

A levels

A levels are studied over two years and are made up of the AS qualification in year 1 of the sixth form and the A2 in year 2. Two modules are studied in each year to make up the full A level qualification.

Students would normally choose to study 4 AS levels in year 1 and then continue with 3 subjects in year 2.

A minimum of 5 GCSE passes are required at grades A*- C in order to take a combination of 4 A levels, and in many cases individual subjects require a grade higher than C. You can check this within the subject information. There are some A levels which you won't have studied at GCSE (Psychology for example), and you will be able to discuss your suitability for these courses at the sixth form open evenings.

Most students will probably take all their A levels in one sixth form centre (i.e. Park or Springs), but because of the joint nature of our provision you have greater opportunity and you may wish to study another subject in the other centre.

A levels require a high degree of commitment to academic study and are an excellent pathway towards University and Higher Education.

A level passes are graded A - E



advanced



Art and Design

Overview of course

You will study a range of fine art processes in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Study will include the development of practical and creative skills. The historical and contemporary aspect of art and design will be incorporated into the studio work.

Entry requirements

A minimum of grade C is normally required in GCSE art, but this can be discussed with the tutor if a portfolio of an appropriate standard of work can be produced.

What will I study?

Units include thematic enquiries, expressive and contextual studies, and problem solving.

Biology

Overview of course

The course provides an opportunity to gain a sound understanding of Biology through the study of fundamental Biological principles, whilst exploring adaptations of Biology. It emphasises the way scientists work.

Entry requirements

At least grade B in Science at GCSE – preferably with Additional Science.

What will I study?

There are 4 modules which together make up the AS and A2.

- Biology and disease
- Variety of living organisms
- Populations & environment
- Control in cells and organisms

The first two modules at AS level and the last two at A level. In both courses there will be Investigative skills (practical work).



A levels

Business Studies

Overview of course

This advanced course is designed for learners with a keen interest in the world of business.

The main aims of the course are to encourage students to:

- Develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value.
- To understand that Business Studies draws on a variety of disciplines and that these perspectives and disciplines are interrelated.
- Acquire a range of skills, including decision-making and problem solving in the light of evaluation and the quantification and management of information.
- Be aware of the current structure of business and business practice, as reflected in events and issues affecting organisations in different sectors and environments.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at Grade A*- C including GCSE English and Maths.

What will I study?

There are four units of study – two for AS Level and two for A2.

AS Level Units:

- Developing new business ideas
- Managing in business

A2 Level Units (the above plus a further two):

- International business
- Making business decisions



Chemistry

Overview of course

Candidates will study theory and carry out experimental work to illustrate Chemistry principles. This is to ensure learning is enjoyable and enhances enthusiasm for Chemistry.

Entry requirements

At least grade B in GCSE Science. Additional Science is preferred too.

What will I study?

There are 4 modules which make up the AS and A2.

- Foundation Chemistry
- Chemistry in action
- Kinetics, equilibria and organic chemistry
- Energetics, Redox and Inorganic chemistry

The first two are studied at AS level and the last two at A level. In both courses Investigative and Practical skills are studied.



A levels

Design and Technology – Food

Overview of course

This GCE is a mixture of theory and practical and would be useful to learners who wish to make a career in the food/ design industry. However it is not just a practical experience.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE grades at A*- C, including GCSE Design and Technology, Food Technology ideally.

What will I study?

There are 4 units of study - two for AS level and two for A2

AS

- Materials and components
- Design and make Influences

A2

- Processors and manufacture, materials and components
- Design and market influences



Design and Technology – Product Design

Overview of course

Study areas include, Food, Graphics, Manufacturing, Resistant Materials, Systems and Control and Textiles.

Entry requirements

A Design and Technology GCSE at grade C or above is essential. It is recommended that candidates have attained communication and literacy skills at a level equivalent to GCSE grade C in English.

What will I study?

2 core units at AS level – Advanced innovation challenge and Product Study.

A Level 2 core units – Design, Make and Evaluate portfolio and Written Paper.

A levels



English Language

Overview of course

This advanced course is designed for learners with an interest in the English language.

The main aims of the course are to encourage students to:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language
- undertake independent investigative work related to language in use
- engage creatively and independently with a varied programme for the study of English from the past to the present day
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at Grade A*- C including GCSE English at a minimum of Grade C.

What will I study?

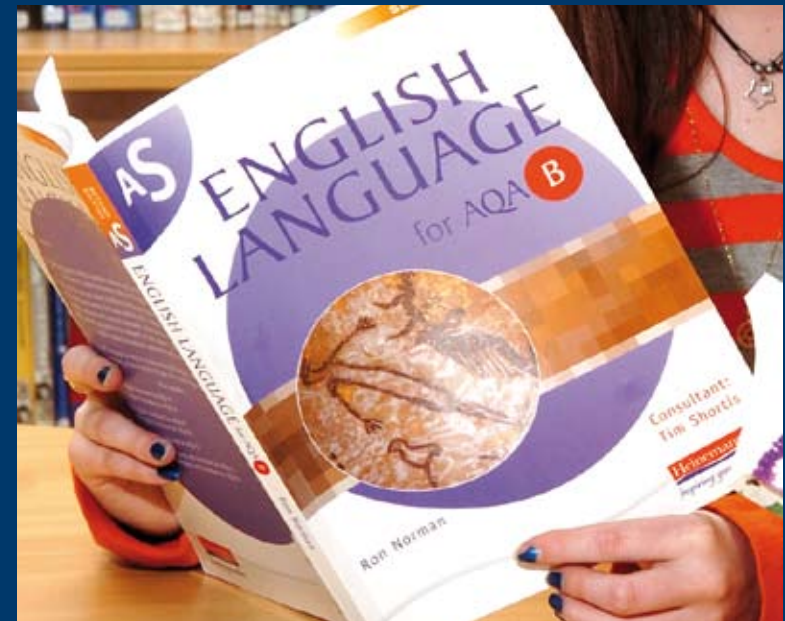
There are four units of study – two for AS Level and two for A Level.

AS Level Units:

- Introduction to the Language of Texts
- Original Writing and Exploring Spoken Language

A Level Units (the above plus a further two):

- Language Investigation and Writing for Specific Purposes
- Analysing and Evaluating Language Modes and Contexts



English Literature

Overview of course

This advanced course is designed for learners with an interest in English Literature.

The main aims of the course are:

- To encourage AS and A level students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies through reading widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- To encourage students to engage creatively with a range of texts and ways of responding to them
- To enable students to develop and apply effectively their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in speech and writing
- To encourage students to explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them
- To help students deepen their understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English
- To encourage students to explore comparisons and connections between texts.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at Grade A*- C including GCSE English and English Literature at a minimum of Grade C

What will I study?

There are four units of study – two for AS Level and two for A Level.

AS Level Units:

- Introduction to Poetry and Drama
- Prose Study and Creative Reading

A Level Units (the above plus a further two):

- Period and Genre Study
- Shakespeare and Poetry in Context

English Language and Literature

Overview of course

This advanced course is designed for learners with an interest in English Language and Literature.

The main aims of the course are to encourage students to develop their interest and enjoyment in English as they:

- use integrated linguistic and literary approaches in their reading and interpretation of texts;
- engage creatively and independently with a wide range of spoken, written and multimodal texts, exploring the relationships between texts;
- undertake independent and sustained studies to develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at Grade A*-C including GCSE English and English Literature at a minimum of Grade C

What will I study?

There are four units of study – two for AS Level and two for A Level.

AS Level Units:

- Critical Reading of Literary and Non-Literary Texts
- Creative Writing

A Level Units (the above plus a further two):

- Analysing and Producing Performance Texts
- Comparative Textual Analysis and Review



Film Studies

Overview of course

The AS and A Level in Film Studies is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the 20th century, and a cultural form of great significance in the new millennium. It studies cinema as texts, as an art form, and as a social and economic institution. Students will engage in a vast range of film texts, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection. Candidates approach the study of Film through close critical analysis, long extended writing, research into institution and contextual issues around film production, and through their own creative work in developing storyboards, scripts and through filming.

Entry requirements

Standard.

What will I study?

Modules include looking at how meaning is created in films, producers and audiences in Hollywood and in the British film industry, messages and values in British and Irish cinema, and studies in world cinema.

French

Overview of course

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in French rewards language skills and knowledge through student-focussed assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it can prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Entry requirements

At least grade B at GSCE.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Rewards students for their ability to converse in French on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.

Unit 2: Requires students to understand and convey their understanding of French language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the French language in continuous writing.

Unit 3: Requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their French language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

Unit 4: Requires students to demonstrate skills in Advanced level French writing and translation from English into French. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced level French language reading and research linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of a French-speaking country.



A levels

Geography

Overview of course

The world in which we live is likely to keep changing even more in the 21st Century. This course looks at why, how, the impact and the implications of this, helping you to prepare for these changes. Key skills that are developed in this course are transferable and an asset in the world of employment and in higher education.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE passes at A* - C. A grade C or above in GCSE Geography would be helpful although not essential.

What will I study?

You will study core human, physical and environmental geography.

The course will investigate aspects of global issues

- environmental responsibility
- global challenges
- population change and cultural understanding
- landscapes and change
- trade and industry.



German

Overview of course

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in German rewards language skills and knowledge through student-focussed assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it can prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including German at least grade B.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Students are rewarded for their ability to converse in German on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.

Unit 2: Students are required to understand and convey their understanding of German language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the German language in continuous writing.

Unit 3: Students are required to demonstrate the effectiveness of their German language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

Unit 4: Students are required to demonstrate skills in Advanced level German writing and translation from English into German. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced level German language reading and research, linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of a German-speaking country.



Government and Politics

Overview of course

This course will be designed to encourage an interest in and enthusiasm for the study of politics. It will enable students to develop an insight into political beliefs, central to an understanding of the modern world.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C, including English. It is not necessary to have studied politics at GCSE.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Introduces students to the key channels of communication between government and the people. It encourages them to evaluate the adequacy of existing arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and participation.

Unit 2: Introduces students to the major governmental processes within the UK. It encourages them to develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions.

Unit 3: Introduces students to key themes in political analysis. Students will need to study one of the following topics: UK Political Issues; Introducing Political Ideologies; Representative Processes in the USA; Structures of Global Politics.

Unit 4: Extends students' understanding of key themes in political analysis. Students will study one of the following topics: EU Political Issues; Other Ideological Traditions; Governing the USA; Global Political Issues.



Health and Social Care

Overview of course

This is an exciting course for students who are interested in working with people in a wide range of careers. This subject is your opportunity to study life in depth.

The content is varied and interesting, ranging from communication and childcare to human body systems and psychology. Learning methods include independently researched projects, talks from visiting speakers and role play. The cover picture shows students carrying out an experiment involving blood-pressure monitoring.

Entry requirements

GCSEs should include at least a C in English.

What will I study?

Units in year 1 of the course will include promoting quality care, complementary therapies, and care practice provision. In year 2 they will include understanding human behaviour, caring for people with additional needs, and anatomy and physiology in practice.



What can I do at the end of the course?

An AS or A2 in Health and Social Care provides a route to further study at degree level or in-service training and is highly attractive to employers. It is a suitable qualification for the caring professions and for working with people. You could work for example as a nurse, radiographer, physiotherapist or midwife, as a counsellor or social worker, as a teacher, or in the police force as a paramedic.

A levels

History

Overview of course

This course will develop your ability to think independently and make well reasoned judgements. It will promote an understanding of change and development over time. It will provide you skills essential for study at University level.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE passes at A*- C, including English. A grade C or above in GCSE History would be helpful although not essential.

What will I study?

It is likely that you will study aspects of both European and British History in detail. You will cover areas of development over a 100 year period as well as some detailed short term studies.



Mathematics

Overview of course

The advanced course is designed for those students who have an interest in mathematics and who wish to study it, and its application, further.

The course aims to:

Develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.

Develop abilities to reason logically.

Develop an understanding of coherence and progression in mathematics and of how different areas of mathematics are connected.

Develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, the world of work and society, in general.

Take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE's at A*- C including GCSE Mathematics at a minimum of grade B.



A levels

What will I study?

There are four units of study, two at AS level and a further two for the full A Level.

AS units include

- Core 1 and 2 - algebra and functions; co-ordinate geometry; sequences and series; differentiation; integration.

Plus one unit from either

- Statistics - probability; representation and summary of data; correlation and regression; discrete variables and distributions; the Normal distribution.
- Mechanics - mathematical models and vectors in mechanics; kinematics and dynamics of moving particles; moments.
- Decision Mathematics – Algorithms; the route inspection problem; critical path analysis; linear programming; matchings; flows in networks.
- The full A level includes further units of core and a unit from the three areas of study above. These all build on the work from the AS level units.

Music

Overview of course

At both Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2), there are units for performing, composing, and listening and understanding. The course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for higher education courses in music.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grades A*- C, including music, or evidence of musical ability at the appropriate level.

What will I study?

Skills: students will have opportunities to practise performance skills in solo and/or ensemble work, to compose music in styles of their own choice, to learn about the basics of harmony and - at A2 - to learn about specific technical study.

Flexibility: the experience of interacting with music from a wide range of times and places, through the Areas of Study, will provide students with a broad and satisfying musical experience and help them develop valuable new insights.



Music Technology

Overview of course

Students, including those who do not play a traditional instrument, are encouraged to explore their musicality and to create original material using technology. This specification retains an emphasis on practical work, but has been refined and updated with all tasks relating to the styles of music that use music technology.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grades A*- C. Students should also have musical ability at the appropriate level; to be discussed with the tutor.

What will I study?

The new Music Technology specification involves much practical work and encourages the development of a wide range of skills. Students will have opportunities to:

- sequence MIDI
- sequence audio
- record using live instruments
- produce CDs
- compose using music technology.

Music technology is around us almost all the time.

Everything we hear on radio, in public arenas, or on CD comes to us via music technology.



Physics

Overview of course

The new specification will offer one common assessment structure with two teaching approaches:

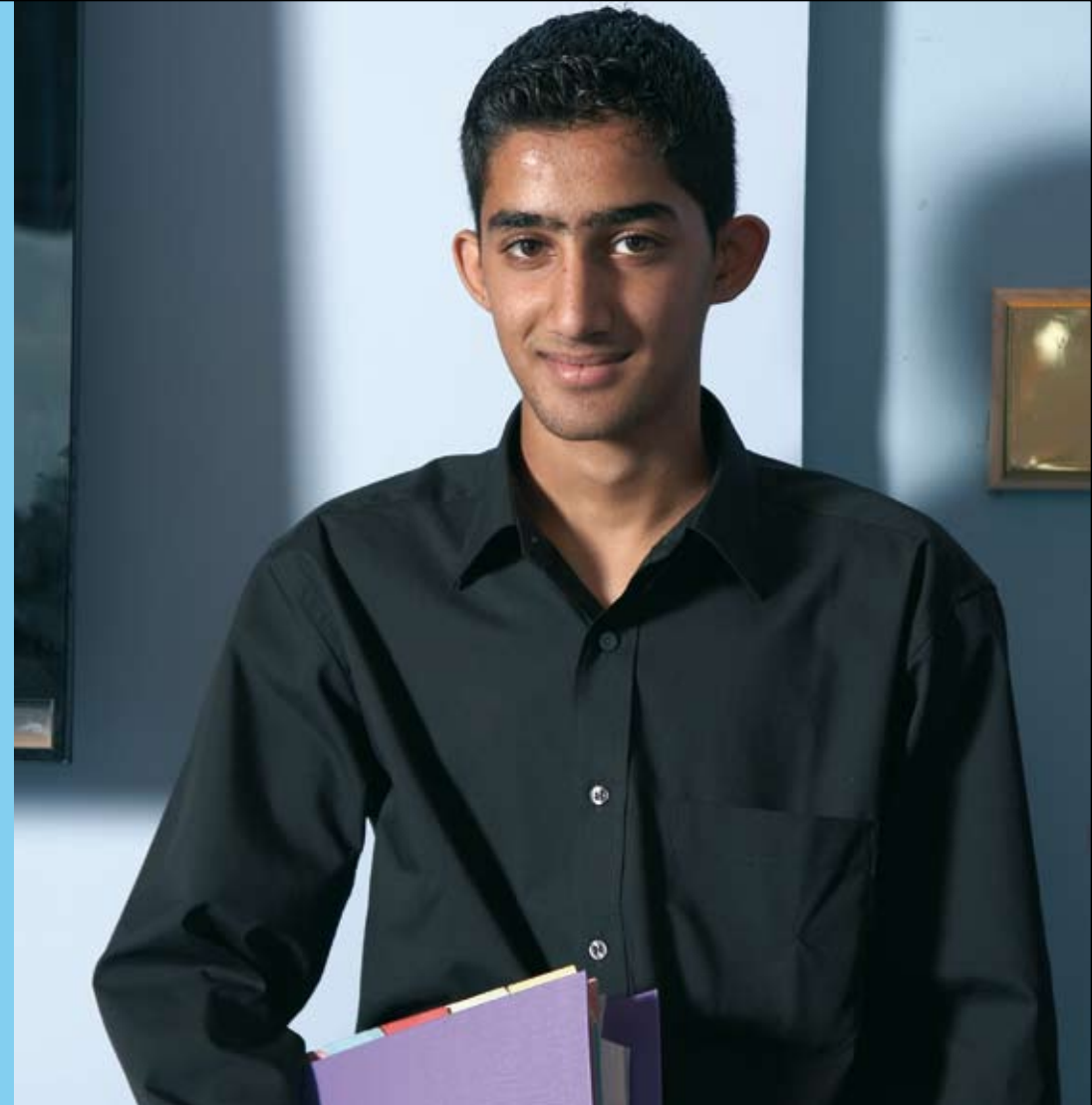
- A concept-led approach. This approach begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications .
- A context-led topic approach. This approach begins with the consideration of an application that draws on many different areas of physics, and then moves on to the laws, theories and models of physics underlying this application.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade B required in science and maths.

What will I study?

Units will include the exploration of physics, mechanics, physics at work, particle physics, electricity, and the nature of light.





Psychology

Overview of course

Edexcel's GCE in Psychology has been developed in consultation with schools, colleges, University lecturers and professional bodies. The specification provides a coherent and engaging programme of study at Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and natural progression into Advanced level (A2).

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE's at grades A*- C including English and Maths.

What will I study?

Students study five approaches (Social, Cognitive, Psychodynamic, Biological and Learning) at AS to gain a foundation in psychology. At A2, students are then able to develop their understanding through a selection of applications including: Criminological, Child, Health and Sport Psychology.

Students develop an overall understanding of psychology by considering conflicting and complementary explanations to clinical issues and major debates.

A levels

Religious Studies

Overview of course

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in Religious Studies specification is designed to encourage an interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of religion. It will enable students to develop insight into areas of knowledge, belief and thought central to an understanding of the modern world. Through a study of philosophy, ethics and the world's major religions students will be equipped with a range of knowledge and skills which will help them make sense of contemporary events.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grades A*- C, including English.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Explores the foundations of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics. Students can also choose from the following religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism; and New Testament. Students must study at least two of these nine areas.

Unit 2: Is an enquiry-based approach to teaching and learning. It gives students the opportunity to undertake individual research into a topic. Students study one topic from seven areas of study: The Study of Religion; The Study of Philosophy of Religion; The Study of Ethics; The Study of World Religions; The Study of the Old Testament/Jewish Bible; The Study of the New Testament; The Study of Christianity and the Christian Church.

Unit 3: Has been designed to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in Unit 1. Students study at least two of the nine areas listed for Unit 1.

Unit 4: Builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in Units 1, 2 and 3. Students consider:

- The consequences of holding certain opinions, views or beliefs, including their own
- How a particular belief or value could affect other people, either for good or ill
- How other people's lives might be affected if a certain belief were widely held or if a certain value were widely applied.



Sociology

Overview of course

Students will acquire knowledge of contemporary social processes and social changes. Candidates will be encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world.

Entry requirements

GCSEs should include a C in English.

What will I study?

The units will include culture and identity, wealth, poverty and welfare, education, health, and sociological methods. In year 2 you will look at global developments and beliefs in society.



A levels

Spanish

Overview of course

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in Spanish rewards language skills and knowledge through student-focussed assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it can prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, including at least grade B in Spanish.



What will I study?

Unit 1: Students are rewarded for their ability to converse in Spanish on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.

Unit 2: Students are required to understand and convey their understanding of Spanish language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Spanish language in continuous writing.

Unit 3: Students are required to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Spanish language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

Unit 4: Students are required to demonstrate skills in Advanced level Spanish writing and translation from English into Spanish. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced level Spanish language reading and research, linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of a Spanish-speaking country.

Sport / PE

Overview of course

Edexcel's Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in Physical Education seeks to develop the student's knowledge, understanding, skills and application for physical education and sport.

This specification, written by practising teachers and assessors, is a refreshing and innovative approach to the study of Physical Education (PE) and sport at an advanced level.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grades A*- C.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Participation in Sport and Recreation

The unit content is divided into two sections: the first investigates what constitutes a healthy and active lifestyle and the second considers how competitive sport has developed over time.

Unit 2: The Critical Sports Performer

The fundamental ethos for this unit is to engage participants in four tasks. This establishes a framework of opportunities to develop practical experiences and conduct independent research into the structure, provision and analysis of sport and physical activity.

Unit 3: Preparation for Optimum Sports Performance

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the short and long-term physiological and psychological preparations made by elite athletes.

Unit 4: The Developing Sports Performer

Students will construct a development plan to further their performance as players, leaders or officials.



Theatre Studies

Overview of course

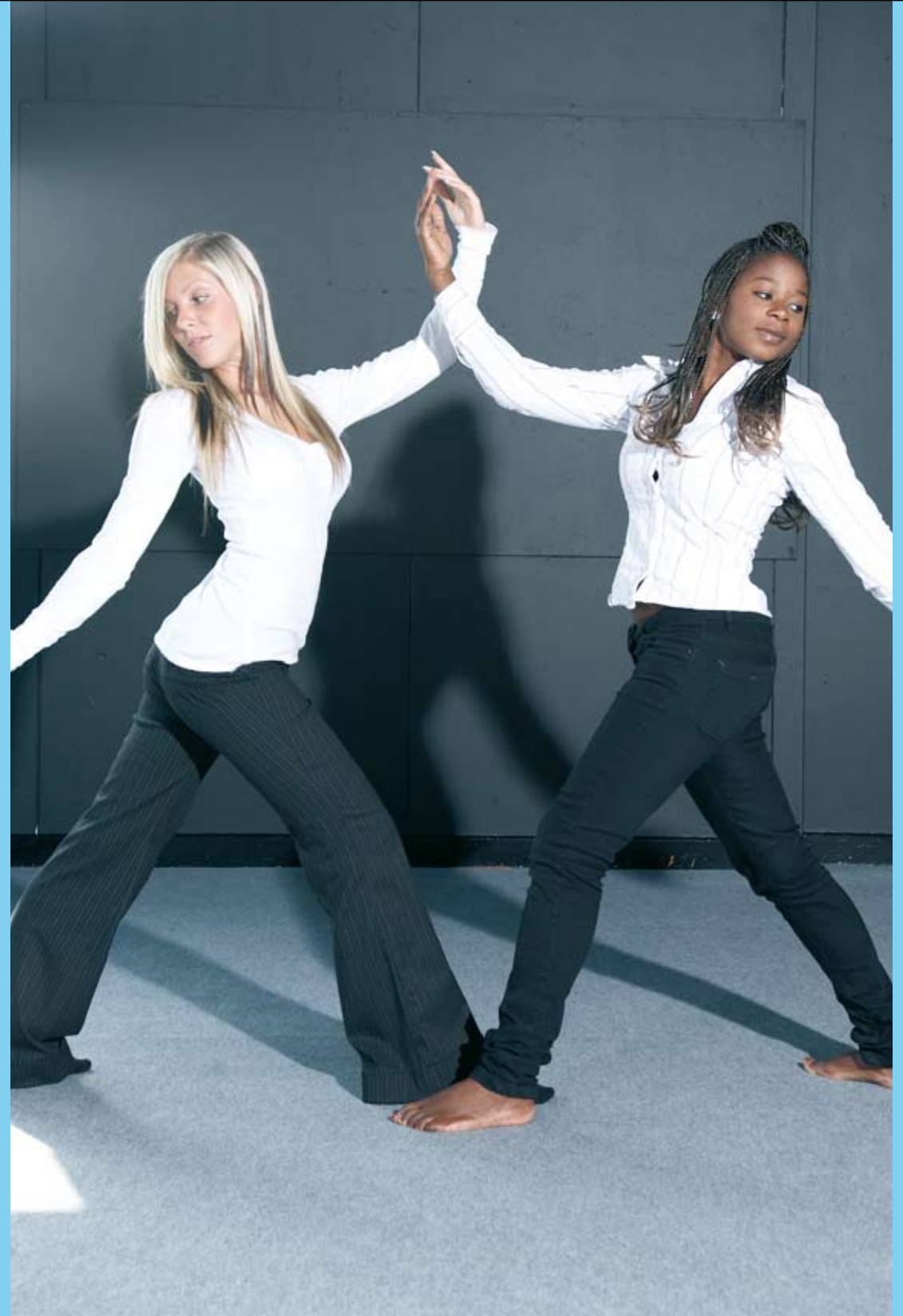
Students successfully completing the course will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly developed analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Entry requirements

At least 5 A* - Cs at GCSE, including English.

What will I study?

This specification combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, performing plays, and analysing theatre with the critical evaluation of all of these elements. It is backed by leading practitioners and institutions, including the Royal National Theatre.



Urdu

Overview of course

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level (A2) GCE in Urdu rewards language skills and knowledge through student-focussed assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it can prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Entry requirements

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at A*- C, with at least grade B in Urdu. Speakers of Urdu as a first language will be considered without the GCSE.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Students are rewarded for their ability to converse in Urdu on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.

Unit 2: Students are required to understand and convey their understanding of Urdu language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Urdu language in continuous writing.

Unit 3: Students are required to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Urdu language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

Unit 4: Students are required to demonstrate skills in Advanced level Urdu writing and translation from English into Urdu. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced level Urdu language reading and research, linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of an Urdu-speaking country.



A levels

