

Frequently Asked Questions

Department	Question	Answer
Art	Will my work be repetitive if I study Art and DT?	The work in both areas are quite different in content and approach but do complement each other especially in terms of creativity, problem solving, research, design and practical skills
	What specialisms are covered, is it just 2D?	All students are encouraged to explore and experiment with different media and processes including mixed media, painting, photography, 3D design and print making.
Art & Photography	What is the Coursework / Exam work content for A Level Art & Photography?	AS -100% coursework, Unit 1 'Personal Creative Inquiry' (40% of the A level qualification). A2 coursework is Unit 2 'Personal Investigation' (36% of the A level qualification). Unit 3 Externally set exam (24% of the A level qualification) - students are given at least 5 weeks to prepare for their 15 hour exam.
	What are the entry requirements?	Students would be expected to achieve at least C at GCSE. Students must have taken GCSE Art in order to take A Level Art. Students are not required to take GCSE Art for A Level Photography.
	Are there written requirements?	Students will be expected to annotate their books explaining their thought processes and where necessary analysing the work of artists and designers. In Year 13 students will be expected to produce a written analysis of two artworks that links to their chosen personal investigation. (1,000-3,000 words)
	Can students take their sketchbook work into the practical exam?	Yes, students will be expected to bring all their preparatory studies into the practical exams to aid them in creating their final piece.
	Should students who study Art and Photography only do so if they intend going to art college?	Art & Photography students develop many transferable skills including Creativity, Critical thinking, Problem solving, Communication, Research skills Collaboration, Perseverance, Self-direction, Practical skills, Design skills and Presentation skills. Related degrees at university include including • Animator • Architect • Art therapist • Art restoration • Cartoonist • Computer game designer • Community arts worker • Exhibition designer • Fashion designer • Film/video maker • Fine artist • Furniture designer • Graphic designer • Illustrator • Interior designer • Jeweller • Museum/gallery conservator • Medical illustrator • Printmaker

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product designer • Teacher • Theatre designer
	What is the course Structure?	A skills workshop in year 12 led by the Art teachers, after which the students develop their own Personal inquiry. In year 13 the students choose their own Personal Investigation supported by a 1,000-3,000 word essay. The exam board sets a variety of themes, the students choose 1 to investigate culminating in a 15hr practical exam
	What is the workload out of class time?	Allotted homework time for Art and Photography is equitable with all other A level subjects at Cowbridge Comprehensive.
	How is the work assessed? Internally? Externally?	Your art teachers mark your work then the exam board will moderate a sample. The selection of exam questions in Year 13 is set by the exam board but again marked by the teacher and externally moderated.
	How will the students sit a 15hr exam?	Students will have timed, supervised sessions over a few days in the Art room for their practical exam. Teachers can support in a technical capacity.
Business	What is the difference between Business and Economics A Level?	<p>Economics and Business are two separate subjects.</p> <p>A Level Business looks at how businesses are set up and managed in the ever-changing business environment. Students will learn about the successful operation of businesses and how issues in Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Production can be improved. The course takes into account up to date, external factors, allowing students to apply business theory learned in the classroom to 'real life' contexts. A Level Business develops an analytical tool kit for students to make informed, evaluative strategic decisions for how to improve business functions.</p> <p>A Level Economics studies the decisions Governments face when they are steering the economy in a chosen direction. Economic theory is at the root of all business decisions, government policy, and global economic relations (especially in the current climate). Economics encourages students to think logically to apply economic theory and diagram analysis to demonstrate how economies function and how decisions are made. The course focuses on both micro- and</p>

		macro-economics to give students a comprehensive understanding of the whole economic environment and suitable government interventions in a range of different contexts.
Chemistry	Who teaches chemistry?	The Chemistry course is taught by two teachers. The work from both these teachers feature in each Unit examination. All the chemistry teachers can teach any unit; students can therefore go to anyone in the department should they need extra help.
	How many teachers are there for each Chemistry class? Do these teachers deliver specific units?	The Chemistry course is taught by two teachers.
	If my teacher is busy when I am free where else can I get help?	All the chemistry teachers can teach any unit; students can therefore go to anyone in the department should they need extra help.
	How important is GCSE Mathematics as stated as essential at grade B in the booklet?	The A level Chemistry course includes a fair amount of mathematics and problem solving. In addition to achieving at least a B grade in GCSE Chemistry (BB grade Double Award Science) our experience shows that students without at least a B grade in GCSE Mathematics will find many aspects of the course very difficult. Subsequently students do not always achieve their potential ALPS grade.
	How often are assessments?	At the end of each topic students' knowledge and understanding are formally tested using past paper questions.
	When does practical work occur?	Practical work features throughout the two year course. Students must purchase a laboratory coat for these sessions.
Design and Technology - Product Design	Do I need to have studied Product Design at GCSE to choose this option at A Level?	Ideally yes however, every year a number of students take up Product Design having not studied any DT subjects at GCSE. There will be elements of theory and practical skills that will need to be worked on but students are taught skills and content as if starting from scratch. An open creative, mind is all that is needed and a strong commitment to self study.
	What subjects can Product Design at A level lead me on to?	A number of students who leave school having studied Product Design continue on to study a large number of degrees. For example, Product Design, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Architecture degrees. The emphasis on developing a problem solving mind and be able to adapt and develop

		becomes a real bonus to employers in a number of future vocations.
Design and Technology : Food and Nutrition	What are the careers associated with a Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition ?	Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, such as AS and A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Sociology and Maths and/or Level 3 qualifications in the food industry or hospitality or Science, learners will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as: BSc Food and Nutrition BSc Human Nutrition BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology
	What skills will I develop?	You will build on and extend your practical food preparation skills and also each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit skills required for independent learning and development skills to ensure your own dietary health and wellbeing a range of generic and transferable skills the ability to solve problems the skills of project based research, development and presentation the ability to apply mathematical and ICT skills the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment
	How will I be assessed?	The WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment.
	Do I need GCSE Food and Nutrition?	This is not a requirement as long as you have a keen interest and passion of Food and Nutrition.
Economics	What is the difference between Business and Economics A Level?	Economics and Business are two separate subjects. A Level Business looks at how businesses are set up and managed in the ever-changing business environment. Students will learn about the successful operation of businesses and how issues in Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Production can be improved. The course takes into account up to date, external factors, allowing students to apply business theory learned in the classroom to 'real life' contexts. A Level Business develops

		<p>an analytical tool kit for students to make informed, evaluative strategic decisions for how to improve business functions.</p> <p>A Level Economics studies the decisions Governments face when they are steering the economy in a chosen direction. Economic theory is at the root of all business decisions, government policy, and global economic relations (especially in the current climate). Economics encourages students to think logically to apply economic theory and diagram analysis to demonstrate how economies function and how decisions are made. The course focuses on both micro- and macro-economics to give students a comprehensive understanding of the whole economic environment and suitable government interventions in a range of different contexts.</p>
English	What is the difference between English Language and Literature and the English Literature A level course?	Throughout both courses, students will study a range of texts and analyse the writers' use of language and the influence of social and historical context on the production and reception of texts. The main difference between the two courses is that the Language and Literature course gives you an opportunity for creative writing alongside text study. There is also more focus on linguistic terminology as part of Language study. The Literature course therefore, offers a slightly broader range of texts that will be studied.
EP	Q1 - What does the course involve?	A1 - The AS/ A-Level course with focus on three key areas of study - Ethics, Philosophy and Hinduism
	Q2: What skills will I develop?	<p>A2 - The skills you will develop through completing the AS course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analytical skills to understand arguments and criticise arguments. - You will be able to argue effectively for or against arguments using strengths and weaknesses - Have an advantage in any field that involves discussions with people - Ability to think clearly and logically
	Q3 - What can AS Ethics and Philosophy do to support me in my future aspirations?	A3 - EP can support you in developing skills for subjects such as Law, Medicine, Business, Journalism, Politics, Criminology, all humanity subjects and others.

	Q5: What do I need ?	A5 - You should have good thinking and literacy skills, as you will need to analyse language very precisely.
	Q6 - How many lessons will I have a fortnight and who teaches AS EP?	A6 - You will have 9 lessons a fortnight: 3 Hinduism, 6 Ethics and Philosophy. The teachers that lead these courses are: Mrs Cash, Miss Nicholas, Miss Butterworth and Miss Smith. You will have 3 teachers in AS and A-Level who are specialists in their areas.
	Q7: How am I assessed in EP?	A7: AS and A-Level EP is purely essay based. You are required to complete essays in class, as homework and in your examination. These essays are either teacher marked, self marked or peer marked.
	Q8: What will my AS exam look like?	A8: Students sit two papers based on three modules: Study of Religion (Hinduism) - 15% - 1 hour 15 minutes. Philosophy of Religion/ Religion and Ethics - 25% - 1 hour 45 minutes. Total percentage - 40% of overall A-Level. In your Hinduism exam, you are required to answer 4 questions (2 Knowledge and Understanding, 2 Evaluations) worth 15 marks each. In your Ethics and Philosophy exam, you are required to answer 4 questions (2 Knowledge and Understanding, 2 Evaluations) worth 30 marks each.
	Q9: What do we study in Ethics?	A9: Ethics is the subject where people decide what is good or what is a bad thing to do. In Ethics, issues are discussed logically. This means that the arguments are looked at very carefully. We study issues such as: Was it immoral to spend £1.5 million on the New Year's London firework display when there are so many starving people in the world? Does a Jehovah's Witness have the right to refuse a blood transfusion for his/her sick baby?
	Q10: What do we study in Philosophy?	A10: Studying philosophy teaches you how to approach problems, view arguments from multiple perspectives and to think around situations. Studying philosophy refines your ability to communicate clearly with others and articulate your thoughts in a meaningful way. Philosophy is the use of reason and logic to understand fundamental and deep ideas, such as: How do we know what is right and what is wrong? How did the universe get here?

	Q11: What do we study in Hinduism?	A11: Hinduism is the religion of the majority of people in India and Nepal. It also exists among significant populations outside of the sub-continent and has over 900 million adherents worldwide. In some ways Hinduism is the oldest living religion in the world, or at least elements within it stretch back many thousands of years. We study religious customs, traditions, beliefs and practices within Hinduism.
	Q12: Do I have to complete the full A Level course to gain a qualification, or can I only sit AS and not A2 EP?	Q12: You can still gain an AS qualification (40% of the course) and not sit A2.
	Q4 - What other subjects work well with AS EP?	A4 - Many students combine EP with History, Geography, Sociology, Psychology and English because the same skills are developed and used in all. Students interested in Medicine have taken EP to complement their science subjects as medical and genetic ethics are studied at A2. Many Oxbridge students have studied EP to complement a variety of humanity and science students.
Geography	Will Geography fit in with the other subjects I also decide to take?	Yes, absolutely! The nature of the Geography course allows you to develop transferable skills which are applicable to most other subjects you may decide to take. You will develop skills in communication, research and analysis, Literacy and numeracy, ICT, problem solving and much more.
	Is there fieldwork?	<p>Yes, the specification states that fieldwork is to be completed in both Year 12 and Year 13. In typical circumstances fieldwork is conducted in the local area. The fieldwork is compulsory and forms part of the examination. There is no cost for students to participate in fieldwork.</p> <p>At present, the circumstances are such that we have postponed fieldwork for this academic year. The exam board have suggested this postponement. To support our students, we have been able to deliver 'virtual' fieldwork, for example, coastal processes. We are also able to provide fieldwork within and around the school grounds once students return to school.</p>

	<p>What types of careers can Geography be applied to?</p>	<p>The skills gained from studying Geography are attractive to a range of employers and can be applied to many career options, whether that's directly or not directly linked to the subject of Geography. In a time when environmental issues such as climate change and sustainability are having a major impact on society and business, a knowledge of these is desirable.</p> <p>Some careers directly linked to Geography are: Town planner Environmental Consultant Planning and development surveyor Natural resource consultant Secondary/primary school teacher GIS officer Cartographer Civil service (government jobs) e.g. in the Department of Energy and Climate Change; International Development Immigration and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs . Insurance jobs linked to risk and Catastrophe modelling</p> <p>Some careers not directly linked to Geography but the skills can be applied to (there are many more jobs than those listed here!): Landscape architect Environmental lawyer Nature conservation officer International aid / development worker Sustainability consultant Tourism officer Market researcher Astronomer Political risk analyst Transport planner</p>
	<p>Who will be teaching us?</p>	<p>You will have two teachers, one for Unit 1 (5 lessons per fortnight) and one for Unit 2 (4 lessons per fortnight). Generally, it is a combination of Mrs Smith, Miss Rees and Miss Hanney.</p>
	<p>Is it an interesting subject?</p>	<p>Yes! We explore different locations around the world and the processes that create and shape our earth, for example Tectonics. We examine global issues that are relevant and important to our contemporary society, for example the Health of the Oceans, Water, Carbon and Migration.</p>

	Is Geography a 'good' A Level to study?	Geography is an interesting and relevant subject in its own right. In addition to this, Geography is considered a valuable subject by Universities and Employers. This is because the knowledge and skills that you develop can be applied to both the Arts and Sciences. It is considered a 'facilitating' subject for degrees with competitive entries, for example, Medicine.
	How successful is Geography?	100% of our students have passed A Level Geography. Over the last 16 years, on average, 82% of students have achieved A* to C grades in Geography. Many of our students go on to study Geography or Geography related degrees when they leave Cowbridge.
	What do we learn?	The specification can be viewed in detail from: AS/A Level Geography (wjec.co.uk) The course is split into five units: Year 12 - Unit 1 Changing Landscapes - Coasts and Tectonics Unit 2 Changing Places and Field Studies Year 13 - Unit 3 Global Systems and Global Governance - Water & Carbon Cycles, Migration, Oceans and 21st Century Challenges Unit 4 Contemporary Themes - Tectonics Hazards, Ecosystems and Energy Unit 5 Independent Investigation - field study
Geology	What is Geology?	Geology is the Science of the Earth. It involves the study of the Earth as a whole, its origin, structure, composition and history.
	Why study Geology?	Geology gives a fascinating insight into the history of the planet we live on, the resources that it gives and the hazards it can create. It can give you a different perspective on the Earth we live on and it can be the first step into an interesting and well-rewarded career but most of all because it can be fun.
	Do I need to have studied Geology for GCSE?	No knowledge of Geology is required to start the course, although a good grounding in Science at GCSE is important. Geography GCSE or even Geology GCSE is NOT a requirement for the course, though it can be useful. We will start the A level Geology course from first principles.

	What do I need to study Geology?	Three things: COMMITMENT ENTHUSIASM and of course A SENSE OF HUMOUR
	How is Geology taught?	<p>All the Geology is taught by Mr Walsh in the Geology Room (C1F). Geology is taught with a mixture of theory lessons and practical tutorials which cover the interpretation of maps and samples of rocks minerals and fossils. This is combined with a fieldwork programme in both Year 12 and Year 13. In addition, we have made visits to the local coastline, some museum visits and lectures at Cardiff University. In 2017 we went on a geological trip to the volcanoes and glaciers of Iceland. The fieldwork is an essential part of geological training and, though it can be wet, is always enjoyable.</p> <p>There is a Course Map that shows you what you will be doing and when you will be doing it. You will also be given a Student Handbook for each module, which guides you through the course and lets you keep track of the subject topics you cover in Geology. In addition to this there are a series of Geology Guides that have been written to help you through the practical aspects of the course. There is a YouTube channel created to support A level Geology (Geology at Cowbridge) with homework activities and revision lessons posted on the channel.</p>
	What topics are covered in the course?	<p>The AS course is divided into 6 topics Elements, Minerals & Rocks - the basic foundations of the science Surface & Internal Processes – how the Earth recycles itself Rock Deformation – what happens to the Earth’s crust when it is put under stress Time & Change – how we can interpret geological history Earth Structure – what our Earth is made of Plate Tectonics – the unifying theory of Geology</p> <p>The A level course also covers: Magma formation, rock deformation, past life & climates, natural resources, and geohazards.</p>

	What careers can Geology lead to?	<p>To be honest, most people take Geology because they think that it will be an interesting Science subject to study and that they will enjoy it. Every year most of the class go on to University to study Geology or a related subject. Most of these students go to Russell Group universities. In the last 7 years 4 students have gone on to study Geology at Oxford several others have gone to read geological subjects at Imperial College, including one individual on a scholarship.</p> <p>Those that choose to make a career of Geology have a wide variety to choose from: mining & quarrying; mineral/oil exploration; civil engineering; hazard management; the water industry and environmental management to name a few. The Geology Department has close links with local industry. At the present there is a worldwide shortage of qualified geologists with career prospects and salaries better than they have ever been for people with the right skills.</p>
History	Do I need to have studied GCSE History to take it at A Level?	Yes, as essential skills covered at GCSE are required at A Level. A minimum of a B grade at GCSE is required.
	Will I have to write a lot of essays?	History is an essay based subject and therefore essay writing skills are an integral part of the course.
ICT	What is the difference between ICT and Computing	ICT A level is intended for students who will use computers in business (we use Microsoft). A level Computing is for students with more of a technical bent who may enjoy a career in program development, systems analysis, network management etc.
Mathematics	Why Study A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An interesting and intellectually challenging subject 2. Preparing for Higher Education 3. Supporting other subjects 4. Employability skills 5. Career opportunities

	<p>What knowledge, skills and experience will I gain from studying A level Mathematics?</p>	<p>Knowledge and skills –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructing mathematical arguments • Understanding and using mathematical language and symbols • Comprehending mathematical arguments through proof <p>Problem Solving –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise structures and be able to abstract information to solve a problem • Interpret problems and communicate solutions in context • Evaluate solutions, considering accuracy and limitations <p>Modelling –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a situation in context and make simplifying assumptions to create a mathematical model • Use the model to explore possible outcomes • Interpret and evaluate solutions, understanding limitations of the model
	<p>How am I assessed?</p>	<p>A Level Mathematics consists of four examinations, two in year 12 and two in year 13.</p> <p>AS Unit 1: Pure Mathematics Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 25% of A Level qualification (62.5% of AS qualification) 120 marks</p> <p>AS Unit 2: Applied Mathematics Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 15% of A level qualification (37.5% of AS qualification) 75 marks</p> <p>A2 Unit 3: Pure Mathematics Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 35% of A Level qualification 120 marks</p> <p>A2 Unit 4: Pure Mathematics Written examination: 1 hours 45 minutes 25% of A Level qualification 80 marks</p>
	<p>How are the lessons structured?</p>	<p>9 lessons a fortnight with 1 hour directed study time plus homework and periodic assignments.</p> <p>Two teachers who deliver units 1 and 2 in Year 12 and units 3 and 4 in Year 13.</p>

		Focus for the first term of Year 12 is on unit 1 – algebra
	How will the department help me if I am finding the transition to A level hard?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging unit homework • Model solutions • Morning revision sessions • Open door policy for any questions, queries or problems. • Kerboodle online text book
	What about Further Mathematics?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal for strong mathematicians • either as one of your A Levels or as a fourth subject to AS only • builds upon and complements A level Mathematics • introduces topics that are not covered in the main syllabus • it is mathematics in more detail.
	What our students say....	<p>Why did you take further maths? I took further maths as I always enjoyed maths and thought it could be a challenge to further my understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Do you enjoy further maths? I enjoy further maths very much mainly because of the small class sizes. It ends up being a very focused lesson where you can take all the support you need to answer stimulating maths problems.</p> <p>Would you recommend further maths? I would recommend further maths as for me personally, it has really helped me out in regular maths. Most of the topics we do in regular maths are expanded on and sometimes even done first in further maths. This allows you to have a deeper understanding than most of your classmates in regular maths, and often a head start.</p>

	<p>What our students say....</p>	<p>Why did you take further maths? Initially I took Further maths as a fourth option as it was a desirable subject for my university choices, but after studying it for a term I decided to drop my other subject and further maths up to A2</p> <p>What do you enjoy about the subject ? My favourite aspect about the subject has been how challenging and interesting it has been compared to other subjects, learning about topics you don't get the opportunity to study anywhere else. The challenging topics make it especially rewarding when you achieve high marks. And of course the amazing teachers!</p> <p>Why would you recommend Further maths? I would recommend further maths to students who find they have a natural talent for the subject because it is very challenging, but also those who want to be stretched and pushed to their full potential .</p>
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	How am I assessed?	<p>A Level Further Mathematics consists of five examinations, three in year 12 and two in year 13, with a choice between further statistics and further mechanics in year 13.</p> <p>AS Unit 1: Further Pure Mathematics Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 13 1/3 % of A Level qualification (33 1/3% of AS qualification) 70 marks</p> <p>AS Unit 2: Further Statistics Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 13 1/3% of A level qualification (33 1/3% of AS qualification) 70 marks</p> <p>AS Unit 3: Further Mechanics Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 13 1/3% % of A Level qualification (33 1/3% of AS qualification) 70 marks</p> <p>A2 Unit 4: Further Pure Mathematics Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 35% of A Level qualification 120 marks</p> <p>A2 Unit 5: Further Statistics Written examination: 1 hours 45 minutes 25% of A Level qualification 80 marks</p> <p>A2 Unit 6: Further Mechanics Written examination: 1 hours 45 minutes 25% of A Level qualification 80 marks</p>
	Can I do Further Mathematics without Mathematics?	No
	Is there any subject specific equipment required?	<p>It is essential that you have a: fx991ex calculator</p> <p>This calculator has the ability to calculate summary statistics, access probabilities from standard statistical distributions and an iterative function. It is also useful for many more things too!</p>
Music	How much of a percentage is Music AS Level towards	<p>AS Music is worth 40% of the overall A Level. A2 Music is worth 60% of the overall A Level.</p>

	the final A Level qualification?	
	Do I need to have a specific grade on an instrument to do AS Level Music?	You do not need to have done a graded exam to do Music AS Level, but you do need to be able to perform pieces at around a Grade 5 standard. For A2 Level Music, you will need to perform pieces at around a Grade 6 standard.
	How much practical work will I be doing in Year 12?	We feel that performing is integral to developing musical skill and contributes greatly to all other aspects of the course. Therefore, we often learn about different styles of music through many different practical activities during sixth form lessons. There is also an expectation for all A Level students to fully participate in the extracurricular activities offered by the music department.
	Is Year 13 Music any different to Year 12 Music?	In Year 13, pupils will continue to study the three disciplines of Performance, Composition and Appraising, but can specialise in either Performance or Composition. The Appraising part of the course builds on the learning from Year 12.
	How many lessons of Music will I receive?	You will receive 8 lessons of Music per fortnight.
	What grade do I need to achieve at Music GCSE level in order to do Music A Level?	You will need to achieve a 'C' grade at GCSE Music before progressing onto A Level. You will also need to be confident with using Sibelius and/or Musescore (which we also use for GCSE composition).
	Can I choose Music A Level without doing GCSE Music?	Yes - however, you must be able to sing or play an instrument at a Grade 5 standard and have some knowledge of music theory.

	<p>What does the Year 12 Music course look like?</p>	<p>Here is an overview of the AS course in Year 12:</p> <p>Unit 1: Performance (30% of AS Level) Description: Throughout the year, you will be working towards a solo recital on an instrument of your choice (6-8 minutes long). Date of exam: March 2022</p> <p>Unit 2: Composition (30% of AS Level) Description: In Year 12, you will need to complete two compositions, both equalling to 3-6 minutes in length in total. You will be given teacher feedback on a regular basis and will be given set deadlines throughout the year for you to submit drafts of your compositions. Date of final submission: April 2022</p> <p>Unit 3: Appraising (40% of AS Level) Description: You will sit a 90 minute listening exam where you will be examined on two areas of study. Date of exam: June 2022</p>
	<p>Would I just be studying Classical Music for A Level Music?</p>	<p>There is an element of Classical Music that you will be required to study, but WJEC Music A Level also offers a range of other topics which you will be studying, including Musical Theatre, Jazz and Rock & Pop.</p>
	<p>What resources can I use to help me with the theory aspect of music?</p>	<p>Your teachers will provide you with lots of resources to help you learn and understand the theory of music. There are also a number of resources online where you can practise your theory:</p> <p>musictheory.net ABRSM BBC Bitesize</p>
PE	<p>What previous qualifications / experience do I need to take A Level PE ?</p>	<p>It is essential that you are COMPETING at a HIGH level in your one chosen activity. It is also highly desirable that you have completed GCSE PE and achieved a minimum B grade. Any students without this qualification will need to be assessed for suitability by the Head Of Department prior to selecting the option.</p>
Performing Arts	<p>Are there any opportunities to perform outside of school during this course?</p>	<p>Yes, we actively seek to perform in as many venues as possible. We want to get theatre out into the community and allow students to perform in a variety of venues and to a range of audience types. We want to build the CVs of our students and enable them to show that</p>

		they have the experience needed when applying to universities in such a competitive field.
	How does assessment work with this course?	Achievement in the qualification requires a demonstration of depth of study in each unit, assured acquisition of a range of practical skills required for employment or progression to higher education, and successful development of transferable skills. Students achieving a qualification will have achieved across mandatory units, including external and synoptic assessment. Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U). The grade of Near Pass is used for externally-assessed units only. All mandatory and optional units contribute proportionately to the overall qualification grade, for example a unit of 120 GLH will contribute double that of a 60 GLH unit. Qualifications in the suite are graded using a scale of P to D*, or PP to D*D*, or PPP to D*D*D*.
	Why choose a BTEC course?	Young people taking their first steps towards a new career need the right blend of technical and academic skills in order to become the highly skilled, work-ready individuals that employers and universities look for. BTEC Level 3 Nationals are vocational qualifications designed to help students succeed. They have been developed in collaboration with over 5,000 universities, employers and professional bodies with employability at the heart, so our students can develop the skills and confidence they will need to step into their future.
	How successful are students that study BTEC courses that then go on to university?	Absolutely. Nationally, 4 out of 5 BTEC course students go on to receive a First or Second class degree. The courses are actively supported by 5000 universities, employers and professional bodies that have been involved in designing course content and delivery.
	Can I opt to explore a specific unit that I have an interest in?	The beauty of this course is that we can tailor it to the needs of our students! After completing mandatory units, Pearson (examination board) allows us to choose optional units that meet the needs and interests of our students.

	<p>What does this qualification cover?</p>	<p>The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate and consistent with current practice.</p>
	<p>This course equates to how many A levels?</p>	<p>The BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts is equivalent to 2 A Levels and will span over two option blocks.</p>
	<p>How many UCAS points does this course award?</p>	<p>UCAS Tariff points The BTEC Nationals attract UCAS points. Please go to the UCAS website for full details of the points allocated. https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator</p>
	<p>How does the course differ from A Level Theatre studies?</p>	<p>Students are assessed in a vocational way with 46% external assessment and 54% internal assessment. Students that study this course join our in-house theatre company called 'Phoenix Theatre Arts'. Choosing this course will involve a commitment to a range of performance opportunities, visits and their participation in tours of community theatre such as pantomimes, Theatre in Education and devised theatre. Unlike A Level Theatre Studies, students are not examined on their understanding of set texts, but are practically assessed on their understanding of the performance aspects and the wider nature of the industry. Students benefit from building a broad experience portfolio that allows them to stand out from the crowd in such a competitive industry.</p>

	<p>What could this qualification lead to?</p>	<p>In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, this qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop all-round performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers. For example, in Unit 6: 'Final Live Performance to an Audience' students will gain understanding and experience of rehearsal methods and techniques. Through research and practical exploration, students will develop the necessary skills to interpret performance material and develop a character or role for a live performance. The students will acquire transferable skills, such as personal management and collaborative skills, which are necessary when working in a performing arts ensemble.</p> <p>This BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses, for example: BA (Hons) English with Theatre and Performance; BA (Hons) Media Studies; BA (Hons) Acting and Performance, or BA (Hons) Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism.</p>
<p>Photography</p>	<p>Do I need to have a camera?</p>	<p>Whilst new camera phones have excellent cameras, they do not allow students to explore and understand the different technical settings on a camera and how these can be manipulated and changed to create different effects. Students do not need to have their own cameras, but need to have access to one that they can use to complete their shoots. The school cannot loan out cameras to be taken home, but students can use them for any shoots being completed on the school site.</p>

<p>Physics</p>	<p>Q1. If I am doing the Double Award course can I still do AS Physics? Q2. Do I have to be good at Maths to do Physics? Q3. Is there a lot of practical work in AS Physics? Q4. Is Physics a hard subject to take? Q5. How is the course delivered?</p>	<p>Answer 1. Yes, the DA course does allow for progression into the AS physics course but it will be a higher "step up" than progressing from the Triple course.</p> <p>Answer 2. In short, yes you do have to be good at Maths. The AS and A2 course involve a lot of mathematical content and there is a lot of problem solving.</p> <p>Answer 3. There are a number of practical experiments that have to be carried out as part of the curriculum assessment. It is usual to do at least one practical per topic.</p> <p>Answer 4. Pupils find it challenging. You have to be comfortable when problem solving. There is not a lot of rote learning of facts; the emphasis is always on applying your understanding.</p> <p>Answer 5. The course is delivered through topic booklets in a similar way to GCSE. Lessons are clearly structured to match each booklet, model answers are discussed and then written down in class, practical demonstrations highlight key points, independent learning is used to consolidate the work done in class and each topic is assessed with a test using a range of past paper questions.</p>
<p>Psychology</p>	<p>What is psychology?</p>	<p>Psychology is a science, which concerns itself with the study of both human and animal behaviour, and therefore interrelates with other disciplines such as philosophy, biology and sociology. In the minds of most though, psychology is connected with the treatment of mental disorders (clinical psychology) or assisting the resolution of relationship problems (counselling psychology). However the areas of investigation for psychologists are vast and varied as illustrated by the many specialised fields of psychology open for study, such as Organisational Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Sports Psychology.</p>

	What is the aim of A Level Psychology?	The aim of AS and A2 Level Psychology is to develop, apply and evaluate scientific knowledge about various human behaviours, e.g. Why do we obey or conform? How can we explain eating disorders? Whilst also to develop an understanding and analysis of methodology and investigative techniques.
	What careers are possible with Psychology?	Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. For example, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist, or mental health worker, this A Level is of direct value. However, Psychology is a universal subject when thinking of a future career, as there is no career where an insight into human behaviour would not be beneficial. There are a wide variety of university courses and occupations that past students have undertaken, such as medicine, clinical psychologist, veterinary, physiotherapy, sports science, sports coaching, business, police force, midwifery, solicitor, counsellor, primary school teacher and criminology. For further information see The British Psychological Society website (www.bps.org.uk) or review the university website ucas.com .
	Is Psychology easy?	Psychology is assessed at the same level as other AS courses and if it were easy then everyone who sat the exams would have an A grade but this is not the case! Therefore, Psychology requires just as much effort as all other subjects do. However some people do find it easier than others because they find the topics covered interesting.
	What type of skills do I need to pass A Level Psychology?	Students who want to take Psychology should consider the skills needed to cope in this subject. To succeed in Psychology, you need to be able to outline a subject and give an evaluation from a positive and negative point of view, and to describe and evaluate methodology and investigative techniques.
	Is there anywhere I can get more information about studying A Level Psychology?	There are useful websites such as www.wjec.co.uk (what the course consists of from the examination board) and www.bps.org.uk (careers in psychology and allied fields from The British Psychological Society).
Sociology	Do I need to have studied GCSE in order to take A Level Sociology?	No, we assume no background knowledge of the subject and therefore there is no requirement for GCSE Sociology.
	Is there any coursework in Sociology A Level?	No, there are two exams in year 12 and two exams in Year 13.

	Will I need to write essays in Sociology?	Sociology is an essay based subject and therefore in order to access the course you will need a minimum of a B at GCSE in English Language.
Welsh	What can I do with a qualification in Welsh?	<p>Any qualification in a language is valuable, especially if that language has an influence on your future prospects and employability. The ability to use the Welsh language is an essential skill in modern Wales, one which many employers look for. Studying Welsh at KS5 will not only equip you with the language skills you need for the world of work and further education, but also develop your confidence and communication skills as well as providing opportunities to explore and enhance your cultural identity.</p> <p>All public sector organisations in Wales are legally bound to provide services in both Welsh and English and many private companies do so because it's good for business. This makes Welsh-speaking employees a very attractive asset to companies. Successful international companies like Apple, Ikea, HSBC and Microsoft all see an advantages of using Welsh – they are responding to the expectations and needs of their customers. Welsh language skills are increasingly valued by employers. With more and more services being offered bilingually, there is more demand for people with bilingual skills. The ability to use Welsh is essential if you want to work in the public sector, in education, healthcare, the media and entertainment and also hospitality and catering.</p> <p>UCAS has acknowledged “In Wales, being able to communicate in Welsh and English is a significant advantage for graduates looking for work... research shows that employees with bilingual skills are more likely to earn a salary 8-10% higher than workers without bilingual skills. Having the ability to use Welsh in the workplace can give you an edge over your competitors”.</p>
	I went to a Welsh medium Secondary School for my GCSEs. Can I study A Level Welsh at Cowbridge?	No. If you have a qualification in GCSE Welsh First Language at KS4, you are not able to sit the AS or A2 Welsh Second Language qualification in KS5.

	<p>Is my Welsh good enough to cope with A Level?</p>	<p>We all have different skills and areas of strength in Welsh. You may prefer to speak, write, read or research or flex your creative muscles – the Welsh course at AS and A Level allows you not only to show off your talents but to develop and work on other areas of your learning. The AS course is structured in such a way that you have a lot of control of a large proportion of your assessment. The oracy exams and the course work modules let you manage your workload to make sure the pressure of external assessments is spread over the academic year. As with any language, the more you practice, the better and more confident you will become. The GCSE course gives you a good foundation and opportunity to develop your reading, writing and oracy skills, the AS course will enhance and refine these skills as well as introduce new and engaging ways to further develop and test your language skills.</p>
	<p>What extracurricular opportunities are on offer?</p>	<p>We are very lucky in Wales to have a vibrant and dynamic Welsh language and culture that caters for the needs of Welsh learners that also receives a lot of support and encouragement from the community and the government.</p> <p>We strongly believe that opportunities outside the classroom to use, practice and develop linguistic and cultural knowledge are the key to becoming fluent. It's really important to us that pupils don't see Welsh as just a 'language of the classroom' but as a modern and relevant daily medium of communication, as well as a way of life for hundreds of thousands of people all over the country. We aim to provide opportunities to pupils that will not only improve Welsh communication skills, but also develop cultural knowledge of contemporary Wales. We have been very lucky in the past to be able to organise and offer a full and exciting extra-curricular programme to enhance the experience of learning Welsh, such as visits to the theatre to see excellent Welsh language productions, educational visits to the Urdd camps at Llangrannog and Glanllyn where Year 12 and 13 pupils take on additional responsibilities to help out and provide meaningful Welsh experiences for younger pupils, but also are able to visit some of the</p>

		<p>beautiful and historically significant key locations mentioned and discussed in the course. We organise visits to the Urdd Eisteddfod to immerse our pupils in this unique Welsh experience, and our Year 12 and 13 pupils often compete in the competitions for Welsh Learners!</p> <p>We are also one of only a handful of schools in the country who are lucky enough to be part of the Cymraeg Bob Dydd scheme run by the Urdd which gives us exclusive access to opportunities and funding specifically for Welsh Second Language learners at AS and A2 Level. This has meant that we have been able to organise opportunities like trips to gigs, visits and workshops with Welsh authors, poets, actors, musicians, directors and television producers, even white-water rafting through the medium of Welsh!</p>
	<p>How fluent will I be at the end of the course?</p>	<p>This depends on how much you throw yourself into the course and the opportunities provided. Many pupils who have studied with us have managed to obtain a very high standard of fluency and accuracy and gone on to study Welsh at university or use Welsh in their daily personal and professional lives. As with any language, the more you practice, the better and more confident you will become.</p>

	What support will I get?	<p>The Welsh department is an open and friendly place. It is staffed by a team of qualified and experienced Welsh specialists, many of which have been through the process of learning Welsh themselves – so they understand what it's like to learn Welsh as a second language. All members of the Welsh department have degrees in Welsh, and are not just Welsh-speakers. Members of the department have lead training to other teachers in the country, have helped to develop resources for national use and have also served on advisory panels for new GCSE qualifications and as accreditors for the new A Level course. The department is experienced with getting the best out of students and working closely with people to make sure everyone is getting the support they need and are making progress towards personal and academic targets. The department is well resourced and uses a variety of teaching methods and materials to get the best out of students. You will receive high quality experiences and resources for all parts of the course.</p>
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<p>Welsh Baccalaureate</p>	<p>Do universities value the Skills Challenge Certificate?</p>	<p>Having a large number of qualifications such as GCSEs, A Levels and a degree is sometimes not enough for employers and Universities. Employers and Universities want the academic ability but also a whole set of skills alongside and how to apply them in different situations.</p> <p>The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) has been given the same UCAS tariff points as an A level. All Welsh universities include the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) in their offers. Many other universities also accept SCC.</p> <p>Offers for courses can take on the following formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Accepted in 3 grade offer; § Accepted as fourth grade (usually B or C) alongside a reduced 3 grade offer; § Accepted in tariff points offer. <p>The skills, attributes and behaviours that are developed through the SCC are greatly valued by universities.</p> <p>Some universities and faculties have strict policy of only making entry offers based on A level grades. But many of these will take the experiences gained by learners on the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate into account when deciding whether or not to make an offer, especially the experiences they have gained volunteering in the community and writing the Individual Project on a topic of the student's choice. These experiences can enhance applications e.g. personal statements and interviews.</p>
	<p>Is the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate compulsory?</p>	<p>Undertaking the Skills Challenge Certificate is not compulsory. For most learners it is invaluable in helping them to develop the skills they need for further study and work. It complements other subjects and courses, giving learners greater confidence and a more rounded educational experience.</p>