

## A-LEVEL OPTIONS



## INFORMATION & GUIDANCE BOOKLET 2026

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## General English (Mandatory for all students in Year 12)

**Course code:** Cambridge International AS Level English General Paper (8021)

### Why study General English at A-Level?

Advanced study of English develops students' ability to think critically and engage with important contemporary issues. Through reading and responding to material drawn from a wide range of disciplines, students learn how to analyse ideas, evaluate arguments, and express their own views in fluent and persuasive English.

The course builds essential skills valued by universities and employers, including independent reasoning, problem-solving, and the ability to present structured arguments. Students also develop a wider awareness of global and local issues across society, science and the arts, helping them to become reflective and engaged learners.

### What will I learn?

This course is designed to develop students' understanding and use of English in the context of real-world issues. Students explore a broad range of contemporary topics and develop the ability to interpret, analyse, evaluate and respond to ideas and information.

The syllabus is built around three broad topic areas:

- Economic, historical, moral, political and social issues
- Science, including its history, philosophy, ethics, environmental issues, technology and mathematics
- Literature, language, the arts, crafts and the media

Through these topics, students develop skills in reading and writing. They learn how to build coherent arguments, evaluate different viewpoints, and communicate clearly for a variety of purposes, preparing them for higher education or employment.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by 100% examination, made up of two papers, each worth 50% of the AS Level.

Paper 1 Essay (1 hour 15 minutes) - Students answer one essay from a choice of ten questions across the three topic areas. They write a structured argument of approximately 600–700 words, using relevant examples and ideas to support their views.

Paper 2 Comprehension (1 hour 45 minutes) - Students answer compulsory questions based on unseen material. The paper tests understanding, analysis, evaluation and the ability to respond persuasively to information and ideas.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students are recommended to have completed an English qualification equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE before joining the course.

### Future Opportunities?

Law, Politics, Journalism, Business, Social Sciences, International Relations, Education, Media, and Public Policy, as well as for general academic progression.

## Art and Design - A-Level

**Course code:** A-Level (9AD0)

### What will I learn?

Advanced level Art aims to develop the ability to appreciate the visual world, respond in a personal and creative way and communicate this through Art. It prepares students for employment and/or further studies beyond A-level Art and Art-related courses.

The titles of study for Art and Design are Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design and Photography. All titles explore practical and critical/contextual work through a range of processes and media. Drawing techniques will be on aspects of visual investigation and used for the development of ideas.

In lessons, the skills developed will be a working knowledge of materials, processes and techniques. Imaginative powers and critical abilities will be developed experientially.

Lessons will involve drawing/photographing various stimuli for the formation and development of visual ideas. You will practise various techniques and then experiment to extend and apply these skills. This creative process is annotated to interlink practice and critical thinking, e.g. noting what makes Modern Art Modern, and takes the form of a visual diary to record the journey.

### How will I be assessed?

**A-Level** -Linear course (2 years of studies with an exam at the end of the second year). There are two components in this course which are to be completed in 2 years. Component 1 weighs 60% of the total qualification and is a personal investigation. This incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study (a written essay). Component 2 weighs 40% of the total qualification and is an externally set assignment. This incorporates preparatory studies and a 15-hour period of sustained focus under exam conditions.

### What are the entry requirements?

Art GCSE at grade B or above. The best foundation of success in Advanced GCE in Art is a good grade at GCSE. In addition to that, if you have a real flair for the subject, if you are creative, or 'good at drawing', you have the basic skills to succeed. However, this course is not an easy option, and you should be prepared to work hard at developing your abilities, as well as meeting internal deadlines set by the department. You should have an understanding of the formal elements of art: line, colour, tone, form, texture, pattern, as well as understanding the place of art and design in the world, its history and its purpose. Above all, you should have an interest in creating and understanding art and the determination to develop your own personal, authentic and meaningful artwork.

### Future opportunities?

There are many careers in Art and Design. You may wish to take an Advanced GCE in Art for its own sake or perhaps to form the basis of a future specialist interest, or as part of a range of other subjects. You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Art and Design, or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as advertising, illustration, marketing, design, architecture, fashion, publishing and media. The study of art can also help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.

## Biology - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Biology (XBI11)  
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Biology (YBI11)

### Why study Biology at A-Level?

The aims of the International Advanced Level in Biology enable students to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology, including an

Appreciation of how society makes decisions about Biology-related issues and how Biology contributes to the success of the economy (medicines, cures for diseases, sustainable products) and society (conservation, environmental protection...)

Developing essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Biology and how they relate to each other and to other areas of science. Topics include: Genetics, Disease, Forensic Science, Human Physiology, the Brain and Nervous System, Biochemistry, Environment and Evolution, Stem Cells...

### What will I learn?

The International Advanced Level Qualification in Biology **requires** students to:

- Apply scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations
- Analyse and Evaluate scientific knowledge and processes.
- To assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.
- Recognise, recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students who would benefit most from studying an International Advanced Level in Biology are likely to have a Level 2 qualification, such as an International GCSE in Biology at grades A\*-B.

### Future Opportunities?

The IAL is demanding and should appeal to anyone with a keen interest in the subject and who wishes to pursue further studies involving the subject after school (Biomedical, Dentistry, Medicine, Sports Science, Environmental, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy, etc)

## Business - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Business (XBS11)

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Business (YBS11)

### Why study Business at A-Level?

Business is an exciting and dynamic subject that is relevant and intriguing to students. It has a strong academic thread and prepares students extremely well in a vast range of transferable skills.

Every day, there are important news stories to which you can relate the theories and techniques you have studied. This ensures the subject is energetic and vibrant, stimulating students and broadening their understanding of the business world.

### What will I learn?

You will be focusing on decision-making to improve the performance of the marketing, operations, finance and human resources departments within a business, as well as the strategies businesses may adopt to achieve their objectives. You will also examine the ways in which businesses can manage change successfully. You will study businesses in a variety of contexts, for example, large multinational businesses versus small start-ups. The course reflects today's global world; students develop an understanding of current global issues that impact business, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.

Development of your quantitative skills – students develop these skills throughout the content of the course and are required to apply these skills to relevant business contexts within the assessment.

The course helps develop a holistic understanding of business – the assessment culminates with a final paper that draws on the knowledge and skills students developed from all the Units.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written examinations. Each paper is 2 hours long with a mixture of short answers, data response and essay questions.

The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2) plus two IA2 units (Units 3 and 4). Students wishing to take the International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all four units.

### What are the entry requirements?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need a grade B in IGCSE English Language; IGCSE Mathematics Grade B is also required. If IGCSE Business Studies is taken, a grade B is required.

### Future Opportunities?

As many degree courses relate to the business world, it is no surprise that A-level Business students continue to take business-related courses such as Management, International Marketing and Accountancy and Finance at university. A number of students opt to study non-related subjects such as Law, Mathematics, Politics, Psychology, IT and Sciences at university. Business prepares you for a variety of careers ranging from marketing, banking, accountancy and finance, management consultancy, law and actuarial work. If you combine Business with a language, this can lead to many opportunities working abroad. The A-level allows students to apply for a variety of graduate recruitment schemes offered by major blue-chip companies.

## Chemistry - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Chemistry (XCH11);  
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Chemistry (YCH11)

### Why study Chemistry at A-Level?

The aims of the Edexcel IAL in Chemistry are to encourage students to:

- Develop enthusiasm for Chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry
- Acquire deeper knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject, such as inorganic, organic and physical Chemistry and how they relate to each other.
- Appreciate the contribution of chemistry to the success of the economy and society, and stimulate awareness of contemporary environmental issues.
- Encourage critical thinking by combining ideas across the curriculum, emphasising the links with other sciences.

### What will I learn?

In the first year, we study inorganic and organic chemistry and then during the second year, we concentrate on certain aspects of advanced inorganic, further organic, organic synthesis and physical chemistry. The International A-Level in Chemistry complements the other sciences and develops critical thinking, a quality required for further studies at University.

### What are the entry requirements?

It is strongly recommended that students who wish to study International Advanced Level Chemistry have completed the International GCSE in Chemistry (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) at grades A\*-B.

### Future Opportunities?

The IAL in Chemistry is addressed to students with a genuine interest in the subject, who wish to pursue further studies at University in the fields of Chemistry, Environmental Science, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Sports Science, Forensic Science, Engineering, etc.

## Computer Science - AS and A-Level

**Course code:** Cambridge International AS and A-Level Computer Science (9618)

### Why study Computer Science at A-Level?

This syllabus encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in Computer Science as well as Twenty-first Century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

**What are the entry requirements?** It is advisable that candidates beginning this course have studied Computer Science at IGCSE level.

### Future opportunities?

Cambridge International A Level Computer Science provides an excellent foundation for the study of any Computer Science-related course in higher education.

### What will I learn?

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Computer Science study the following topics:

1. Information representation
2. Communication
3. Hardware
4. Processor Fundamentals
5. System Software
6. Security, Privacy and Data Integrity
7. Ethics and Ownership
8. Databases
9. Algorithm Design and Problem Solving
10. Data Types and Structure
11. Programming
12. Software Development

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Computer Science study the previous (AS) topics **and** the following topics:

13. Data Representation
14. Communication and Internet Technologies
15. Hardware and Virtual Machines
16. System Software
17. Security
18. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
19. Computational Thinking and Problem Solving
20. Further Programming

### How will I be assessed?

The Scheme of the Assessment is as follows:

#### AS-Level:

Paper 1: Theory Fundamentals: Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills: Written paper (in pseudocode): 2 hours

#### A2-Level:

Paper 3: Advanced Theory: Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 4: Practical: Submit complete program code and evidence of testing: 2 hours 30 minutes

## Economics - AS and A-Level

### Course code:

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Economics (XEC11)

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Economics (YEC11)

### Why study Economics at A-Level?

Economics is the study of how individuals and groups make decisions with limited resources so as to best satisfy their wants, needs and desires. You will study basic economic concepts and theories such as supply and demand, the operation of markets for goods, services and labour, reasons why markets sometimes fail (e.g. the recent problems in the financial and housing markets) and how policies can be used to remedy such failure. You also look at the key features and measures of international economies such as unemployment, inflation and economic growth, which will help you to understand and comment upon government policy.

Key topics in the second year of the course are business economics and the labour market. You also examine the global economy, including financial markets, and the role of the state in the macroeconomy. You then examine and explore the economies of developing countries and consider wider issues such as poverty, aid and debt.

### What will I learn?

In the first year, you will learn about markets and market failure (micro) and economic performance and government policies (macro). In the second year, you will study business behaviour and the labour market, finishing with a unit on the global economy.

The course covers engaging content – Content allows students to develop an awareness of trends in the global economy, researching developed and developing economies, including a focus on contemporary issues. Development of quantitative skills – students develop these skills throughout the content of the course and are required to apply these skills to relevant economic contexts within the assessment.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written examinations. Each AS-level paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Each A2 paper is 2 hours long. The examinations contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essay questions.

The International Advanced Level consists of the two IAS units (Units 1 and 2) plus two IA2 units (Units 3 and 4). Students wishing to take the International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all four units.

### What are the entry requirements?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need a grade B in IGCSE. English Language; IGCSE Mathematics Grade B is also required.

You can study Economics at A Level without A Level Mathematics although the content of mathematics in the Economics syllabus has increased and you will be required to undertake calculations and interpret data throughout the two years. However, A Level Mathematics is very strongly recommended if you are considering studying Economics at degree level. Many competitive

universities will require A Level Mathematics and will not consider your application for Economics without it. Having said that, there are also some Universities that will take students onto degree courses without A Level Mathematics!

### **Future Opportunities?**

Aside from progressing to an Economics degree, Economics is a suitable foundation for many related courses such as Accountancy, Finance, Business and Management at university. A number of students opt to study non-related subjects such as Law, Mathematics, Politics, Psychology, IT and Sciences at university. Economics prepares you for a variety of careers ranging from financial services, banking, accountancy and finance to management consultancy, law, business services, politics and actuarial work. The A-level allows students to apply for a variety of graduate recruitment schemes offered by major blue-chip companies.

## Geography - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Geography (XGE01)

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Geography (YGE01)

### Why study Geography at A-Level?

Geography is a dynamic and relevant 21st-century subject that helps you understand the world we live in, from natural landscapes and climate change to globalisation, development, and human interaction with the environment. Studying Geography at Edexcel International AS and A Level equips you with the knowledge and skills to make sense of both local and global issues in an increasingly interconnected world.

Throughout this course, students develop valuable lifelong skills that support success at university and beyond:

- **A strong understanding of the world**, from local places to global issues, across both physical and human geography
- **Critical thinking skills**, enabling students to analyse complex interactions between people and the environment
- **Research and data-handling skills**, including the use of maps, statistics, and real-world data — essential preparation for university study and dissertations
- **Confidence in fieldwork**, learning how to plan investigations, collect data, analyse results, and communicate findings effectively
- **Independent learning and problem-solving skills**, as students evaluate real-world issues using geographical models and theories
- **A mature, balanced perspective**, recognising different viewpoints and understanding the role of human values in decision-making

Geography continually encourages students to apply theory to the real world, helping them become informed, responsible global citizens with skills valued by universities and employers worldwide.

### What will I learn?

#### Year 1

**Unit 1: Global Challenges Physical:** World at Risk (global hazards, global hazard distribution, global hazard trends, climate change, the causes and impacts of global warming, and managing global climate risk).

**Global Challenges Human:** Going Global (globalisation, networks and trade, global organisations, globalisation's impact on development, global population trends, global migration and world urbanisation).

**Unit 2: Geographical Investigation Physical:** Crowded Coasts (coastal processes, coastal landscapes and landforms, coastal ecosystems and environments, and managing coastal change)

**Geographical Investigation Human:** Urban problems, planning and regeneration ( urban social and environmental issues, transport issues in cities, urban planning and urban regeneration)

Geographical fieldwork studying urban regeneration in Athens city centre. This paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes in total.

## Year 2

**Unit 3: Contested planet physical:** Atmosphere and weather systems (global atmospheric circulation, extreme weather hazards and managing extreme weather) and Energy security (energy supply, demand and security, the impact of energy use, energy security and the future). This paper is 2 hours in total.

**Contested planet human:** Biodiversity under threat (biodiversity patterns, threats to biodiversity and managing biodiversity) and Superpower geographies (superpowers and emerging powers, the role of superpowers and superpowers' futures).

**Unit 4: Researching geography:** Students will research Tectonic activity and hazards, based on prior learning (tectonic processes, impacts of tectonic hazards and managing tectonic hazards) and structured support. This paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

## **How will I be assessed?**

### Year 1:

Paper 1 Global Challenges (One hour and 45 minutes—90 marks) - 60% of AS or 30% of A level.

Paper 2 Geographical Investigations (One hour 30 minutes – 60 marks) – 40% of AS or 20% of A level.

### Year 2:

Paper 3 Contested Planet: (Two hours – 90 marks) – 30% of A level

Paper 4 Researching Geography (One hour 30 minutes – 60 marks) – 20% of A level

## **What are the entry requirements?**

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Pearson or AQA IGCSE course in Geography or the equivalent and have attained Grade 6 or above.

## **Future Opportunities?**

A-Level Geography provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography, science or humanities-related courses in higher education. It opens the door to a variety of careers, and geography candidates are regularly the most employable from Universities. Careers can focus on:

**Environmental & Sustainability** – Careers focused on climate change, conservation, renewable energy, and environmental management.

**Urban Planning & Development** – Designing and managing sustainable cities, transport systems, housing, and infrastructure.

**Data, Research & Geospatial Technology** – Using data, mapping, and GIS to analyse patterns and support decision-making.

**Government, International & Public Service** – Policy, planning, international development, humanitarian and NGO work.

**Business, Economics & Tourism** – Business analysis, logistics, tourism management, and corporate sustainability.

**Education, Law & Communication** – Teaching, environmental and planning law, journalism, and public communication.

**Risk, Hazards & Security** – Disaster management, emergency planning, and environmental risk assessment.

## **Greek - AS and A-Level**

**Course code:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Greek (YGK01)

### **Why study Modern Greek at A-Level?**

A-level Greek is a fascinating subject. Students will study a variety of texts from different Greek authors and thus become acquainted with the Greek literary heritage, irrespective of their nationality. They will develop an understanding of literary ideas and strengthen their knowledge in order to cultivate critical thought. The course comprises class discussions, research tasks and essay writing in order to promote learning, while also being an enjoyable and enriching experience.

### **What will I learn?**

The Advanced Subsidiary specification requires students to:

- read and respond to a variety of Greek-language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt their written Greek language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- use the Greek language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures of the Greek language as detailed in the Greek unit content: Grammar list.

The Advanced Level specification requires students to:

- use the Greek language to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures in Greek as detailed in Greek unit content: Grammar list
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the Greek-language countries or communities
- transfer meaning from English into Greek.

### **IAL General Topic Areas**

Youth culture and concerns, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment, Technology in the Greek-speaking world, Society in the Greek-speaking world, Ethics in the Greek-speaking world.

### **IAL Topics, Texts and Films**

History of Greece: 1960-1974, History of Cyprus: 1925-1960, Films and documentaries: Conversations about crisis in Greek society, Society and childhood in Greek cinema, Poetry and Short stories

### **How will I be assessed?**

The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Greek and the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Greek are modular qualifications.

**AS** is a 2-hour and 30-minute paper in 3 sections, externally assessed. Reading, Grammar, Essay.

**A2** is a 3-hour paper in 3 sections, externally assessed. The examination comprises three sections: Section A: Translation; Section B: Creative/Discursive Essay; Section C: Research-based Essay.

**What are the entry requirements?** Grade B or above in IAS Greek.

**Future Opportunities?** Literature, Classics, Sociology, Law, Arts, Psychology, Medicine, Life Sciences, Journalism, Translating / Interpreting.

## History - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in History (XHI01)

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in History (YHI01)

### Why study History at A-Level?

History at A-Level develops students' understanding of how societies, governments and individuals have shaped the modern world. Students study political, social, economic and ideological change across different countries and time periods, developing a strong grasp of cause, consequence, change and continuity. It is a subject for students who like asking difficult questions - and then proving their answers.

The course places a clear emphasis on argument and evidence. Students work closely with historical sources, assess interpretations and learn to construct well-supported judgements. You will learn that historians do not simply list events: they explain why something happened, how far a factor mattered, and what evidence best supports a conclusion. Students also gain a strong sense of perspective - understanding how people at the time viewed their world, and why those views changed.

### What will I learn?

The course is structured around four units, each developing a different historical approach. Students study depth, breadth, source analysis and historical interpretations.

In Unit 1, students complete a depth study with interpretations on **Britain, 1964–90**. This unit explores political leadership, economic challenges, social change and Britain's place in the world from the Wilson governments to the end of the Thatcher era. Students study how governments responded to pressure, how political ideas shaped decisions, and how far change was driven by individuals, events or longer-term problems. The focus on ideology, government decision-making, power and policy means this unit complements the study of Politics, while remaining firmly rooted in historical context and interpretation. Students also evaluate historians' interpretations of the period, learning how different conclusions are constructed from evidence.

In Unit 2, students study **Russia, 1917–91** as a breadth study with source evaluation. This unit covers the development of the Soviet state from Lenin to the collapse of communism, examining political authority, economic change, control of the population and social developments over time. Students track turning points as well as underlying continuities, and build confidence in evaluating sources for provenance, purpose and usefulness.

In Unit 3, students undertake a thematic study with source evaluation on **The USA: Independence to Civil War, 1763–1865**. This unit examines the creation of the United States, the challenges of governing a democracy, economic development, westward expansion and the growing conflict over slavery that led to civil war. Students focus on long-term themes such as federal power, sectional division and political leadership, and practise selecting evidence that supports a clear line of argument.

In Unit 4, students complete an international study with historical interpretations on **Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1943–90**. This unit explores ideological conflict, key crises, periods of tension and cooperation, and the eventual end of the Cold War. Students learn to evaluate

competing interpretations of international relations and consider why historians disagree about responsibility, turning points and the significance of particular events.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Assessment is 100% external through written examinations.

The International Advanced Subsidiary is taken at the end of Year 12 and consists of two examination papers. It may be taken as a standalone qualification or contribute 50% of the final A-Level grade.

The full International Advanced Level consists of four examination papers, with two additional units examined at the end of Year 13.

All examinations are essay-based and include a combination of extended essays and source-based questions. Students are assessed on knowledge and understanding, analysis of sources, evaluation of interpretations and the ability to construct sustained historical arguments. Time management matters, but so does depth - the strongest answers are focused, evidence-driven and judicious.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Students must have a grade B or above in IGCSE English Language, as the course requires sustained writing, accurate use of historical terminology and the ability to develop clear, analytical arguments.

A grade B or above in IGCSE History is recommended for students who have studied the subject previously, but it is not a requirement. Students who are new to History should be prepared to read widely, work independently and engage critically with evidence and interpretation. Organisation is important, as students will need to keep up with reading, note-taking and regular essay practice.

### **Future Opportunities?**

History is highly regarded by universities and employers because of the skills it develops. Students learn how to research, select and prioritise information, weigh up competing arguments, and communicate clearly under timed conditions. The course also develops independence - building the habits needed for successful study at university level.

The subject provides a strong foundation for degrees in History, Law, Politics, International Relations, Economics, Journalism and the Social Sciences. Career pathways include law, education, diplomacy, policy, media, research and business, as well as any profession requiring careful judgement, problem-solving and clear communication.

## **Literature in English - AS and A-Level**

**Course code:** Cambridge International AS and A Level Literature in English (9695)

### **Why study Literature in English at A-Level?**

Advanced-level study in Literature is an exciting and challenging endeavour. Through the study of a wide variety of texts from different periods, forms, and genres, learners develop a lifelong understanding of literary ideas, gain knowledge of ways in which literary works are structured, and cultivate an enjoyment of literary texts that will hold them in good stead when it comes to being accepted by employers and universities.

In their lessons, students will interact with sophisticated literary ideas and concepts, as well as acquire essential critical thinking skills. Class discussions, presentations, research-based activities and essays will prepare students for the academic demands and independent learning approaches of higher education.

### **What will I learn?**

**AS** - For the AS, students will study two papers: Drama & Poetry and Prose & Unseen. Texts include A Handful of Dust by Evelyn Waugh, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf by Edward Albee, an anthology of poems by Maya Angelou, and Unseen Texts.

The AS syllabus aims to develop an appreciation of literature in English in a wide range of texts, which will result in informed personal responses. Analytical oral and written communication skills will be honed throughout, and an understanding of how close reading may contribute to personal development will also be cultivated.

**A2** - For the A2, students will study two more papers: Shakespeare and Drama and Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry & Prose. Texts include Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, William Shakespeare's Hamlet, a selection of poems by Louise Gluck, and Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neil. The A2 syllabus will build on and develop the knowledge and skills gained during AS, but will also introduce learners to schools of literary criticism.

### **How will I be assessed?**

The course is assessed by 100% examination. Each paper counts for 50% of the total mark of the AS, or 25% of the total mark for A-Level.

Questions are either general essay responses or passage-based. Examinations are closed-text.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Grade B or above in IGCSE English Literature.

### **Future Opportunities?**

Education, Publishing, Policy, Business, Social Enterprise, Librarianship, Journalism, Politics, Creative Writing and Law are just some of the fields available for Literature students to pursue careers in.

## Mathematics and Further Mathematics - AS and A-Level

### Course codes:

- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Mathematics (XMA01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Mathematics (YMA01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Further Mathematics (XFM01);
- Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Further Mathematics (YFM01).

### Why study Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A-Level?

The aims of the Edexcel IAL in Mathematics and Further Mathematics are to encourage students to:

- Be able to use the knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts.
- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs through use of precise statements, logical deduction and inference and by the manipulation of mathematical expressions, including the construction of extended arguments for handling substantial problems presented in unstructured form.
- Recall, select and use the knowledge of standard mathematical models to represent situations in the real world; recognise and understand given representations involving standard models; present and interpret results from such models.
- Comprehend translations of common realistic contexts into mathematics; use the results of calculations to make predictions, and, where appropriate, read critically and comprehend longer mathematical arguments or examples of applications.
- Use contemporary technology and other permitted resources (such as formulae booklets or statistical tables) accurately and efficiently.

### What will I learn?

In **Mathematics**, we study Pure Maths 1 and 2, Pure Maths 3 and 4, Statistics, Mechanics and Decision.

In **Further Mathematics**, we study Further Pure Maths 1, Further Pure Maths 2, Further Pure Maths 3, Statistics, Mechanics and Decision.

The topics involved in Pure 1, Pure 2, Pure 3 and Pure 4 are Algebra and functions; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; coordinate geometry in the  $(x, y)$  plane; differentiation; integration; numerical methods; binomial expansion; vectors.

The topics involved in Further Pure 1, 2 & 3 are Complex numbers; roots of quadratic equations; numerical solution of equations; coordinate systems; matrix algebra; transformations using matrices; series; proof; inequalities; series; further complex numbers; first order differential equations; second order differential equations; Maclaurin and Taylor series; Polar coordinates; hyperbolic functions; further coordinate systems; differentiation; integration; vectors; further matrix algebra.

In Statistics 1, the topics are mathematical models in probability and statistics; representation and summary of data; probability; correlation and regression; discrete random variables; discrete distributions; the Normal distribution.

In Statistics 2 & 3, the topics are Binomial and Poisson distributions; continuous random variables; continuous distributions; samples; hypothesis tests; combinations of random variables; sampling; estimation, confidence intervals and tests; goodness of fit and contingency tables; regression and correlation.

In Mechanics 1, the topics are mathematical models in mechanics; vectors in mechanics; kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line; dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; statics of a particle; moments.

In Mechanics 2 & 3, the topics are kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; centre of mass; work and energy; collisions; statics of rigid bodies; further kinematics; elastic strings and springs; further dynamics; motion in a circle; statics of rigid bodies.

In Decision 1, the topics are algorithms; graphs and networks; algorithms on graphs; route inspection; the travelling salesman problem; critical path analysis and linear programming.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

It is strongly recommended that students who wish to study International Advanced Level Mathematics have completed the International GCSE in Mathematics (or an equivalent Level 2 qualification) at grades A\*– B.

Students who wish to study International Advanced Level Further Mathematics should demonstrate a strong background in additional topics of Mathematics, and it is therefore highly recommended to have completed the International GCSE in Additional Mathematics at grades A\*–B.

### **Future Opportunities?**

The IAL in Mathematics is addressed to students with an interest in the subject, who wish to pursue further studies at University in the fields of Science, Information Technology, Business, Engineering, etc.

The IAL in Further Mathematics is addressed to students with a genuine interest in Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Statistics, Information Technology, etc.

## Physical Education - AS and A-Level

**Course code:** Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physical Education (9PEO)

### Why study PE at A-Level?

Edexcel A Level Physical Education is a stimulating and academically rigorous course that explores sport and physical activity through scientific, psychological and sociocultural perspectives. Students will develop a deeper understanding of how the body responds to exercise, how skills are learned and performed, and how social and cultural factors influence participation and performance in sport.

The course combines classroom-based learning with practical performance and analysis, allowing students to apply theory to real sporting situations. Through written examinations and non-examined assessment, students build strong analytical, evaluative and research skills. A Level PE also develops leadership, communication and teamwork, making it an excellent choice for motivated students with a genuine interest in sport and physical activity.

Edexcel A Level PE provides a strong foundation for further study and careers in areas such as sport science, physiotherapy, teaching, coaching, psychology, sports management and the health and fitness industry, as well as other pathways where critical thinking and problem-solving skills are highly valued.

### What will I learn?

There are two components students will study:

#### Component 1 - Scientific principles of Physical Education

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis

#### Component 2 - Psychological and social principles of Physical Education

- Skill Acquisition
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society

### What are the entry requirements?

1. Students need a grade 6 or higher in GCSE PE.
2. Students need to be playing **one** sport at a high level outside of school.
3. Students ideally need a B or higher in English at GCSE.

### Future Opportunities?

A-level PE is an academically demanding course. As such, it would suit anyone who plans to study sports science, physiotherapy, sports psychology or sports analysis. It would also benefit students who are interested in biomedical fields.

## Physics - AS and A-Level

**Course codes:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Physics (XPH11);  
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (YPH11)

### Why study Physics at A-Level?

The Advanced Level in Physics is an optional course that is offered to all students entering Year 12 at Byron College.

The course will help students:

- To progress from the Key Stage 4 programme of study and enable them to sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, physics and its applications.
- To develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.
- To understand the importance of physics as a human endeavour that interacts with social, philosophical, economic and industrial matters.
- To prepare for higher educational courses in physics and related courses.

### What will I learn?

In the first year, we study the topics mechanics, waves, electricity, the nature of light and the properties of different materials. In the second year, we further explore mechanics, and we also study electric and magnetic fields, particle physics, thermal physics, nuclear decay, oscillations, astrophysics and cosmology.

### How will I be assessed?

The International Advanced Level physics course is completed through the Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics (IAL). The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Physics comprises six units and contains an International Advanced Subsidiary subset of three IAS units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level course and consists of Units 1, 2 and 3. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification or contribute 50 per cent of the total International Advanced Level marks. The full International Advanced Level award consists of the three IAS units (Units 1, 2 and 3), plus three IA2 units (Units 4, 5 and 6), which make up the other 50 per cent of the International Advanced Level. Students wishing to take the full International Advanced Level must, therefore, complete all six units.

### What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Physics or the equivalent and have attained Grade B or above.

### Future opportunities?

Physics is a challenging and interesting subject which is essential not only for those who want to study Physics at a higher level, but also for those who wish to obtain other degrees such as Engineering, Electronics and Meteorology.

## Politics - AS and A-Level

**Course code:** Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics (9PL0)

### Why study Politics at A-Level?

Politics is the study of power, decision-making and how societies are governed. It helps students understand how political systems work, how ideas shape policy, and how individuals and groups influence outcomes at national and global levels. Students explore debates that are directly relevant to the world around them, including democracy, rights, inequality, the media, protest, and how political change happens.

The subject places a strong emphasis on argument, evidence and judgement. Students learn to engage critically with political information, weigh up competing viewpoints and write in a clear, analytical way. Politics also rewards students who are curious about current affairs and willing to look past headlines to the institutions, interests and ideas underneath.

### What will I learn?

The course is structured around three components, each looking at politics from a different angle.

**UK Politics and Core Political Ideas.** This includes democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the role of the media. Alongside this, students study the core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism. We examine how these ideas view human nature, the state, society and the economy, and how they influence political debate in the UK.

**UK Government and a Non-Core Political Idea.** This includes the UK constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and executive, and the relationships between the branches of government, including the changing balance of power and where sovereignty lies. Students also study one non-core political idea, such as feminism, nationalism or ecologism, allowing them to explore political thought in greater depth and apply it to contemporary issues.

**Global Politics.** This covers sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, human rights, environmental politics, power and development, and regionalism, including the European Union. Students consider how power operates beyond national borders and how states, international organisations and other actors shape global outcomes. Comparative theories are used to analyse global politics, helping students explain events and evaluate different perspectives on international relations.

### How will I be assessed?

This qualification is **linear**. Students will sit the AS examinations, but the final A-Level grade is determined entirely by the examinations taken at the end of Year 13. The A-Level consists of three externally examined papers, each lasting two hours and each worth one third of the final grade. Examinations include a combination of source-based questions and extended essays. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding, their ability to analyse and evaluate political information, and their ability to construct clear, well-supported arguments.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students must have a grade B or above in IGCSE English Language, as the course requires precise written expression, confident use of political terminology and sustained analytical writing. A grade B or above in IGCSE History is recommended for students who have studied it previously, but it is not required. Students should be prepared to read widely, keep up with current affairs and engage actively with political debate, both in writing and discussion.

## Future Opportunities?

Politics is highly regarded by universities because of the skills it develops, including critical thinking, evaluation of evidence, and the ability to construct and defend arguments. Students also gain confidence working with unfamiliar material and responding under timed conditions.

The subject provides a strong foundation for degrees in Politics, International Relations, Law, History, Economics and the Social Sciences. Career pathways include law, public policy, diplomacy, journalism, international organisations, education, research and business, as well as any role requiring analysis, communication and informed decision-making.

## **Sociology - AS and A-Level**

**Course code:** Cambridge International AS and A-Level in Sociology 9699

### **Why study?**

Sociology is the study of human society and the social relationships and institutions within it. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime, religion, and the family to education, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies. Unifying the study of these diverse areas of study is Sociology's purpose – to understand how human action and thinking both shape, and are shaped, by surrounding cultural and social structures. You will also study the techniques that sociologists use in order to conduct their research, and sociological theories that seek to explain and understand the nature and development of contemporary society.

### **What will I learn?**

The Cambridge International AS Level provides a solid grounding in the central ideas and approaches in Sociology, including family, as well as theory and methods. Cambridge International A Level students

can choose to explore a variety of important areas of sociological enquiry, including global development, education, religion and media.

Year 1: The Family, Methods and Research, Socialisation and Identity

Year 2: Education, Global development, Media, Religion

### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **AS level:**

**Paper 1 (50%) 1hr 30 mins** - Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions. Section B: one essay from a choice of two.

**Paper 2 (50%) 1hr 30 mins** - Candidates answer four questions. Section A: three compulsory questions. Section B: one essay from a choice of two.

#### **A level:**

**Paper 3 (25%) 1hr 15 mins** - Candidates answer four compulsory questions. Question 4 is an essay.

**Paper 4 (25%) 1hr 45 mins** - Candidates answer two essay questions. Section A: Globalisation Section B: Media Section C: Religion Each section has two essay questions. Candidates select one question from two different sections.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

We recommend that students have a grade B or above in English Language.

### **Future Opportunities?**

Sociology is recognised for entry to all universities and by employers for a wide variety of jobs and careers. Sociology trains students to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving them a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the professions or business, health and welfare, administration, education, journalism, public relations, police or research.

## Spanish - AS and A-Level

**Course code:** Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Spanish (XSP01)  
Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Spanish (YSP01)

### Why study?

It is a motivating course of study that will equip students with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.

What will I learn?

Studying this course will enable students to develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex texts for different purposes
- an understanding of standard spoken language, whether live or broadcast, on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant salient issues, providing points of view with supporting arguments (where relevant) and showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of speaking contexts with little obvious searching for expressions or use of avoidance strategies
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in Spanish-speaking countries or where Spanish is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts in order to build up competence in communication.

The IAS General Topic Areas are:

Youth matters, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment

The IAL General Topic Areas are:

Youth matters, Lifestyle, health and fitness, Environment and travel, Education and employment, Technology in the Spanish-speaking world, Society in the Spanish-speaking world, Ethics in the Spanish-speaking world.

### How will I be assessed?

IAS ·Unit 1: Spoken expression and response (8-10 minutes)

- Unit 2: Understanding and written response (2 hours and 30 minutes)

IAL · Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response (11-13 minutes)

- Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response

To achieve the IAS, students must complete Units 1 and 2, which are 100% externally assessed. To achieve the IAL, students must complete all four units, which are 100% externally assessed.

### What are the requirements?

A requirement is that students have a GCSE/IGCSE in Spanish with a grade above 6.

### Future opportunities:

This course will enable students to foster their ability to learn other languages and to equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or employment (Literature, Sociology, Law, Arts, Journalism, Translating/ Interpreting, tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, journalism and education).