mathematics or Science at one of the top universities, or you are certain that your career will have a heavy mathematical bias.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH & SPANISH)

Examining Board: AQA

Head of Department: Mrs H Wyllie

[An Introduction to A Level Modern Foreign Languages](#)

Aim: to further develop your proficiency in the language.

Languages can happily be taken with most other subjects as it can "add another string to your bow" if taken with two other A Levels, like the Sciences, Business, Media, English or Computer Science.

Universities are actively looking for students who have language skills and indeed offer opportunities to develop your study of a language alongside whatever degree discipline you may choose.

Career Paths: A language degree can open doors to a range of careers

These days, a further qualification in a foreign language is very valuable currency for any career. Studying languages teaches you more than just how to communicate in another tongue. The skills you gain from your course, such as presenting, team working, researching and structuring an argument lend themselves to careers in a range of sectors. From Journalism and Media to Business, from Travel and Tourism to Politics, the world is your oyster: whether it's working for MI5, the police force, a travel agency or working for an international company in finance or imports, you don't have to move abroad to find a career that will let you use what you've learned. More importantly it pays off, literally, as people who use a language in their work earn on average 8% more than those who do not!

Course: The four skill areas of GCSE - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing - are refined, particularly Speaking and Writing, where you will aim to improve your accuracy and fluency.

The course follows on naturally from GCSE. As much of the target language as is practicable is spoken during the lessons. You will practise your listening, reading and writing skills using current materials based on the varied themes. These materials will include film, TV and audio as well as printed matter and, in addition to the sort of exercises familiar to you, there will be regular practice in translation, summary and interpretation skills.

The A Level course is divided into three assessed units:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing to include translation (50% of total GCE)

Paper 2: A written paper responding to questions on a *prescribed text and film* studied in class (20% of total GCE)

Paper 3: Speaking exam largely based on a project that the student has researched independently and coming from the themes listed below (30% of total GCE)

Papers 1 and 3 are based on the study of four themes. The themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as the political and artistic culture of France/Spain and French/Spanish-speaking countries:

Aspects of French / Spanish -speaking society: current trends (Family structure; Cyber society, charity work)

Artistic culture in French / Spanish-speaking countries (Music; Media; Festivals and traditions)

Aspects of French / Spanish-speaking society: current issues (Multiculturalism, crime, exclusion, positive features of a diverse society)

Aspects of political life & artistic culture in French / Spanish speaking countries (Political engagement, immigration, strikes, cinema & art)

MUSIC

Examining Board: OCR

Head of Department: Mr S J Barker

[An Introduction to A Level Music & BTEC Music Technology](#)

A Level Music is a course for those who have a passion for music. It aims to build upon skills that you have learnt through Key Stage 4 and/or through experiences away from the classroom that you may wish to cement with a good academic grounding. The course is excellent preparation for higher education courses in music, but is equally valuable for non-specialists as a second or third area of study.

In order to succeed, you will need to have a passion for music and be keen to develop your performance, composition, listening and analysis skills. You are expected to have achieved at least a grade B in Music at GCSE, **or** a Level 2 Distinction in Music BTEC, **or** have significant musical experience that is of a similar standard. Performance skills of at least grade 5 ABRSM (or equivalent) standard are required, and you will need to be receiving professional tuition on your chosen performance instrument.

Areas of Study

Students will study music from four contrasting areas of study. For 2016-18, these will be:

- Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
- Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band
- Religious Music of the Baroque Period
- Innovations in Music: 1900 to the present day

The Areas of Study encourage a musical and practical approach to learning, and promote an integration between the skills of performing, composing, and appraising (listening).

Performance (35% of total A level)

A **recital** lasting a minimum of **ten minutes** of at least three contrasting pieces. You will perform music showing technical and expressive control, and an understanding of style and context. You may choose to relate your recital to one or more of the Areas of Study to demonstrate your understanding of style and context, and to inform your performance choices.

Composition (25% of total A level)

You will complete **two** compositions, with a combined duration of at least **four** minutes. One will be in response to a brief set by OCR, and the second in response to a brief set by yourself in consultation with your teacher. You will be expected to make use of the musical elements, techniques and resources to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding.

Listening and appraising (40% of total A level)

Through the investigation and in-depth study of the large variety of music contained in the areas of study, you will further develop your knowledge and understanding of the musical elements, contexts and language. This will be assessed through one exam lasting two and a half hours, in which you'll answer questions on familiar and unfamiliar pieces; some questions will be in response to listening to extracts of music, and others will require longer essay answers.

More information?

Full specification online: www.ocr.org.uk/Images/219397-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-music-h543.pdf

Where will this course lead me?

Music helps you to develop a variety of skills such as analysis, dedication, group skills, self-confidence and self-reliance, as well as providing a means of artistic expression and relaxation. Plus it stretches your imagination and playing an instrument also makes you think and react quickly. Skills such as these are not just prized within music careers, they are valuable to all types of employers. Music is a highly regarded academic subject and whether you

take it with a view to a career in music or as an additional A level subject, it is held in high esteem by universities and other institutions of higher education.

Jobs directly related to music (but would usually require further study at degree level):

- Music therapist
- Musician
- Private music teacher
- Secondary school teacher
- Sound technician, broadcasting/film/video
- Arts administrator
- Broadcast engineer
- Community arts worker
- Event organiser
- Radio broadcast assistant
- Radio producer
- Theatre stage manager

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: DIGITAL MUSIC PRODUCTION - BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Examining Board: PEARSON

Head of Department: Mr S J Barker

[An Introduction to A Level Music & BTEC Music Technology](#)

A BTEC Level 3 Diploma is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you would need to begin a career in Music Technology.

This qualification is **equivalent to one A Level**.

This course provides a natural progression from the BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Music (ideally with the Music Technology units). You are expected to have achieved at least a grade B in Music at GCSE, **or** a Level 2 Distinction in Music BTEC, **or** have significant musical experience that is of a similar standard. Some experience of music technology equipment and software is essential.

What is the course structure?

The course is made up of five units, of which two are mandatory units and one is externally assessed (indicated below by *). The remainder of the units are chosen with guidance from your tutor from a selection of optional units. The units are:

Mandatory:

- Music and Sound for Media
- DAW Production*

Optional units – remainder chosen from:

- Creative Synthesis and Sampling
- Remixing and Reworking
- Mixing and Mastering Techniques
- Commercial Music Production

How is the course assessed?

All units are assessed and graded via coursework activities (including those externally assessed, which are completed under controlled conditions) and an overall grade for the unit is awarded. Each unit grade is assigned a set of points, which are totalled up at the end of the course to provide an overall qualification grade.

What can I do at the end of the course?

This course is a recognised route into Higher Education. Students may progress to a Higher National Diploma or Degree course. Employment opportunities range from music industry, recording studios, theatre, radio, TV, films or multi-media companies.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

Examining Board: OCR

Head of Department: Mr M Platt

[An Introduction to A Level Philosophy and Ethics](#)

Philosophy and Ethics is exponentially one of the fastest growing A level courses in the UK. This is due to the disciplines that are learned and recognised by many Higher Education institutions, including Medical College, the most acclaimed Universities and employers. This course is for those who enjoy abstract thought and intellectual reasoning. It involves serious thinking of a reflective and critical nature about questions asked by almost every human being at some point in their lives. These questions have to do with the meaning and purpose of life, how we define truth and respond to ultimate questions. To embark on such a course is to 'do philosophy'. You do not have to be religious to do this course, but do need to be able to accept that some questions can be answered from more than one view point. The Advanced GCE will develop the candidate's skills of research, interpretation, critical thinking, reasoning, analysis and debate.

The course is essay based and consists of three modules that are assessed purely by examination:

- **Module 1: H573/01 Philosophy of Religion** - students will be assessed by their knowledge of the Ancient Greek philosophers; the Judaeo Christian influences on Religious Philosophy. Students will engage in the debate that surrounds the mind/body problem and assess arguments for and against the belief in life after death. The course develops students' knowledge and understanding of the philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the challenges to religious belief, including the problem of evil and suffering, and philosophical debates from psychological and sociological perspectives. It arms candidates with the necessary tools to discuss critically traditional views on religious belief as well as the status of religious and philosophical debate in the 21st Century.
- **Module 2: H573/02 Religion and Ethics** - studies the ethical theories of Absolute and Relativist morality. Candidates will develop a knowledge and understanding of Natural Law, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, including the classical forms from Bentham and Mill. Students will also critique of the links between religion and morality, ethical theories including Meta Ethics, the Nature and Role of Conscience, Virtue Ethics. They will learn how we may apply these ethical theories to complex issues such as sex and sexuality in the 21st Century, this includes the application and different approaches to sexual ethics, extramarital sex, contraception and homosexuality. Students will also engage in the debate surrounding Euthanasia and the right to die. It is for this reason that the study of Philosophy and Ethics is valued by the medical profession.
- **Module 3: H573/03 Developments in Christian Thought** – this module develops students' ability to systematically study religious thought both ancient and modern. Students will engage in debates that have shaped Christianity and Christian practice throughout the centuries and continue to challenge Christians and Christian thinkers today. Students will have the opportunity to study and critique Christian responses to the questions of human nature, the self, immortality and the possibility of divine revelation. Students will critique the nature of the Bible and assess modern approaches to Bible study. Students will also be assessing the depiction of Jesus in different cultural and denominational communities and the development of the theology surrounding the status of Jesus. The module also allows students to engage in the most challenging and flourishing debates in modern British society. Students will critique the role Christianity plays in modern British life, the rise of secularism and pluralism within British life, the changing gender roles both within the Church and in wider society.

This course is essential for anyone with a conscience about the future which is influenced by the past. This course discusses the morality of issues that are at the core of many modern debates in the UK and around the world.

Along with the art of debate, it develops "essay-based" skills which will enhance a wide range of other subjects. With this course you could go on to higher education and university. R.S. Philosophy and Ethics will compliment

many other courses including English, History, Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Science, Medicine, Law and Politics.

The skills developed would be particularly useful for careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media. It is taught with a variety of media which includes film, radio, newspapers and topical debating programmes that compliment a thorough knowledge of the recommended reading text.

PHYSICS

Examining Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mr N Lyng

[An Introduction to A Level Physics](#)

It would be beneficial to be studying A Level Mathematics if opting for A Level Physics.

What is Physics?

Simply put, it's the study of the forces, particles, interactions and types of energy in the Universe. This sounds rather grand! In fact, A Level Physics involves studying phenomena from the very smallest fundamental particles to the nature of stars.

What sort of student does it suit and what will you get out of the course?

A Level Physics is suitable for students who:

- have an interest in, and enjoy Physics
- wish to pursue a career in the sciences, engineering, medicine, architecture etc.
- enjoy solving logical problems and carrying out investigations

Paper 1: Measurements and their errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics, Materials and Electricity (34% full A level)

- The nucleus including particles, antiparticles and photons; hadrons and leptons; the quark model
- Quantum phenomena including photoelectricity, energy levels and photon emission, wave particle duality
- Electricity including electrical quantities, resistivity, circuits and components, alternating current
- Mechanics, including motion along a straight line, projectile motion, Newton's laws, energy and power
- Properties of materials, including density and the Young modulus
- Waves, including longitudinal and transverse waves, progressive and stationary waves, refraction, diffraction and interference
- Further mechanics, including momentum, circular motion and simple harmonic motion

This unit is assessed by a 2 hr written paper comprising of 60 marks of short and long structured questions and 25 marks worth of multiple choice questions.

Paper 2: Thermal Physics, Fields and their consequences and nuclear Physics (34% of full A level)

- Probing the nucleus, radioactivity, nuclear instability and nuclear energy
- Thermal properties of materials, ideal gases and the kinetic theory of gases
- Fields, including gravitational fields, electric fields, capacitors, magnetic fields, electromagnetic induction

This unit is assessed by a 2 hr written paper comprising of 60 marks of short and long structured questions and 25 marks of multiple choice questions. (Knowledge of material covered in Paper 1 will be assumed in Paper 2)

Paper 3: Practical Skills and Data Analysis, Optional Units (32%)

- Selection and use of various equipment
- Processing data
- Making observations and measurements
- Analysing and evaluation of results

- For the list of options please see specification for more details.

This unit is assessed in two sections over 2hr comprising 45 marks of short and long questions on practical skills and data analysis, and 35 marks of short and long structured questions on the optional topic.

POLITICS

Examining Board: EDEXCEL

Subject Leader: Mr J Chamberlain

[An Introduction to A Level Politics](#)

Politics at the Harvey Grammar School has historically been a very popular subject with boys wishing to study an array of subjects at university and combines an understanding of the fabric of both the UK and US political systems, with deep rooted political ideologies and current affairs. If you are looking for a subject which presents a different academic challenge to that of English, History, Geography, Sociology and Psychology but still carries strong academic credibility as other traditional 'essay based' subjects among universities, then Politics is the course for you. Politics is especially relevant in this modern era and covers some of the big issues and breaking stories from both the UK and the USA.

The course is assessed by way of three examinations sat at the end of Year 13, each lasting two hours. The examinations contain a mix of extended and short answer essay questions which are designed to test a student's ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information and to make relevant and justified arguments and judgements about political events. There is no coursework in A Level Politics.

The Politics course fits particularly well with students studying a variety of different subjects such as History, English, Languages, Geography, Sociology, Psychology and Economics. It has in the past, also formed a useful part of Maths/Science-based courses for many students, adding variety to an otherwise taxing academic portfolio of subjects. Studying Government and Politics at A Level is an excellent choice for anyone considering further education at university and supports a variety of interesting degree options including (but not exclusive to) Law, Criminology, Global challenges, Urban Studies, Journalism and International Relations.

What will you be studying in A Level Politics?

UK Politics

- Direct and representative democracy.
- The expansion of suffrage in the 19th and 20th centuries, including the work of the suffragettes, pressure groups and other influences, and the development of rights in Britain.
- Political parties, and the development of the UK's multi-party system.
- Different electoral systems, and the impact of referendums.
- Voting behaviour and the influence of the media.

UK Government

- UK constitution, the impact of devolution, and debates on further reform.
- UK Parliament, the role of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- The role and powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.
- The role and powers of the Supreme Court.
- The impact of the European Union.

Political Ideologies (conservatism and liberalism)

- How ideas and principles of conservatism and liberalism relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy.
- How ideas and principles of socialism and feminism relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy.

Government and Politics of the USA and comparative theories

- US Constitution and the main characteristics of US federalism.
- The structure of Congress (House and Senate) and how far it adequately fulfils its representative role.
- The US presidency and the extent of presidential power and accountability.
- The nature and role of the US Supreme Court, the protection of civil liberties and rights and the extent of the Court's power.
- The US electoral system, the key ideas and principles of the Democratic and Republican parties, and the importance of interest groups.

Comparison of the UK and USA constitutions, legislative branches, executive branches, judicial branches, and party systems

PSYCHOLOGY

Examining Board: AQA

Head of Department: Mrs R Shearer

[An Introduction to A Level Psychology](#)

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind, behaviour and experience. This course is designed to develop your basic understanding of the different areas of Psychology and the scientific research methods applied to studying human behaviour. You will learn to design, analyse and evaluate research and will need to learn particular key research studies for the different topic areas.

You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of degree courses and careers.

Assessment is entirely by examination. The examination consists of three 2 hour written papers consisting of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

- **PAPER 1: Introductory topics in Psychology – Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.**
- **PAPER 2 – Psychology in Context - Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods**
- **PAPER 3 – Issues and Option in Psychology – Issues and debates, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology/Aggression.**

In **Year 1** students will study **Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches, Psychopathology and Research Methods.**

In **Year 2** students will study **Biopsychology and Issues and debates + optional topics for paper 3 which include Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology or Aggression.**

See <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance> for more information on these topics.

Psychology is an exciting and interesting subject for those who seek to understand why human beings behave the way they do. This is not only advantageous in your personal life but is useful in any career in which you need an understanding of people, including medicine and health careers, the police and criminal justice system, management, business, sport, social work and education. A level Psychology involves a significant amount of independent study and a high level of commitment to achieve a good grade. It is a rigorous, academic A level, and to succeed students need a good memory and a liking for science, as well as a high level of literacy to tackle extended essays. It combines well with other sciences, arts and humanities subjects. Many students go on to study Psychology at University with great success.

SOCIOLOGY

Examining Board: AQA

Head of Department: Mrs R Shearer

[An Introduction to A Level Sociology](#)

Have you ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? Are you interested in finding out answers to important questions? Sociologists study issues such as how the way people see you affects your identity; whether and why men or women are more likely to commit a crime; what the purpose of education is; why families are changing; what role the media plays in influencing behaviour; and how scientific and religious beliefs affect individuals and groups. Sociology is the study of societies, groups and institutions, and will help you to make sense of the society we live in, and understand the issues which affect us all.

Through studying Sociology, you will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate social issues, critical thinking and evaluation. You will learn about topics that are relevant to everyday life; and it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Assessment is entirely by examination. A Level examinations are all 2 hour written papers consisting largely of extended writing questions.

- **PAPER 1: Education with Theory and Methods**
This covers: the role and purpose of education; differential achievement by social class, gender and ethnicity; relationships and processes within schools; educational policies; Sociological research methods; Sociological theory: Sociology and Social Policy.
- **Paper 2: Topics in Sociology**
Options are chosen from Culture and identity; Families and Households; Health; Work, Poverty and Welfare; Beliefs in Society, Global Development, The Media, Stratification and Differentiation.
- **PAPER 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**
This covers: crime, deviance, social order and social control; the social distribution of crime and deviance by social group; globalisation and crime; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes; crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies; Theory and methods as Paper 1.

In **Year 1** students will study Education, Sociological Research Methods and Families and Households will be taught.

In **Year 2** students will study Media, Crime and Deviance and Sociological Theory will be taught.

For more information on these topics see <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192/specification-at-a-glance>

Sociology combines well with Geography, History, Politics, Economics, Business Studies, Philosophy, Media Studies, English and Psychology, and is very useful for anyone considering careers in the Police and Criminal Justice System, Law, Public Services, Teaching, Journalism, Health, Social Work, Sport, Media, Marketing, Management and Business. Sociology is a well-respected and rigorous academic subject, and develops transferable skills of research, debate and critical analysis that are valued by top universities and employers.

To find out more about Sociology visit http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/what_is_sociology

SPORT - BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN SPORT

Examining Board: PEARSON

Head of Department: Mr S Cowling

[An Introduction to BTEC Sport](#)

A BTEC National Diploma is a Level 3 practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career related to sport.

This qualification is **equivalent to two A Levels**.

What is the course structure?

The course is made up of 9 units covering a large range of sport related topics. In Year 1 of the course, the boys complete 4 units which make up the Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level). In year 2, they complete an additional 5 units to complete the Diploma

Unit number	Unit title	Content	Assessment
1	Anatomy and Physiology	Learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.	Traditional Written Exam A 90 minutes long with a range of short and medium length questions
2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.	A case study of an individual performer is given. There are then 2 weeks to prepare notes and sit a 2hr exam testing your ability to apply what you have learned.
3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	Learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.	Assignment set and marked internally
4	Sports Leadership	Learners study what makes a good leader, the different capacities of this role, and the leadership skills and techniques necessary when leading activities in different roles.	Assignment set and marked internally

22	Business for Sport	Learners investigate how business operates in the sport and active leisure industry and how it responds to trends and other influences to meet the needs of clients and to benefit the business.	A 2 week case study is provided to research, learn and take notes followed by a 3hr written exam.
23	Skill Acquisition	Learners study the factors that contribute to a skilled performance in sport and examine how sports performers learn and develop their skills.	Assignment set and marked internally.
9	Practical Sports Performance	Learners study the skills, techniques, tactics and rules of selected sports through active participation in individual/team sports.	Assignment set and marked internally
10	Sports Event Organisation	Learners will plan, promote and deliver an approved sports event and review the implementation of the event and their own performance.	Assignment set and marked internally
18	Work Experience in Active Leisure	Learners prepare for, undertake and reflect on a work placement in the sports industry.	Assignment set and marked internally

How is the course assessed? One unit is assessed via external examinations, two through a controlled assessment task and the remainder are assessed and graded via coursework activities.

What can I do at the end of the course?

BTEC National Diplomas are valued by employers and higher education (universities and Colleges).

Previous students have gone onto University to complete many differing degrees including: Sports Studies, Leisure Management, Sports Coaching, Teacher Training, Sports Rehabilitation, Sports Development, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Sports Business and Management.



The Harvey Grammar School
Cheriton Road
Folkestone
Kent
CT19 5JY
www.harveygs.kent.sch.uk