

Year 13 Subject Content

Art and Design (Fine Art/Textiles Design)

Component 1: Personal Investigation (September of Yr12 – January of Yr13)

The personal investigation is the official term for the coursework component and consists of one sustained, coherent and in depth practical study - based on an idea, issue, concept or theme selected independently by the student - that is worth 60% of the overall A-Level qualification.

This component is supported by a written element (1000-3000 words). As the coursework component consists of just one project, students are expected to study and explore artists, imagery, techniques and ideas in much greater depth than in the GCSE course.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (February – May of Yr13)

Question papers, sent by AQA on 1st February in Year 13, will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points from which students are required to select one.

Preparatory work on this project will begin upon receiving the question paper and will last about 3 months, at the end of which students will sit a 15-hour exam (spread over 3 school days). During these 15 hours' students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.

All of the work created for this component (between February and May of Year 13) will be submitted and assessed as a whole project in the same way as Component 1.

Biology

Students have studied Communication, and homeostasis; Excretion; Photosynthesis; Respiration; Cellular control and Responding to the environment.

Business Studies

The following topics have been studied during Year 13:

- Growing economies
- International Trade
- Global competitiveness
- Multinational corporations
- Corporative objectives
- Investment appraisal
- Critical path analysis
- Business ethics
- Financial statements
- Corporate culture

Chemistry

This year students have studied two modules in Chemistry which include the following topics: Module 5-Physical chemistry and transition elements; Module 6-Organic chemistry and analysis. Students have continued to carry out a range of practical skills tasks on the A2 topics covered.

English Literature

Students follow WJEC A2 LT3 and LT4 specification.

The course consists of two units:

(a) Exam: Poetry and Drama

(b) Coursework: Study of prose and poetry core texts from different periods and wider reading.

Further Mathematics

In Year 13 the work follows on from Year 12 with a further 6 modules of mathematics. There are 3 modules of pure mathematics (FP1, FP2 and FP3 with topics such as: matrix algebra, differential calculus and hyperbolic functions) and 3 further Applied Maths modules Mechanics (M2 and M3) together with statistics (S2).

French

In the Upper Sixth, students follow the AQA Syllabus based on current affairs in France. They understand and respond to contemporary spoken and written language. They manipulate with greater fluency the target language in written and spoken form. They prepare an Individual Research Project on a French related topic for their oral exam. French Literature is also studied, with *Un Sac de Billes* and *No et Moi*.

Film Studies

Film studies this year builds on the knowledge and skills gained at AS. To prepare for the exam we have explored foreign language films on the theme of **Poverty, Power and Conflict**, and a range of **Documentary Films**. We will also be working on a single focus film – **Fight Club**. Coursework forms half of the final grade. Students have been working on their own independent research project which is now in its final stages, and the production of a short film extract.

German

In the Upper Sixth, students study the two topics Multiculturalism in German-speaking Society and Aspects of Political Life in the German-speaking World. They understand and respond to authentic spoken and written language and learn to manipulate the target language accurately in written and spoken form. Students also study a piece of literature in preparation for the writing exam and complete an independent research project about a topic of their choice which forms the focus of the speaking exam.

Geography

Year 13 sees students cover the Human Geography topics of Geopolitics and Health and Disease.

In Physical Geography they study the carbon and water cycles before returning to tectonic hazards. Year 13 covers the material required for the AQA A2 paper. This includes studies of World Cities and globalisation; and tectonic hazards and climate change. Year 13 also includes preparation and completion of the A2 coursework unit.

History

Students have followed survey courses on either The Changing Nature of Warfare (1792-1945) or Anglo – Irish Relations (1798-1922). In addition, all students have been working on coursework units on National Socialist Germany (1933-1945).

Mathematics

Pure Mathematics: the content of the course follows on from the work covered at AS with a further two modules studied covering vectors, coordinate geometry, calculus and trigonometry.

Applied Mathematics: the course this year has introduced mechanics as a subject following the M1 syllabus and covers such topics as: kinematics of a particle, Newton's laws of motion and moments.

Music

The A2 Music course comprises of three main elements:

- i) Composition
- ii) Performance
- iii) Listening and Understanding - aural examination plus a written analysis paper based on set works studied throughout the year.

As with AS Music, practical skills are central to the course and students are encouraged to participate in as much music-making as possible.

Philosophy

Year 13 students follow two courses. Firstly, Ethics and secondly, The Philosophy of Mind. They are preparing for a further 3-hour examination at the end of Year 13.

Physics

Students cover the topics of Thermal Physics, Simple Harmonic Oscillations, Capacitors, Gravitational & Magnetic Fields, Electromagnetic Induction, Astrophysics, Nuclear Physics and Medical Imaging.

They also complete their Practical Activity Groups.

Politics

Develops and builds on the AS course through a study of the political system of the USA. This examination of an alternative liberal democracy to our own deepens the student's understanding of concepts such as democracy, liberalism, power constitutionalism and representation among others.

Spanish

In the Upper Sixth, pupils study a range of topics including Spanish film and literature. They prepare for three exams:

- a Listening, Reading and Translation into English
- an Oral examination

a Translation into Spanish and essays in Spanish exam

Physical Education

Students will study three key areas within this subject which cover Physiology, Psychology and Socio-Cultural issues. Their final exams will include three exam papers which cover each of these areas. The Physiology Paper is a 2-hour examination and the remaining two topic areas are 1 hour each. Students will also be assessed in their practical performance in a chosen sport from the specification. An analysis and evaluation oral presentation is also included as part of the practical assessment where students are required to observe a performance of their chosen sport and comment on what they see, drawing on related content from the specification.

Students will study various topics in the fields of Exercise Physiology, Psychology and Historical Studies to prepare for one exam paper which carries equal weighting for each area. Practically, students will be assessed in one activity of their choice from the specification and will be required to complete a synoptic oral examination.

Psychology

Students study human behaviour and the mental processes that underpin it. Psychological theories, concepts and research are studied to reach an understanding of memory, learning, personality and motivation.

Technology

The course consists of 2 units:

Unit 3 – Written exam of 2 hours concentrating on Design and Manufacture. 25% of total A' level marks.

Unit 4 – Coursework. Students undertake a major project of their own choice. 25% of the total A' level marks.