



Haberdashers' **ADAMS**

Haberdashers' Adams

Sixth Form Application Booklet

September 2024 entry

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1. Introduction

Along with our own students, we accept students from other schools into our Sixth Form. We provide a structured and stimulating environment which enables you to broaden your horizons and obtain qualifications good enough to gain entry into higher education, a degree apprenticeship and the professions.

Some features that may attract you to consider our Sixth Form include the following:

- The opportunity to obtain excellent AS-level and A-level results from a programme of study involving four subjects and an extended project qualification (EPQ).
- First-rate buildings, including:
 - A new sports pavilion, opened in September 2021, set within 100 acres of school grounds.
 - A new classroom block with extensive facilities, also opened in September 2021.
 - A dedicated Sixth Form Centre complete with lecture theatre.
 - A library and resources centre with computers, video, audio and photocopying equipment.
 - Well-equipped and recently refurbished humanities and English blocks.
 - Well-equipped separate science laboratories for biology, chemistry and physics.
 - A large, modern sports hall.
 - A modern technology centre with extensive workshop area.
 - A music centre complete with a small concert hall and practice rooms.
- Wireless internet access throughout the school and senior boarding.
- A Combined Cadet Force (CCF) with Army and RAF, together with a marching band.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- Involvement in the Engineering Education and Young Enterprise Schemes.
- A very active music programme, with school orchestra and choir, together with smaller instrumental ensembles.
- Regular music and drama productions, including inter-house competitions.
- An excellent record at inter-school sport.
- The William Adams' Debating Society
- A thriving School Council.
- Many house activities - including academic, sport, music, and drama - with opportunities to take part in organising such events.
- A system of school and form prefects that gives Sixth Formers the opportunity to develop leadership and responsibility skills.

The principal aim of the Sixth Form is to ensure that you achieve continuing academic success. To do well in your A-levels, you need to select those subjects which you most enjoy and to which you will willingly devote a great deal of time both in school and at home. You must also think carefully about which subjects are needed for the course you wish to study at university and/or the profession you wish to pursue.

Since September 2015 there have been changes to the post-16 curriculum nationally. The aim has been to broaden the range of skills acquired by Sixth Form students by offering a greater breadth of study whilst maintaining the depth of knowledge required by our students, the majority of whom need to be equipped for higher education. Students at Haberdashers' Adams therefore take three A-levels. They also study an AS-level in the Lower Sixth and complete the Extended Project Qualification in the Upper Sixth. In addition, all students have one hour each week where they attend lectures on a range of interesting subjects and topics related to their well-being/future progression.

Your teachers expect Sixth Formers to be committed, questioning, well-motivated and possessing an interest and stamina which are going to last the distance of an Advanced Level course. To do well, you will need to be prepared to start studying in an increasingly adult way; to be able to concentrate both inside and outside the classroom or laboratory; to work without undue supervision; to follow up

ideas perhaps only glanced at in class; to produce thoughtful, well expressed work on time; to show initiative in your study; and to have a real interest in and liking for your work.

To assist your studies, you will be able to use the library and resources centre, which are well stocked with up-to-date books, current journals and newspapers, and give access to computers, video, audio and other learning aids. Help will be on hand from the school librarians so that you may learn to use the complete range of sources of information available. Not all of your time will be taken up with timetabled lessons; a proportion will be occupied by private study and by your own work in the library. It is essential that you make positive use of this time to supplement and consolidate your learning. You will typically need to spend an average of between two and five hours per subject per week in your own time to keep up with the work. Your chances of success will depend on how well you use private study time in and out of school.

Remember that help is available throughout your time in Sixth Form. You are not alone; your subject tutors are always approachable and departments arrange mentoring sessions. Problems of one sort or another are likely to arise and sympathetic advice is available from your form tutor, the Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, your Head of House, the Headmaster, and the Deputy Heads, who together will monitor your academic and personal welfare.

Your studies will be an important part of your life in the Sixth Form, but so too will all the other activities on offer: music, drama, sport, debating, theatre visits, field trips both at home and abroad, the Combined Cadet Force, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh training expeditions, outdoor pursuits and the full range of House activities.

By the end of your Sixth Form course, you should aim to have the A-level grades and the personal qualities that will serve you well in higher education or employment. Your chances of success are considerable, but much depends on you and your attitude. Success is not automatic; it has to be earned.

Although the majority of our students study sciences and/or maths, we also have excellent facilities for study of the arts and humanities, and we strongly urge potential applicants to our Sixth Form to consider the value of A-levels and AS-levels in these subjects: any number of leaders in many spheres of life have benefitted from A-level studies, and even university degrees, in these areas.

Because our Sixth Form curriculum keeps our students busy, we recommend that they do not do more than eight hours of paid work per week.

You can find full details on our recent A-level results at:

<https://www.adamsgs.uk/about-us>

You can also find details of the destinations of our recent Sixth Form leavers at:

<https://www.adamsgs.uk/school-life/sixth-form-life>

We look forward to welcoming you into our vibrant Sixth Form community.

Mrs C Harman
Head of Sixth Form

2. Pupil Welfare

Pupil Welfare underpins the success of Haberdashers' Adams - it monitors the pastoral and academic progress of each pupil and is complemented by a broad-ranging extra-curricular programme. The system is proactive, seeking to solve problems before they arise, but also to react swiftly when required. The aim of the system is to ensure that all pupils are happy, safe and respected and from that platform build towards exploring new possibilities and reaching potential in a variety of fields.

At the heart of Pupil Welfare is the House structure. All pupils belong to one of five Houses – Darwin, Owen, Sa'adu, Talbot and Webb. Boarders are members of one of these Houses as well as belonging to their boarding house. These Houses provide a range of support and activities, through staff and pupils, that enable encouragement, guidance and, when required, investigation and discipline. Pupils are expected to behave in an exemplary manner and the house system is designed to enable this.

Each House comprises a Head and Deputy Head of House, assisted by a team of form tutors and selected senior pupils who are trained in the care of younger pupils. It is these tutors who monitor the progress of the whole person – academic, pastoral and extra-curricular. It is from this basis that Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or any other form of support is delivered.

A pupil's House provides the basis for their belonging to the school and contributes to the outstanding behaviour and attitudes observed by Ofsted in May 2022. It is a place for integration and challenge. The House system engenders terrific team spirit and develops loyalty and friendly competition. All pupils will represent their House at some point, whether on the rugby pitch or netball court, in drama or music performances, science, chess or a host of other events. The House also provides an important focus for learning, for setting goals and celebrating achievement.

Mr D Biggins

Deputy Head - Pupil Welfare

3. Careers provision

In the Sixth Form, you will have the opportunity to benefit from an active careers programme organised by our own staff and supported by The Careers & Enterprise Company as well as other external careers professionals and agencies. Guidance is given through regular talks and workshops and all pupils have the opportunity to take part in a one-to-one interview with an independent qualified careers adviser shortly after joining the Lower Sixth. Students also having open access to up-to-date labour market information and the online careers portal Morrisby. Events such as our annual careers convention offer students the opportunity to speak to universities, apprenticeship providers and employers about their post-18 options. In addition, we are working to strengthen our links to an extensive network of alumni, including not only Old Novaportans but also our extended Haberdashers' consortium through which scholarship opportunities are available to support higher education in certain disciplines.

Many students will attend university open days while in the Sixth Form; they are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the Head of Sixth Form, Head of Careers, tutors, teachers and parents. The Sixth Form Office will guide pupils through the application process for post-18 opportunities as part of their programme to prepare students for life beyond Haberdashers' Adams. Activities include personal statement/curriculum vitae writing and interview practice as well as promotion of taster courses and internships and presentations from the Apprenticeship Service and a range of UK further and higher education establishments. There is also a trip to a UCAS higher education exhibition.

Mrs Wilson

Head of Careers

4. The application process

Making your application

If you would like to apply for a place in Haberdashers' Adams Sixth Form you will need to:

Complete the online application form. This will be available from **noon on Monday 8th January 2024** at:

<https://haberdashersadams.applicaa.com/sixthform24>

Please make sure that you have all the information at hand to complete your application in one session; you cannot save incomplete submissions and return to them later. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office and we will make arrangements to process your application.

Dates and deadlines

- (a) Completed application forms must be submitted by:
 - i) **4pm on Wednesday 7th February 2024** for **all** day places and for boarding places for current Haberdashers' Adams students;
 - ii) **4pm on Monday 15th July 2024** for boarding places for external applicants.
- (b) The school will issue offer letters for **all** day places and boarding places for existing boarders on **Monday 11th March 2024**.
- (c) Applicants must provisionally confirm their acceptance of these offers by **1:30pm on Monday 18th March 2024**.

Offer letters for boarding places for external applicants will be issued as applications are received and considered; these need to be confirmed within a fortnight of issue and must include the non-refundable boarding deposit. Please check our website for details.

- (d) External applicants must inform the school of their GCSE results by **uploading them to Applicaa** by **2pm on Thursday 22nd August 2024**. (Internal applicants do not need to do this as the school has access to their results.)
- (e) On **Thursday 22nd August 2024**, the school will issue offer update letters to all applicants. These will either confirm the offer of the place because the applicant has met the entry criteria or decline the offer because the applicant has not met the entry criteria.
- (f) All applicants must confirm their response to these offer update letters by **2pm on Friday 23rd August 2024**. Any place not confirmed after this time will be withdrawn and offered to candidates on the waiting list.
- (g) Once the above deadline has passed, the school will review all requests for changes of subject and manage them on a case-by-case basis.

Application form details

The online application form consists of the following parts. Please make sure you have the relevant information available before you start your application. Please be advised that you will require your mock GCSE results before you apply.

Part A: administrative information about you

Your name, contact details, etc.

Part B: administrative information about your current school

The school's name and address. Also, only if you are applying for a boarding place, details of whom to contact for a reference.

Part C: details of academic results to date

Mock exam and target grades for GCSEs; any results from GCSEs you have already taken; results in other exams such as music or dance.

Part D: A-level and AS-level choices

Although you will study for three A-levels and one AS-level, you will need to initially provide your preferred three A-levels and one AS-level subjects followed by two reserve choices for each. You will need to rank your initial subject choices **in order of preference**. This is because for some subjects we have more applicants than places so in some cases we will not be able to give you your top preferences. You need to make sure that the subjects you select fit with the subject blocks on offer, as described in section 6 of this booklet.

Part E: Boarders only – We ask for some additional background information to assess your suitability for boarding.

*If you are considering using one of our **dedicated school buses**, please note that the buses are popular and always run at full capacity. There are, therefore, no guarantees that a place will be available for your son or daughter. Furthermore, all routes have students on waiting lists from previous academic years. We strongly recommend that you consider other possible transportation arrangements as a back-up plan so that you are not placed in the difficult position of having a place in the Sixth Form but no means of travelling here.*

5. Admission criteria

There are a minimum of 80 day places available to students from other schools wishing to enter the Sixth Form. There is no catchment area for Sixth Form entry and there may also be boarding places available, depending on space.

In the event of oversubscription the following criteria will be applied:

1. Looked after children
2. Application form and school report

In the case of boarders we would first wish to assess suitability for boarding and in the case of oversubscription boarding need will be taken into account.

Academic entry criteria for the Sixth Form

All applicants will **normally** meet the following standards. For boarding applications, suitability for boarding will also be taken into account. In all cases, we treat applications individually and we may be able to offer places to students who do not quite meet these standards – our aim is to offer places to all students who we believe can benefit from our Sixth Form education.

- a) Obtain **five GCSEs at grade 7 or above** in any subjects.
- b) Where A-level subjects have also been studied at GCSE, obtain **at least a 7 grade in their chosen subject** or the most relevant related GCSE subject.

For example, if pupils wish to study maths A-level, they normally require a 7 grade in GCSE maths; where they wish to study biology A-level, they normally require a 7 grade in biology or in both GCSE science examinations; and where they wish to study a new subject at A-level such as government and politics, this standard does not apply.

In addition, those wishing to study music at AS-level will normally have at least Grade 5 in music theory and around Grade 5 on one instrument; GCSE music is not required.

It may be that you narrowly miss the entrance criteria and then apply for a re-mark of one or more of your GCSE examination papers. Should these re-marks come back with higher grades that lead to you meeting the entrance criteria, we will then accept you into the Sixth Form. However, it may be that the courses you originally applied for are full by this time. If so, we will endeavour to offer you a suitable alternative.

In some circumstances pupils who do not achieve the required GCSEs (e.g., because they have narrowly missed out on their fifth grade 7 GCSE due to ill health) may, at the school's discretion, be admitted to the Sixth Form so long as the school is satisfied they will be able to prosper and succeed.

Progression from Lower Sixth to Upper Sixth

Students at this school normally progress from the Lower Sixth to the Upper Sixth without difficulty. Occasionally, however, students do not make appropriate academic progress in the Lower Sixth and we then offer a range of alternative options to ensure that students do not continue to final A-level examinations when they are unlikely to pass them. The appendix overleaf gives more details on our criteria and options for progression.

Exceptions to these entrance and progression criteria will be based only on extenuating circumstances such as major illness or particularly difficult personal circumstances.

6. The Sixth Form curriculum

Heads of Department have uploaded A-level subject videos, which we encourage you to watch before you make your subject choices. They can be viewed here:

<https://www.adamsgs-virtualtour.uk/a-level-subject-presentations/>

Students study three A-levels in the Sixth Form. In addition, they study one AS-level in the Lower Sixth and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in the Upper Sixth. A very small number complete four A-levels with the fourth A-level being further maths.

<i>Year</i>	<i>A-levels</i>	<i>Complementary study</i>
Lower Sixth	Three A-levels	One AS-level
Upper Sixth	Three A-levels	Extended Project (EPQ)

The A-level courses are all two-year courses whereas the AS-level courses take one year and are completed in the Lower Sixth. It is **not** normally possible to “drop” an A-level part way through the Sixth Form.

Students also take part in a non-examination lecture programme - which includes guest speakers from outside the school - and an afternoon of sport each week.

Short summaries of all the subjects we offer are given on the following pages. These subjects are available in the option blocks shown below. The blocks have been structured to encourage students to consider a combination of subjects that fits their interests and aptitude. Students must study **three A-levels** (one from each of Blocks A, B and C) and **one AS-level**.

Block A	Block B	Block C	AS block
Biology	Biology	Biology	Art
Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry	Classical civilisation
Physics	Physics	Physics	Drama
Mathematics (2 sets)	Mathematics (2 sets)	Mathematics	French
Business Studies	Economics	Economics	Geology
Computer Science	Design	English Literature	German
History	Religious Studies	Geography	Mathematics
Sociology		Government and Politics	Music
		Psychology	Physical Education
			With optional progression to A-level*:
			Further Maths (2 sets)

* Students opting for further maths will have the opportunity to continue to A-level provided that they make appropriate progress and that student numbers are sufficient for us to be able to run the course. Decisions about this will be made at an appropriate point during the Lower Sixth.

Please note the following:

- We particularly welcome applications from students who do **not** wish to study the sciences or mathematics as these subjects are very popular and frequently oversubscribed.
- The school may not be able to run one or more of the subjects shown above if there is insufficient student demand for them.
- Offers of places at this school are for a specified subject combination. We may not be able to accommodate the wishes of students who later decide they would like to study a different combination of subjects.

If you still need information and advice please do not hesitate to speak to the Head of Sixth Form.

Applicants must state their subject choices **in order of preference** when they complete their application form. However, requests to make adjustments can be made in July after they have taken their GCSE examinations and in late August when results of GCSE examinations are known, ***subject to there being places available in the subject sets***. Subject change requests made after the start of term are very unlikely to be granted.

Our school week is divided into 50 half-hour periods with most teaching taking place in double-periods, i.e., one hour lessons. Sixth Form students have the following timetable structure:

Three A-levels at 10 periods each =	30 periods
AS-level (Lower 6 th) or EPQ (Upper 6 th) =	10 periods
Games afternoon =	4 periods
Lecture series =	2 periods
Private study =	<u>4 periods</u>
Total =	<u>50 periods</u>

Appendix: policy on progression from the Lower Sixth to the Upper Sixth

We strive to ensure that all students make good progress in their first year of A-level studies and can, therefore, progress smoothly to the Upper Sixth. Occasionally, however, students do not make sufficient progress and their situation at the end of the Lower Sixth makes it very unlikely that they will be able to progress to A-level grades above E grade.

In such cases, we counsel students to end their A-level courses early and to seek alternative courses of study or employment, and our careers facilities are at their disposal to assist with this. In particular, we scrutinise the performance of all Lower Sixth students in the second half of the summer term, looking especially at the results of their internal school exams (which are taken just before the May half-term). For low performing students we take action as follows:

Category A:

Exam grades	Advice
EEE EEU EUU UUU	<p>In our experience, students with these grades at the end of the Lower Sixth will fail completely at A-level. They are better off leaving the school at the end of the summer term and seeking alternative studies or employment, or a mixture of the two, elsewhere.</p> <p>We will invite such students into school to discuss their options with senior staff. We will offer advice on alternatives open to them, and we will strongly advise or, in exceptional cases, insist that they do not return in the Upper Sixth.</p>

Category B:

Exam grades	Advice
DDD DDE DEE	<p>In our experience, students with these grades at the end of the Lower Sixth are likely to struggle in the Upper Sixth. It may be possible, however, for them to improve their situation by exceptional and sustained effort in the summer holidays and in the Upper Sixth Autumn term.</p> <p>We will invite such students into school to discuss their options with senior staff. We will offer advice on alternatives open to them and will explain that if they wish to return to the Upper Sixth, we will monitor their progress very carefully and review their situation after the Upper Sixth January examinations.</p>

If students in either category continue into the Upper Sixth, we will monitor their progress closely and review their situation after the Upper Sixth January examinations. If necessary, we will, at an appropriate point, insist on them reducing their A-levels from three to two or one to maximise their chances of scoring above E grades.

<p>Why study art at AS-level?</p> <p>This course enables you to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in producing art and developing your skills to a more mature level. • An ability to analyse visual imagery and to consider meaning and context as an integral part of Art (and cultural) development. • An ability to think for yourself and the courage to see your ideas through to a successful conclusion. • The effort and commitment of time and energy required to develop effective Art “products”
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial directed study including developing observation as a starting point, leading on to more experimental ideas using a range of materials. This will include Fine art, collage and mixed media as well as photography • A Self-directed major project which each student will present as a proposal for further development. • A focus on high level skills in art, craft and design including painting, drawing, mixed media, photography, graphics, experimentation and sculpture. • Developing an interest in the work of artists and designers, from past to present, acquiring skills through practical studies of their work. • Analysing and evaluating the work of others and students own work, using appropriate vocabulary for the level of study.
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Assessment is based on coursework only. The coursework (100% of the overall mark) is produced from September through to mid April in the Lower Sixth. This will include investigations into different materials and approaches (first half term) followed by a more focused project lasting approximately 5 to 6 months.</p>
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <p>The course will enable you to develop a wide range of art and design skills and it is a strength of the department that students are encouraged to work beyond the expectation of AS-level. Developing a genuine interest in improving skills is an important expectation. In addition, students will be able to develop a personal approach to their studies and to consider meaning and context from a very personal point of view</p>
<p>What could a study of Art and Design lead to?</p> <p>Art and design can lead to a vast array of careers including architecture, graphic illustration, media production, animation, 3D design, interior design, photography, fashion, fine art, textile design and surface pattern design. See the art teacher for further details.</p>
<p>Further information Head of dept: Mr E Coyle (eric.coyle@adamsgs.uk) Exam board website: www.ocr.org.uk/alevelartanddesign</p>
<p><i>Last revised: November 2022</i></p>

Why study biology at A-level?
<p>Biology could be the subject you are looking for If you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fascination with the living world and why it operates in the way it does. • An interest in how processes in cells can affect the whole organism and how it functions. • A willingness to handle the technical vocabulary and use it to communicate clearly. • An ability to talk and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues. • The motivation to work hard; linking knowledge gained from each topic to develop greater understanding.
What does the course consist of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building up a comprehensive knowledge of the key ideas in biology. • Consolidate understanding through regular practical tasks, all written-up in practical manual. • Assess progress through the use of practice exam questions, worksheets or tests. • Wider reading of Biological Sciences Review and other key titles from popular science. • Present research findings to class either through Powerpoint presentations / posters / video.
Assessment
<p>The examination board is OCR. Syllabus: Biology A Code: H420. Three exams are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological processes - 2hrs 15min paper worth 100 marks • Biological Diversity - 2hrs 15min paper worth 100 marks • Unified Biology - 1hr 30 min paper worth 70 marks • Practical Endorsement – practical which is teacher assessed and externally moderated.
What skills will I develop?
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop familiarity with a diverse range of practical skills and start to plan your own investigations. • Build up a growing appreciation of how ideas are best communicated, by linking topics together. • Gain the confidence to apply knowledge and understanding successfully within exam questions.
What other subjects should I study with biology?
<p>Biology is compatible with most other Sixth Form subjects. It is a good science to support those students who have more of an arts based portfolio but also complements geography very well. Aspiring medical students would do well to ensure that both biology and chemistry are followed at A-level as the two disciplines provide a firm foundation upon which to build a successful career.</p>
What can the study of biology lead to?
<p>Potential careers include medicine, agriculture, psychology, microbiology, forensics and the pharmaceutical and food industries to name but a few.</p>
Further information
<p>Acting head of dept (maternity cover): Mrs F Porter (frances.porter@adamsgs.uk) Website: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015/</p>
<i>Last revised: November 2021</i>

Why study business studies at the A-level?

The business studies content will encourage students to develop their skills as independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal attributes that can make our pupils stand out as they progress to higher education and/or at the workplace. Business studies could be for you if you have:

- An interest in the world of business.
- A dynamic nature and “can-do” attitude towards getting things done.
- A desire to increase your life skills as well as boost your chances of employability.
- An inquisitive nature; always wanting to find out why things happen.
- A clear, logical way of thinking and processing information.

NOTE: You do not need GCSE business studies to study the A-level.

What does the course consist of?

We follow the Edexcel A-level Business (9BSO). Modules include:

Theme 1 – Marketing and People (Human Resource Management)

Theme 2 – Managing business activities

Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4 – Global business

Assessment

- Paper 1 – Marketing, People and the Global Business (9BSO/01) is worth 35% of the qualification. Each question is drawn from topics across Themes 1 and 4, and from one or more of the following contexts: local, national or global.
- Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy (9BSO/02) worth 35% of the qualification. Each question is drawn from topics across Themes 2 and 3, and from one or more of the following contexts: local, national or global.
- Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment (9BSO/03) is worth 30% of the qualification.

For more information about the assessment please click on

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Business%20Studies/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446914694_GCE2015_A_BUS_WEB.PDF

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to:

- Develop your interest and enjoyment in the world of business
- Develop your own personal skills such as debate, delegation, presentation, interview skills, team-work, etc.
- Make informed decisions and judgements about businesses in various scenarios
- Prepare many students for employment/placement in the business world.

What other subjects should I study with business studies?

Business studies has close links with economics, ICT, government and politics, and design and technology. Subjects in which students are assessed on their ability to create a weighted argument leading to a supported judgment such as English and RS may also fit well with business studies. Also, due to the financial and numerical aspect of the course, maths would be a useful partner.

What can the study of business studies lead to?

The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities. The vast majority of students will work for businesses at some stage of their lives, and those seeking management roles would gain a lot from studying the subject. Aside from vocational courses, there is very little that business studies will not help towards, in today’s ever changing environment.

University Recognition

Business studies is highly recognised by well-placed universities such as Bath, Loughborough, St. Andrews, London School of Economics, Warwick, Lancaster etc.

Further information

Head of dept: Mr S Obeng-Asare (samuel.obeng-asare@adamsgs.uk)

Website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/business-2015.html>

Last revised: November 2020

Why study chemistry at the A-level?

Chemistry is the right course for you if you have:

- A strong interest in chemistry from GCSE and you enjoy an intellectual challenge.
- An enjoyment for problem solving, analysing data and thinking critically.
- An enjoyment for practical chemistry.
- An interest in how scientific ideas provide an understanding of the world around us.
- An ability to apply scientific knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar problems.

What does the course consist of?

- A more precise understanding of the electronic structure of atoms (compared with GCSE) leading to a deeper understanding of the differing reactivity of elements and a unified theory of chemical bonding.
- Understanding why reactions occur, including energy transfer and equilibrium reactions.
- The acid/base concept, including pH, and how indicators and buffers work.
- Carbon based chemistry linked to the synthesis of polymers and drugs, coupled with developing an understanding of reaction mechanisms and stereochemistry.
- Analytical chemistry using both practical and instrumental techniques (IR and NMR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry).
- Electrochemistry leading to an understanding of how cells ('batteries') produce electrical energy and how fuel cells work.

Fundamental throughout the course are chemical calculations using the mole concept (e.g., reacting masses and volumes, % yield, empirical formula and the determination of unknown concentrations and formulae) and chemical language skills (writing balanced symbol equations, ionic equations, ion-electron half equations and redox equations).

Assessment

The course followed is OCR Chemistry A H432. This is a linear course with exams at the end of the two years. Practical work is assessed throughout the course and a pass or fail is awarded separately to the A-level.

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to:

- Develop a high level of knowledge, and a detailed understanding, of the nature of chemistry that will prepare you for university science-based courses and beyond.
- Develop your problem solving and critical think-ing skills.
- Develop your practical skills with the laboratory synthesis and analysis of substances.

Further your interest and enjoyment in science, and enable you to become more scientifically literate.

What other subjects should I study with chemistry?

Chemistry is compatible with most other A-level subjects. Students who opt for chemistry find it complements a wide range of other subjects; courses such as mathematics, further mathematics, biology and physics are a good combination to take with chemistry. The mathematical demands of A-level chemistry are high so students are encouraged to take A-level or AS-level maths with it.

What can the study of chemistry lead to?

Chemistry is an academically challenging subject and as such it is well respected by universities (an 'enabling subject') and potential employers. A chemistry degree can lead to many different areas including synthesizing new medicines and forensic science. If you are going onto study medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or veterinary science a post -16 chemistry qualification is required by most universities. Chemistry A-level is also a very useful qualification for biological sciences, agricultural sciences, geological sciences and different types of engineering degrees.

Further information

Head of dept: Dr M Parker (martin.parker@adamsgs.uk).

Website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/>

Last revised: November 2022

Why study classical civilisation at AS-level?
By studying classical civilisation, students not only can enjoy the diverse elements of the classical world but also gain an appreciation and understanding of the huge impact that the ancient Greek culture has had on modern-day arts, architecture, literature and history.
What does the course consist of?
Students study a range of Athenian sculpture and architecture; Homer's Odyssey and a selection of the tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides. The course is offered by the AQA examination board.
Assessment
One 3 hour written examination. The questions are short responses to visual or text examples and longer essay responses to the texts.
What skills will I develop?
It develops analytical, evaluation and interpretation skills of a range of genres from art and architecture to literature.
What other subjects should I study with classical civilisation?
It's an excellent complement to the study of the arts, English literature and humanities. Its broad base can also be appealing to students looking to diversify their studies of science and maths.
What can the study of classical civilisation lead to?
The subject gives a grounding in art, architecture and literature and so any degree courses with these elements are enhanced by its study. The skills are compatible with careers such as law, teaching, journalism, business and architecture.
Further information
Head of dept: Mrs J Lloyd (jacky.lloyd@adamsgs.uk) Website: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/classical-civilisation .
<i>Last updated: September 2017</i>

Why study computer science at A-level?
<p>Have you ever wondered how the web works? Or how anybody can start to develop something as complex as a new computer game? Computer science is an exciting and challenging subject which answers such questions.</p> <p>Do you have a desire to delve into the significance and relevance of computers? Do you wish to develop the valuable skills in problem solving? If so, computer science is a good choice for you.</p>
What does the course consist of?
<p>Studies in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data: its presentation, structure and management • Data transmission and networking • Systems development life cycle • Implications of computer use, including legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues • The characteristics of contemporary processors • Computer architectures • Data types, data structures and algorithms • High-level language programming paradigms • Programming techniques <p>Elements of computational thinking</p>
Assessment
<p>The examination board is OCR. Specification: GCE Computer Science A-level , Code: H446</p> <p>The three modules are assessed in May/June of the Upper Sixth year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer systems (01): covering the fundamental computing knowledge required to support all subsequent units of study. (40%) • Algorithms and programming (02): Computational Thinking, Programming Techniques and Logical Methods. (40%) • Programming project (03): A substantial user-driven project, requiring analysis and design, which is developed over an extended period of time. (20%)
What skills will I develop?
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in small teams to analyse problems, design algorithms and write programs. • the ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, including programming, in a range of contexts to solve problems. • gain an understanding of the consequences of using computers, including legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.
What other subjects should I study with computer science?
<p>Computer science is compatible with most other A-level subjects. Students who opt for computer science find it complements a wide range of other subjects; courses such as mathematics, further mathematics and physics are a good combination to take with computer science.</p>
What can the study of computer science lead to?
<p>Once seen as a highly specialised pursuit, A-level computer science has now gained full acceptance by universities and it can act as a springboard to a wide variety of computer science based degrees. Many students continue their computer science studies at university to gain qualifications in subjects such as system engineering/games programming, leading to employment as network technicians, web designers, programmers and many other computing related areas.</p>
Further information
<p>Head of dept: Mr R Edwards (robin.edwards@adamsgs.uk)</p> <p>Website: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/</p>
<i>Last revised: September 2017</i>

<p>Why study Product Design at A-level?</p> <p>If you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in how our world is shaped by what we design and purchase. • A passion for creating new and exciting products for a specific market. • A willingness to not accept the obvious and push your own creativity to establish new and exciting designs. • An interest in how materials are manipulated and modified to meet the requirements of an application. • An ability to talk about and write about current and new technologies, ideas, concepts, controversies within our consumer based society. • A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically on your own.
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first year of the product design course you complete a number of small focused projects that help you build up a portfolio of work for internal assessment in the summer term. The projects are fast paced and client led to reflect the real world of a design studio. • The first year also focuses on materials and manufacturing techniques commonly used in the design industry. • In the second year you will focus on your own Major Project, identifying your own problem area and external client. The project emphasis is evidence of autonomy and commercial links. • Topics include: 2D and 3D graphics, design development, ergonomics, CAD, modelling, 3D rapid prototyping, materials and product testing, using a selection of materials to realise your designs and the ability to critically analyse your and other peoples work.
<p>Assessment</p> <p>The examination board is AQA. Syllabus: D&T Product Design, Code: 7552 Three Units are assessed in the summer of the Upper Sixth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One major project of the student's choice requiring a folder and a practical outcome worth 50% of the A-level qualification. • Two exams exploring issues regarding technical principles and the design and manufacture of products. Worth 50% of the A-level qualification. <p>The course is therefore split between 50% coursework and 50% final examination.</p>
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be able to think creatively and communicate your ideas to a range of people including clients. • You will be able to use a range of media to construct, test and modify your ideas to create an optimum solution. • You will be able to critically analyse your and other peoples work. • As a designer you must be able to rationalize a problem to enable compromises to be made to achieve the optimum outcome.
<p>What other subjects should I study with Product Design?</p> <p>Product design is compatible with most other A-level subjects it very much depends where you want to take your studies. For example, if you intend to study engineering, maths and physics work well with product design. Architecture would benefit from a geography and product design combination of studies. This list is very adaptable but students should consider how much coursework is involved in product design, so must bear this in mind when looking at similar coursework lead subjects e.g. art.</p>
<p>What can the study of Product Design lead to?</p> <p>The study of this subject can open up many possibilities, e.g. architecture; many fields of engineering, including metallurgy, structural engineering; industrial design, product design and graphic design. Advertising, research and development are further examples of jobs that benefit from a design qualification. The list is extensive as the majority of jobs require a capability to think creatively, to communicate effectively and to manage projects efficiently.</p>
<p>Further information</p> <p>Head of dept: Mrs S Warwick (samantha.warwick@adamsgs.uk) Website: Go to www.aqa.org.uk/ and follow the links for GCE courses.</p>
<p><i>Last updated: October 2018</i></p>

<p>Why study AS-level drama and theatre?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will have an opportunity to take part in a dynamic and practical AS-level that has the principle of performance at its very heart. You will gain confidence in yourself by going outside of your comfort zone. You will learn how to collaborate with others and work towards a collective goal. You will gain an appreciation of live theatre and the many fascinating roles that contribute towards a performance.
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will study three inspirational plays. You will watch and analyse live performances of professional productions. You will study the work of great theatrical practitioners who have transformed the world of live theatre. You will explore the different roles and responsibilities within the theatre. You will direct and perform a significant extract from a play and perform the outcome to a live audience.
<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course is divided into two units: In the first unit (40%), you will study a set text and watch a live production from a professional company. In the exam, you will be asked to comment on aspects of these texts. In the second unit (60 %), you will study the work of a seminal theatre practitioner. You will then perform an extract from a play using the practitioner's approaches and produce a portfolio exploring the process.
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will learn a range of performance techniques. You will become a confident performer. You will learn how to work purposefully with others towards a shared goal. You will learn how to engage a live audience. You will enhance your ability to analyse your own work and that of others.
<p>What other subjects should I study with AS-level drama and theatre?</p> <p>The focus on drama texts means that English Literature is a highly compatible course. However, the emphasis on linguistic skills also means that subjects like French or German may be useful. Nonetheless, this subject is quite unique in terms of its emphasis on practical work and performance so it also sits alongside art or music. If you are looking for a subject that is very different from your A-level choices and that will take you out of your comfort zone, this is the AS-level for you.</p>
<p>What can the study of AS-level drama and theatre lead to?</p> <p>Some students may use this opportunity to pursue a career in the theatre or performing arts. However, for many of you this will be an opportunity to build your confidence in terms of working as part of a dynamic team or performing to an audience. Almost every student in the Sixth Form will work in a field that involves delivering presentations or taking part in interviews. In these scenarios, having the ability to display outstanding inter-personal skills will be a huge asset.</p>
<p>Further Information</p> <p>Head of Department: Mr E Jopling (edward.jopling@adamsgs.uk) Website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/wcenw2kj/eduqas-as-drama-spec-from-2016-e-24-08-2021.pdf</p> <p>Last revised: October 2021</p>

Why study economics at A-level?	
<p>The financial crisis of 2008 and the 2016 EU referendum have aroused tremendous interest in economics; with pupils curious to learn about why governments need to borrow money or reduce the national debt. Pupils are also interested to learn about the models economists employ to predict economic outcomes. Economics at the A-level will offer you the opportunity to understand how economic policies such as fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies enable stable economic growth.</p> <p>NOTE: You do <u>not</u> need GCSE economics to study the A-level.</p>	
What does the course consist of?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key focus on the two major sides of economics: microeconomics and macroeconomics • A more focused look at the UK and the global economy. • A detailed insight into how economic theory relates to various industries, financial and labour markets. • The development of analytical and evaluative skills for students to be better prepared for making their own decisions. • A key insight into how individuals, firms, markets, governments and the world operate. 	
Assessment	
<p>Component 1- Microeconomics: Section A - data response 30 marks; Section B - two essays, from a choice of four for 50 marks.</p> <p>Component 2 – Macroeconomics: Section A - data response for 30 marks; Section B - two essays, from a choice of four for 50 marks.</p> <p>Component 3 - Themes in Economics: Section A - multiple choice for 30 marks; Section B - extended data response for 50 marks.</p> <p>There is a new requirement for 20% of available marks to explicitly require responses to include an element of quantitative skill.</p>	
What skills will I develop?	
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop your interest in the world of economics; how the financial sector operates and how government regulation corrects market failure. ▪ Gain an understanding of the way that decisions are made, especially when resources are scarce and human want is growing. ▪ Develop an understanding of how changes in economic tools such as interest rate or taxation affect households and firms. ▪ Make informed opinions and judgements on topics such as; the effects of the UKs exit from the EU and its implication on macro-economic variables such as employment, government fiscal position, inflation etc. 	
What other subjects should I study with Economics?	
<p>Economics is compatible with most subjects, but has close links to business studies and government and politics. Mathematics, English, history and geography are also subjects that fit well with economics.</p>	
What can the study of Economics lead to?	
<p>The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities such as working as investment banker, financial analyst, economic advisor etc. Alongside other A-levels it could lead to or support further study of philosophy, economics, law, surveying, town management, politics and any business-related course or avenue of employment.</p>	
Further information	
Head of dept:	Mr S Obeng-Asare (samuel.obeng-asare@adamsgs.uk)
Website:	http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-economics-h060-h460-from-2015/
<i>Last revised: November 2023</i>	

Why study English Literature at A-level?

If you have:

- An interest in literature and are a keen reader, able to read widely and with understanding.
- An ability to think independently and discuss ideas with others.
- An ability to produce pieces of extended writing.
- A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically then English in the Sixth Form could be for you.

What does the course consist of?

- Intensive analysis of set texts including prose, poetry and drama.
- Reading a range of A-level prescribed authors and wider reading of your choice.
- Discussing literature in all its forms.
- Participation in associated extra-curricular activities such as theatre trips and lectures.

Assessment

The examination board is Edexcel. Syllabus: English Literature A-level GCE, Code: 9ETO

- The course is broken into: poetry prose and drama. It looks at a wide range of eras from Chaucer to 21st century literature. The examination has three components and is open book and worth 80% of the final grade.
- The coursework is worth 20% of the grade. This component gives the candidate free choice of a genre and epoch of their choice.

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to:

- Develop your interest and enjoyment in literature and your ability to analyse and write about it.
- Gain an understanding of the traditions of literature.
- Develop your understanding of the ways in which texts can be interpreted by different readers.
- Learn about cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.
- Make informed opinions and judgements.

What other subjects should I study with English Literature?

English is compatible with all other A-level subjects and it is worth noting that a number of our students choose to do English with science subjects with a view to studying medicine for instance at university because it shows a breadth of knowledge and reflects strong communication skills. Humanities subjects such as history, religious studies and government and politics make good partnerships since learning styles are similar and languages have the advantage of supporting knowledge of how language works.

What can the study of English Literature lead to?

The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities. Alongside other A-levels it could lead to or support further study of any other subject. Degree courses in English are very competitive precisely because they are so relevant as stepping stones to careers in business, law, teaching, publishing and journalism.

Further information

Head of dept: Mr E Jopling (edward.jopling@adamsgs.uk)

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

Last revised: September 2017

Why study French at AS-level?
<p>If you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fascination with language and the logical processes linguistic study encourages • An interest in the culture of other countries • A belief that that visits abroad are an integral part of language study • An ability to talk about and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues • A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically, then French in the Sixth Form could be for you.
What does the course consist of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial transition from GCSE which includes at a fresh look at already familiar topics from a different angle and linked with the French-speaking world. • Revising basic grammar and complex structures, especially tenses before looking at the more advanced constructions • Discussing and writing about topics from current affairs to Film studies. • Learning vocabulary from a wide range of authentic resources. • Writing short translations in both target language and English. • The study of French films at AS-level for the written exam. • The chance to participate in a work experience programme abroad!
Assessment
<p>The examination is through the WJEC board (Eduqas) and comprises of an oral at AS-level worth 30% of marks with an emphasis on prepared topics, Independent research project, together with a translation into the target language, into English and one essay on a film and literary work. This paper is worth 70% of the marks.</p> <p>There is no coursework at AS-level.</p>
What skills will I develop?
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your interest and enjoyment in a foreign language • Focus on maximum use and understanding of the target language • Develop your understanding of the structure of language. • Make informed opinions and judgments. • Enhance your ICT skills, by working with the internet, and DVD's, as well as improving listening skills on the laptops available for use in the classroom.
What other subjects should I study with French?
<p>French is compatible with many other subjects: popular combinations include English, business studies, government and politics, maths or any sciences.</p>
What can the study of French lead to?
<p>The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities. Statistically graduates with knowledge of a foreign language are more employable and will attract a higher salary. Apart from working in the teaching profession and the Civil Service or Foreign Office, there is a huge scope for working in any business with links abroad or in the field of International Law.</p> <p><u>Further Study:</u> History, Film studies, Economics, Business, Literature, Journalism, Law, Media, Politics, International Resources, Music, Education...</p> <p><u>Career Paths:</u> Diplomacy, Engineer, Writer, Journalist, Business, Logistics, Finance careers, Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, International Crime Police Organisation, International Development Worker, Interpreter, Translator, Jobs in Education, flight attendants and more...</p> <p><u>Skills:</u> Enhanced Problem-solving and decision making, Enhanced creative thinking and flexibility and better memory and communication skills.</p>
Further information
<p>Head of dept: Mrs B Halcro (betty.halcro@adamsgs.uk)</p> <p>Website: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/french-as-a-level/#tab_keydocuments</p>
<i>Last revised: November 2022</i>

Why study geography at A-level?	
Do you have:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in global, national and local issues? • An awareness of the interaction between the physical and human environments? • A willingness to explore ideas and consider different and opinions of contemporary geographical issues? • The ability to discuss issues and to apply a variety of different forms of communication? • A high level of self-motivation and the desire to perform at a very high level? 	
Does the following excite your intellectual curiosity?	
<p>“Global warming, the spread of deserts, water shortages, the migration of peoples, and battles over resources such as oil and issues of world trade and debt (and world conflicts).....all of this is modern geography” (Education Geography)</p>	
What does the course consist of?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed study of the key topics from the specification • Additional background reading and research, especially in Year 13 • Discussion and evaluation of contrasting and challenging opinions • The development of a structured and accurate written style, leading towards extended essay writing • The interpretation and application of a wide range of data sources, maps, diagrams etc • The manipulation and processing of relevant geographical data • Participation in evening lectures and residential field work activity which is essential to the course. The total cost of these events is approximately £450. 	
Assessment	
The examination board is OCR. Syllabus: Geography A-level GCE Code: H481	
Two modules are studied in Lower Sixth:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Systems (24% of A-Level) • Human Interactions (24% of A-Level) 	
Two modules are studied in Upper Sixth:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical Debates (32% of A-Level) • Independent investigation (20% of A-Level, internally assessed) 	
What skills will I develop?	
The course will enable you to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handle data, present it in a variety of formats and interpret statistical information • Apply basic statistical techniques and critically evaluate sources of data • Draw upon a range of different ideas and resources, and to draw logical conclusions • Communicate ideas in a range of different formats and styles, including informed discussion. • Develop your written techniques, ranging from concise responses to extended essays • Make informed opinions and judgments about a range of contemporary issues at the local, national and global scale. 	
What other subjects should I study with Geography?	
Geography is compatible with most other A-level subjects. It has much in common with subjects such as History, Religious Studies and English where learning styles are similar. In addition, Geography has many similarities with Maths and Sciences where numeracy and an understanding of scientific principles will be valuable transferable skills.	
What can the study of Geography lead to?	
The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities. Geography is able to be studied as an Arts or Science subject at university and it also provides a popular option for joint degrees. Geography graduates are among the most employable and typically follow careers in management and administration, and post graduate study including education.	
Further information	
Head of dept:	Mr O Stokes (oliver.stokes@adamsgs.uk)
Website:	http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-geography-h081-h481-from-2016/
<i>Last revised: October 2018</i>	

<p>Why study geology at AS-level?</p> <p>Geology is a fascinating, multi-disciplinary subject. It offers students the chance to develop numerous transferable skills through practical activities undertaken in the classroom and on fieldwork. Few other subjects can offer such diversity of curriculum material and future opportunities. If these questions interest you, then the study of Geology can widen your intellectual horizons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How old is our Solar System? • How can meteorites tell us what the Earth is made of? • Where and why do earthquakes and volcanoes occur? • How can continents “drift”, to move Britain from 60° SOUTH to 60° NORTH over millions of years? • How are fossils formed? Why did dinosaurs become extinct? <p>After GCSEs, Geology is a new subject that will present interesting new ideas, whilst making links with subjects studied previously. You could develop the ability to talk and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues; A minor volcanic eruption in Iceland can cause chaos for international airlines. Climate change and fluctuating sea-levels have occurred for millions of years – why worry now?! Oil companies have been held responsible for widespread pollution, yet most people could not manage without petrol / diesel powered cars. If you have a willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically, then Geology in the Sixth Form could be for you.</p>
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detailed study of Earth Sciences - a fascinating range of ideas, concepts and topics from earthquakes to dinosaurs, minerals and crystals to continental drift, volcanoes to oil and gas production. • Practical science investigation sessions using modern equipment, such as a seismometer. • Preparing Power Point presentations for discussion / seminar work with the rest of the set • Participation in fieldwork to variety of classic UK sites, such as Anglesey, Dorset, Devon, the Lake District, the Wrekin and Wren’s Nest. A trip to Iceland is in the planning stages.
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Examination board - OCR. Syllabus Code – H014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One exam taken in summer of the Lower Sixth • Practical Endorsement in Geology – Non-exam assessment (in class) via the lab-based activities.
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your enjoyment of and interest in Earth Science and the how it affects our everyday lives. • Gain an understanding and appreciation of the problems involved with the sustainable development and exploitation of Earth’s natural resources. • Develop informed opinions and make balanced judgements relating to Earth Science. • Develop a range of transferable skills that will serve you well in life beyond the Sixth Form.
<p>What other subjects should I study with Geology?</p> <p>Geology is compatible with most other A-level subjects. In particular, geography, biology and physics have much in common with geology, while there is significant overlap with chemistry and mathematics. However, students may wish to opt for geology as a refreshing contrast to more arts-based courses.</p>
<p>What can the study of Geology lead to?</p> <p>The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities including engineering; geohazard management, hydrocarbon exploration, mining industries, environmental consultants, oceanography, geophysics, archaeology, water authorities, local government and academic research.</p>
<p>Further information</p> <p>Head of dept: Dr P Dolding (phil.dolding@adamsgs.uk) Website: https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/geology-h014-h414-from-2017/#as-level</p>
<p><i>Last revised: November 2022</i></p>

Why study German at AS-level?	
If you are:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspired by the thought of Germany being the strongest export country and 3rd strongest economy worldwide considering to study all or part of your course in English in Germany to save course fees generally fascinated by languages and the logical processes linguistic studies encourage interested in exploring the cultural heritage of Germany and the German-speaking countries <p>then German in the Sixth Form could be for you.</p>	
What does the course consist of?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial transition from GCSE includes a fresh look at already familiar topics from a different angle. Revision of basic grammar, especially verb formation and word order, before looking at the more advanced constructions. Exploring social issues and trends as well as political, intellectual and artistic culture of Germany and German-speaking countries. Exploring the history of Germany from a different angle through the media of film ('Die Welle'). The opportunity to get actively involved in extra-curricular activities. The option to participate in a work experience programme abroad! 	
Assessment	
The examination is through the WJEC board (Eduqas) and consists of 3 components: speaking (30%); listening, reading and translation (50%); critical response in writing (20%).	
What skills will I develop?	
The course will enable you to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve your comprehension and critical thinking skills Further develop your communication and writing skills Enhance your listening skills Increase your cultural awareness 	
What other subjects should I study with German?	
Sciences and Psychology if you are interested in the area of health care; business studies and accountancy if your interest lies in the area of economy; music, art, design and philosophy, especially given Germany's influences on such disciplines. Also, because you will learn a lot of historical and cultural information as part of your AS-Level language course, you will find that languages go well with history too. Finally, French if you would like to focus on language studies.	
What can the study of German lead to?	
<p>Of course you can become a Language teacher or translator for German. However, you need languages for all sorts of career destinations- doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; business-men, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on in the global market. Politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about. In our globalized world, the ability to speak another language is seen as a huge asset to many, if not most, companies.</p> <p>As degrees are now more commonplace, any added skills that you can bring to the table will see you become a stronger contender for a job. Moreover, Germany is currently the largest export country and the 3rd strongest economy, so studying German at AS-Level could hugely benefit careers in the trading business. If you have a desire to work abroad, or in a multinational company, language skills will be highly prized. In addition, with many UK companies wishing to maintain strong European relationships post-Brexit, languages will only continue to grow in importance.</p>	
Further information	
Head of dept:	Mrs C Crowe (christine.crowe@adamsgs.uk)
Website:	http://www.eduqas.co.org.uk/qualifications/
<i>Last revised: November 2022</i>	

<p>Why study government and politics at A-level?</p> <p>To study government and politics, you will, ideally, have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in the political world in which we live • A desire to find out why it operates in the way it does • A curiosity about the way in which individuals view politics and politicians • An ability to produce pieces of extended writing • A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and, at times, independently. <p>You do not need to have any strongly held political opinions – these may emerge as the course develops.</p>
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first year focuses on UK politics : the role of individuals in political parties, pressure groups, electoral systems and voting behaviour • The focus then turns to how Britain is governed : the constitution, the judiciary, Parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Civil Service, the EU and, finally, devolved government • In the final term of Lower Sixth, and first term of Upper Sixth, our focus is on the USA. We study its elections, including US voting behaviour; US political parties and pressure groups before looking at the US Constitution; Congress; the Presidency and the Supreme Court. There is then a comparative unit which explicitly compares the US and UK political systems • Finally, there is a unit on Political Ideologies. Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism are studied, plus one option from the following list: anarchism, ecologism, multiculturalism, feminism and nationalism. • Wider reading around the topics under study and close observation and analysis of current political issues • Discussion and debate within the class • Participation in visits to conferences and to political institutions at home and abroad.
<p>Assessment</p> <p>The examination board is Edexcel. Syllabus: Government and Politics A-level (we do not offer AS Level in this subject), GCE Code : 9PLO. Three modules are taken in May/June of Upper Sixth year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 : UK Politics and Core Political Ideas • Unit 2 : UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas • Unit 3: Comparative Politics (USA vs UK) <p>Paper 1 requires students to answer two compulsory thirty-mark questions, one responding to an extract and a 24 mark question (in each case chosen from two).</p> <p>Paper 2 requires students to answer two compulsory thirty-mark questions, one responding to an extract and a 24 mark question (in each case chosen from two).</p> <p>Paper 3 has the same requirement but the final 24-mark question will be a comparative essay.</p> <p>There is no coursework at AS or A2 level</p>
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your interest in the ideas which shape global politics • Develop your interest in the modern politics of the UK and USA, and the ideologies underpinning them. • Gain an understanding of the way in which political ideas and systems develop and the role that individuals have in this development • Contribute to informed discussions about political ideas and practices
<p>What other subjects should I study with Government and Politics?</p> <p>Government and politics is compatible with most other A-level subjects. However, humanities subjects such as history, English and religious studies also sit well with government and politics as the learning styles are similar and, in many cases, issues which arise in one subject may have a bearing on another subject.</p>
<p>What can the study of Government and Politics lead to?</p> <p>Politics is a useful qualification for many degree courses and professions and will equip students with a wide variety of transferable skills but, above all, it is a subject of continuing relevance.</p>
<p>Further information</p> <p>Head of dept: Mrs A Frenzel (amy.frenzel@adamsgs.uk)</p> <p>Website: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html</p>
<p><i>Last revised: November 2021</i></p>

Why study history at A-level?
<p>If you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fascination for history (finding out what has happened in the past); • A love of reading and thinking critically about differing accounts of the past; • An interest in what motivates individuals, groups, and people 'in the mass'; • An ability to talk about and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues; • A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and, at times, independently, then history at A-level is probably the subject for you.
What does the course consist of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Breadth Study component at A-level focuses on The British Empire between 1857 and 1967. Students will examine different interpretations of the Empire. • The Depth Study component at A-level examines the development of the the Cold War. Students will go into more depth than ever before in this fascinating topic. They will look at reasoning behind the ideological battle and even have the chance to study specialised historiography. • The Historical Investigation is an opportunity to produce a piece of independent and original historical research covering at least 100 years on a topic of the student's own choosing. The final piece will be 3,000-3,500 words long.
Assessment
<p>The examination board is AQA. Syllabus: History GCE A-level Code: 7042</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The examinations on the Depth and Breadth studies take place at the end of the Upper Sixth year. Each one lasts two-and-a-half hours.
What skills will I develop?
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and evaluate individual sources and books for reliability and usefulness; • Think critically, and develop an appreciation of concepts and an extended (technical and general) vocabulary; • Frame arguments in writing and substantiate them with skilfully deployed evidence; • Distinguish fact from opinion; • Develop skills of, and confidence in, oral argument and debate.
What other subjects should I study with History?
<p>History is compatible with most other A-level subjects. However, humanities subjects such as government and politics, English and religious studies also make good partnerships since learning styles are similar. An interest in Modern Foreign Languages also complements the study of history. A-level history also gives students the chance to move away from the more scientific based subjects and compliment their learning and experience within sixth form.</p>
What can the study of History lead to?
<p>History is a fully acceptable component of qualifications for entry into a wide range of degree and other further education courses, as well as to many careers and professions. This includes many areas of note, such as: law, education, policy making, journalism, economics, engineering, the armed forces and even business and human resources on account of the 'common sense' insights into human behaviour and problem solving abilities which the subject develops.</p>
Further information
<p>Head of dept: Mr M Skeate (matthew.skeate@adamsgs.uk) Website: Go to www.aqa.org.uk and look up the 7042 specification.</p>
<i>Last revised: November 2021</i>

Why study mathematics at AS-level or A-level?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You enjoy algebra and problem solving and want to develop your ability to think logically. You enjoy a challenge and the complete satisfaction that comes from the mastery of a problem and of knowing your answer must be correct. You like working at a consistent, steady rate, daily building on prior knowledge. You are taking another subject which has a mathematical content. You are considering a university course or a career which may require mathematics A-level (e.g. mathematics, statistics, physics, astronomy, engineering, computer science, medicine, etc). It is a highly regarded subject by employers. 	
What does the course consist of?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pure Maths: a study of algebra, functions, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, sequences and series, exponentials and logarithms, vectors, numerical methods, proof and calculus Statistics: a study of statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions & hypothesis testing Mechanics: constant and variable acceleration, forces, Newton's laws, friction, statics & projectiles. The nature of mathematics is very hierarchical, making the course highly demanding particularly for those students that have not secured at least a good A at GCSE level. Many students find A-level Mathematics more demanding than they had anticipated. It makes more consistent demands on them than most other subjects (intellectually and in terms of time, organisation and application). 	
Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The examination board is Edexcel. Syllabus: Mathematics AS/A-level GCE Code: 8MA0/9MA0 AS maths (two equally weighted papers in the Lower Sixth): Pure 1 and Statistics and Mechanics. A-level maths in June of the Upper Sixth year (three equally weighted papers): Pure Maths 1, Pure Maths 2 and Statistics & Mechanics There is no coursework at AS or A-level. 	
What skills will I develop?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will acquire a confidence and competence to deal with information given in algebraic, numerical or graphical form (which is a very transferable skill). An ability to extend your own thinking within a logical framework. An understanding that persistence is necessary at A-level and beyond, as harder problems will often require several visitations before a way forward is identified. The written work of trained mathematicians tends to be logical, concise and precise. 	
What other subjects should I study with mathematics?	
<p>Mathematics is most compatible with further mathematics, the sciences, economics, business studies, geography and ICT. Other subjects may, of course, be taken alongside mathematics depending on the interests and strengths of the individual. In choosing other subjects, students should be aware of the entrance requirements for university courses they may be interested in studying.</p>	
What can the study of mathematics lead to?	
<p>Mathematics is the language of the universe, as Galileo said, and today this fact is more apparent than ever. This is partly due to the rise of computers, which require everything (be it search engines, games, accountancy software or music) to be put into the language of mathematics. Equally important is the fact that many of the things that are essential to us as a society (research and development, policy decisions in the private or public sector, economic forecasts) are increasingly based on verifiable evidence. Thus, mathematically able people are required in almost every aspect of modern life. Studies have shown that, on average, mathematicians earn more than many other graduate disciplines. You can visit http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/ for more information.</p>	
Further information	
Head of dept:	Mr S Fletcher (sam.fletcher@adamsgs.uk)
Website:	http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html
Book:	You can prepare yourself well for AS maths by working through "Bridging GCSE and A-level Maths, Student Book" by Mark Rowland (Collins, ISBN 978-0-00-743171-7).
<i>Last revised: September 2017</i>	

AS-level (with optional progress to A-level) FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why study further mathematics at AS-level?
<p><i>You must study mathematics if you wish to do further mathematics. The points below are in addition to those made for mathematics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You enjoy working on more difficult, extended problems where the solution may not be obvious.• You wish to experience a greater depth and breadth in your mathematics.• Further Mathematics is definitely an advantage if you wish to study mathematics at university but it is essential if you are considering an application to study mathematics at Cambridge or Warwick Universities both of which will normally require the student to take STEP exams as well.• You wish to significantly increase your chances of a successful application to maths-rich courses at top universities (such as physics, mechanical engineering, aeronautical engineering, civil engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science).• You wish to be better prepared for the mathematics you might face on a degree course in a discipline related to Mathematics (e.g., astronomy, engineering, computer Science, economics, physics, etc.).• You are considering an Oxbridge application in physics, engineering, economics, etc.• It is very well regarded by universities and employers.
What does the course consist of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The course both complements and builds upon the A-level mathematics course.• Topics such as complex numbers, matrices, more advanced proof, solution of first and second order differential equations, Maclaurin and Taylor series, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, reduction formulae and vector equations for planes are amongst the additional pure material covered.• Students develop their understanding of applied mathematics to a much greater degree than those only studying mathematics A-level.
Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edexcel examination board. Syllabus: Further Mathematics AS/A-level GCE. Code: 8FMO.• AS further maths (two equally-weighted papers are taken in May/June of the Lower Sixth year): Core Pure Maths and Further Mechanics 1 and 2 (option 2H)• There is no coursework in further mathematics.
What skills will I develop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further mathematicians tend to be genuine all-rounders with a broad base of skills and competencies as outlined in the Mathematics description.• Further mathematicians are very well used to dealing with extended problems and are familiar with the need to explore different avenues when solving more complex situations.
What other subjects should I study with Further Mathematics?
<p>You must study Mathematics A-level. The other choices are detailed in the Mathematics description. If you are considering medicine you should be aware that some institutions may not allow further mathematics to count towards any offer made.</p>
What can the study of Further Mathematics lead to?
<p>See the Mathematics outline.</p>
Further information
Head of dept: Mr S Fletcher (sam.fletcher@adamsgs.uk)
Website: http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html
<i>Last revised: September 2020</i>

Why study music at AS-level?
<p>Music in the Sixth Form could be for you if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proficient instrumentalist or singer (probably at least grade 5 standard) • Regularly involved in musical performance as a soloist, member of orchestra, band or choir, etc. • Really interested in music and want to learn more about composing and understanding music • Considering studying music at university or Music college • Thinking of a career in which music may play a large part • Committed to working hard and being involved in a serious way,
What does the course consist of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing as a soloist and/or a member of an ensemble • Studying compositional techniques, including using software - primarily Sibelius • Studying set works and a wide range of other music • Developing listening (aural) skills, studying theory and improving notation skills • Involvement in school concerts, music competitions, musical productions etc. • Participation in visits to concerts, opera, ballet etc.
Assessment
<p>The examination board is EDUQAS. Syllabus: Music AS/A-level GCE , Code: 601/8146/1; 601/8147/3. The AS-level assessment consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: Performing – This unit is externally assessed and allows you to perform in any style as a soloist or as an ensemble. (6 minutes) • Component 2: Composing – This unit is externally assessed. You will be required to compose 2 compositions lasting a minimum of 5 minutes. • Component 3: Developing Musical Understanding – This unit is externally assessed. In this unit you will study set pieces of music by listening and reading scores to identify important musical features as well as social and historical context. • There is the possibility of extending the three components to a full A-level.
What skills will I develop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your interest and enjoyment in a wide range of music. • Gain an understanding of the traditions of music and the historical, social and artistic context. • Develop your understanding of the form and structure of music and improve theoretical and aural skills. • Make informed opinions and judgements by developing analytical, compositional and performing skills.
What other subjects should I study with music?
<p>Music is a subject that blends well with arts, humanities, mathematics and sciences. Many of the skills of a musician are transferable to other disciplines. Universities welcome good musicians!</p>
What can the study of Music lead to?
<p>Careers in musical performance plus jobs requiring a good working knowledge of music, e.g. broadcasting, recording industry, journalism, concert or artist management, arts organizations, music teaching, music therapy etc. Many musicians develop skills such as leadership, self-discipline, diligence, co-operation, creativity, teamwork and decision making which are very attractive to employers.</p>
Further information
<p>Head of dept: Mr J Wysome (jonathan.wysome@adamsgs.uk) Website: http://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/music/as-a-level/Eduqas%20AS-Music%20SPEC.pdf</p>
<i>Last revised: November 2023</i>

<p>Why study physical education at AS-level?</p> <p>If you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A keen interest and ability to participate in sports to a good level • An ongoing and sustained commitment to performing a sport/activity at a serious level • A fascination with what contributes to performance in physical activity • An interest in how people acquire skills how anatomy and physiology affect performance • A belief that the study of physical education can widen your intellectual horizons • An ability to talk about and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues • A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically <p>NOTE: You do <u>not</u> need GCSE PE to study the AS-level.</p>
<p>What does the course consist of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiencing many different practical activities as a performer, coach/leader and official. • Candidates will study three discrete components of study. Part one includes applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, and biomechanics, part two includes skill acquisition, sports psychology and sport in society. The third component involves performing in one chosen sport. • Candidates will need to build upon the skills acquired and developed throughout the AS work towards responding to a live performance in their own assessed activity. • Wider reading including sports journals and current sports issues at national and international level
<p>Assessment</p> <p>The examination board is OCR. Syllabus: Physical Education AS-level GCE. Code: H155 Assessment consists of three parts, two exams taken at the end of the Lower Sixth (each worth 35% of the AS-level) and non-examination assessment of performance (worth 30%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: physiological factors affecting performance (1 hour 15 mins) – this covers applied anatomy and physiology; exercise physiology; and biomechanics including technology in sport. • Paper 2: psychological and socio-cultural themes in physical education (1 hour 15 mins) – this covers skill acquisition, sports psychology, and sport and society.
<p>What skills will I develop?</p> <p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop your interest and enjoyment in physical activity • Gain understanding of the many factors that influence how and why we perform in sport /physical activity. • An understanding of a healthy active balance lifestyle. • Make informed opinions and judgments.
<p>What other subjects should I study with Physical Education?</p> <p>Physical Education is compatible with many other subjects. Biology and Psychology and performing arts subjects have much in common with physical education. However, Humanities subjects also make good partnerships since learning styles are similar to the socio-cultural areas of historical study.</p>
<p>What can the study of Physical Education lead to?</p> <p>The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development and a wide range of career opportunities. Alongside other A-levels it provides excellent preparation for students wishing to progress in to degree level study in both Physical Education and Sports Studies. A good number of former PE students have successfully gone onto study physiotherapy.</p>
<p>Further information</p> <p>Head of PE: Mr R Mulhern (rob.mulhern@adamsgs.uk) Website: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gce/blt/pe/documents/index.html</p>
<p><i>Last revised: September 2017</i></p>

Why study physics at A-level?
Physics has no limits - we study the interactions of the tiniest subatomic particles, the motion and formation of galaxies and everything in-between. We bring together the concepts learnt at GCSE, showing the links between them and appreciating both the simplicity of the rules that govern the universe and the complex behaviours that they can cause. By the end of the course you should have a deep understanding of how the laws of physics can be applied to complex problems and real-life situations.
What does the course consist of?
The Lower Sixth covers particle physics, quantum phenomena, mechanics, electricity and waves. The second year covers oscillating systems, gravitation, electromagnetism, electromagnetic induction, thermodynamics, kinetic theory, and nuclear physics, as well as one option topic. Students can choose an option from astrophysics, engineering physics, medical physics, and turning points in physics.
Practical investigations are a fundamental part of the course, and students should expect to be taking an active role in practical work every week with their lab partner.
Though the course is presented in units, the understanding of more advanced topics will only follow with a good grasp of the basics and so each unit should not be seen in isolation. At the end of the course students will see many of the ideas and models introduced throughout it begin to come together.
Assessment
The AQA physics syllabus (7408) is followed which is a linear A-level.
There are three examinations with equal weighting assessing course content and practical skills. Each student's final grade is accompanied by a pass/fail for the Practical Endorsement, which is assessed by teaching staff, according to the exam board criteria, during lessons.
A Lower Sixth version of the Physics Olympiad is available alongside the Upper Sixth British Physics Olympiad. Prizes and awards are available for the best candidates nationwide.
What skills will I develop?
The course will enable you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your interest and enjoyment in Physics as a pure science. • Make mathematical and abstract models in order to interpret physical phenomenon. • Develop problem solving skills and sharpen your analytical skills. • Develop practical skills while working in groups. • Gain an understanding of how physics has evolved over the years. • To synthesize large quantities of data and to present your analysis in an easily understandable form • Answer many questions as to how the world works.
What other subjects should I study with Physics?
Studying mathematics at AS or A-level is highly recommended. An ability to deal with algebra is required throughout the course, as well as an understanding of logarithms in the latter part of the second year.
What can the study of Physics lead to?
Many students studying Physics at Haberdashers' Adams go on to study Physics or the many forms of Engineering at university. In 2016, five students went on to study Physics and fifteen went on to study Engineering. Of those, one physicist gained a place at Oxford and one engineer gained a place at Cambridge. The skills you develop during a physics degree should open up a wide range of job opportunities amongst which are careers in communications, engineering, management, finance and medicine.
Further information
Head of dept: Dr J Steel (james.steel@adamsgs.uk)
Website: www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications
<i>Last revised: September 2016</i>

Why study psychology at A-level?
<p>Do you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a fascination with how we and other animals think and interact? • an interest in the way data is collected to ensure that findings are valid and reliable? • a willingness to not just understand research, but evaluate its strengths & weaknesses. • a desire to understand the technical vocabulary and use it to communicate clearly? • an ability to talk and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues? • the motivation to work hard; linking knowledge from each topic to enhance understanding? <p>If you can answer “Yes” to these questions, then psychology could be the subject you are looking for.</p>
What does the course consist of?
<p>The psychology course consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an engaging and effective introduction to psychology • consolidating understanding through regular practical tasks and mathematical analysis • assessing progress through the use of worksheets, homework and end of topic tests • wider reading of <i>Psychology Review</i> and other key titles from popular science • presenting research findings to class either through presentations, posters or video.
Assessment
<p>The examination board is AQA. Syllabus: level GCE Psychology Spec Code: 7182 There are three written papers – students sit all of them at the end of the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology • Paper 2: Psychology in context • Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology
What skills will I develop?
<p>The course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop your interest and understanding of key figures and processes within the science. • Confidently plan effective ways of collecting data to investigate processes. • Analyse data confidently and communicate conclusions clearly, with an appreciation of limitations.
What other subjects should I study with psychology?
<p>Psychology is compatible with most other A-level subjects. It is a good science to support those students who have more of an arts-based portfolio but also complements the humanities very well. Any student wishing to follow a business or sports science pathway will benefit from an introduction to this discipline.</p>
What can the study of psychology lead to?
<p>Potential careers include business management, medicine, psychology, pharmacy, physiotherapy and social work.</p>
Further information
<p>Head of dept: Mrs K Wilkinson (Ka-Yin.Wilkinson@adamsgs.uk) Website: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182</p>
<i>Last revised: November 2023</i>

Why study religious studies at A-level?

If you have:

- A fascination with why people think the way they do and the logical processes that this encourages
- An interest in learning more about the world and people's beliefs and ideas
- An interest in the development of ideas, history and literature
- A belief that study of political, religious, philosophical and historical thought can widen your horizons
- An ability to discuss and write about ideas, concepts, controversies and issues
- A willingness to work hard, enthusiastically and methodically

Then Religious Studies at A-level is for you. You should also be imaginative, self-motivated, and open to enquiry, be able to critically reflect, and be prepared to critically read around the subject.

NOTE: You do not need GCSE religious studies to study the A-level.

What does the course consist of?

Students will study three different areas during the two-year course and be expected to make links between the different theories, ideas and scholars studied.

1. Christianity – The major theological developments will be studied including the debate about Biblical interpretation, how we know God, and how key Christian teachings have developed over time.
2. Philosophy of Religion – Students will study the arguments for and against the existence of God, including the Cosmological Argument and the Design Argument, as well as the Problems of Evil and Suffering. Students will also look at the ancient Greek influences on Philosophy of Religion, focusing on Plato and Aristotle.
3. Ethics – Students will study a number of ethical theories including Natural Law as well as the language used within ethics. These ethical theories will then be applied to a number of contemporary moral issues including abortion, euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

Assessment

The examination board is OCR. All examinations are at the end of Upper Sixth. There is no coursework.

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to:

- Grasp ideas/concepts, ask insightful questions, empathise with others,
- Critically reflect on concepts covered,
- Evaluate and analyse arguments, and argue coherently and persuasively,
- Develop your interest and enjoyment in religions, philosophy, politics, literature and history that has shaped the world we live in today
- Gain an understanding of the traditions of religions, as well as the relevance of historical and philosophical movements on today's society and development of religious thought.
- Make informed opinions and judgments.

What other subjects should I study with Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is equally suitable for students planning to study predominantly Arts, or Science/Mathematical subjects at 'A' Level. The subject naturally lends itself to be partnered with the other Humanities subjects but also complements English and Government and Politics particularly well.

The study of Ethics will be useful for students aspiring to study Medicine, as this will help to prepare them for the interviews they will have for Medical Schools where they will be asked to look at a number of medical ethical issues and to give their thoughts on them.

Religious Studies provides a number of transferable skills that can be used in many different degrees. For example, for those thinking of studying law the subject provides them with the skills necessary to debate, critically analyse, and argue a particular point of view.

What can the study of Religious Studies lead to?

Previous students have gone on to study degrees in Law, Medicine, English, History, PPE, Science as well as Theology/Philosophy. They have found the transferable skills they have developed in RS 'A' Level, very beneficial in their chosen careers, especially those in Business Management, Law, Medicine, Architecture, Teaching and The Armed Forces.

Further information

Head of dept: Miss N Williams (nia.williams@adamsgs.uk)

Website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

Last revised: October 2018

Why study sociology at A-level?
Are you curious about how society works? About why some behaviour is considered normal and other behaviour is seen as deviant? About what shapes UK society? About the role of education in society? About why wealthier people are generally healthier? About the role of the media in shaping public opinion? If you are, and you want to get a good understanding of how the society you live in actually functions, then AS-level sociology is a good place to start!
What does the course consist of?
The sociology course is taught using a variety of techniques that balance learning about the subject with actually doing sociological research. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with key theories, key sociological thinkers, and key concepts in sociological research.
Assessment
The exam board that we use is AQA and the A-level is assessed by three 2 hour papers which mix short answers and extended writing. All papers are taken at the end of the course; they cover the topics of education, crime and deviance, and topics in sociology.
What skills will I develop?
The course will enable you to gain a deeper understanding of the world you live in and the forces that shape it. It will also develop your critical thinking skills since in most areas of sociology there are hotly contested differing views, and it will give you an insight into how sociological research is actually conducted. There is also opportunity to develop your essay, presentation and debating skills.
What other subjects should I study with sociology?
AS-level sociology goes well with virtually any other subject since it helps you to understand the world you live in. It is a subject that involves both numerical skills (working with data from quantitative sociological research) and literacy skills (reading about different theories and writing your own essays). Because it develops both of these skills, it is a good complement to any A-levels.
What can the study of sociology lead to?
Potential careers include those in government, politics, public-service, etc. Employers look favourably on sociology as a subject mentioned on any CV because of the focus on equality and diversity, amongst other topics. These are issues crucial to the smooth-running of any workplace, not just the short list mentioned here.
Further information
Head of dept: Mrs K Wilkinson (Ka-Yin.Wilkinson@adamsgs.uk) Website: We follow the AQA 7192 specification available from https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level
<i>Last revised: November 2023</i>

7. The Sixth Form timetable

Our timetable is based on a 50-period week with each period being 30 minutes long. Most lessons are double periods. The allocation for the Sixth Form is as shown in section 6 above.

Use of private study and other non-teaching time

The library and Sixth Form Centre are available where quiet work can be done, but in addition students are encouraged to use these periods for:

1. Doing careers work in the Careers Library.
2. Working in the school's computer room.
3. Working in the specialist rooms such as music, design technology or art.
4. Working on House/extra-curricular programmes.

In addition, students may be extracted from private study periods for talks, extra lessons and to act as guides to visitors.

We do not allow driving lessons in school time.

Unless students learn to work on their own in these private study periods, they will be ill-equipped to cope with courses in higher education where lecturers increasingly regard themselves as facilitators and stimulators of learning rather than transmitters of knowledge. The capacity for independent learning is vital for success in higher education.