# Weald of Kent A Level Curriculum: Sixth Form Courses for September 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choosing your Sixth Form Course</th>
<th>P2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry to Year 12</td>
<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Entry Requirements</td>
<td>P3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>P4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>P5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>P7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>P9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>P10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>P11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology (Product Design)</td>
<td>P12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama &amp; Theatre Studies</td>
<td>P13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>P14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>P15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>P16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>P17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>P18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>P19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Studies</td>
<td>P20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Languages</td>
<td>P21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>P22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>P23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>P24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>P25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>P26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>P27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>P28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choosing your Sixth Form Course

In the Sixth Form, your choice of subjects should continue to develop your strengths and support your future career aspirations without sacrificing the breadth of study required by universities and employers. We ask all students to choose three A Level subjects for study in Year 12. Students will also study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Students with a high GCSE APS (Average Point Score) may choose to study four A Level subjects by agreement with the school.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

We offer the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) in Years 12 and 13. This is a stand-alone qualification for all students. It is a cross-curricular dissertation-style project that will add breadth to your A Level subjects and give you access to the higher level skills that both universities and employers are seeking. It is tailored to fit with the rest of the curriculum and provides recognition for your interest in specific subject material.

Entry to Year 12

If you wish to join the Weald of Kent Sixth Form you must:

- attain a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature;
- have a GCSE Average Point Score (APS) of 5.5 to be comprised of your best 8 GCSE results including either English Language or English Literature and Mathematics;
- have met the subject requirements as set out on page 3 for the courses you wish to study.

To find your average point score add either your GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature score, your GCSE Mathematics score and your 6 best other GCSE scores and divide the total number by 8.

Each A Level subject has an expected entry grade at GCSE as indicated in this document. These subjects will set compulsory pre-course summer bridging work, available on our website, to be completed during the summer break. Please note that A Level courses can only run if there is a viable number of students opting for them.

Having chosen to enter the Sixth Form, you are expected to have a positive attitude towards your work as well as good attendance (95% and above). Progress is monitored at regular intervals and targets will be set and reviewed by you in consultation with your Form Tutor. Students and their parents/guardians are expected to attend the Parent Consultations in Years 12 and 13. Based on internal assessment and internal PPE (Pre-Public Examination) grades, students will be expected to achieve at least a Grade C in each A Level subject.
## Entry Requirements for A Level Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Entry Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Grade 6 in both GCSE Biology and GCSE Chemistry or Grades 6 6 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grades 6 6 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama and Theatre</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama if studied in Key Stage 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French or Spanish</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE French or GCSE Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Studies</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Music or Grade 5s in Music Practical and Music Theory Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grades 6 6 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or a Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education and must play a competitive sport listed on AQA’s sport specification list. Video evidence may be required for entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Grade 6s in GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature and GCSE History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Product Design</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grades 6 6 in Trilogy Science</td>
</tr>
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<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature</td>
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Art

Requirements:

For success in this subject it is expected that you gain a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art.

Aims & Outcomes:

This course will provide you with the opportunity to study and explore Fine Art at a deeper and more academic level. You will benefit from investigating a wide range of experiences, ideas and techniques, exploring a variety of processes in both 2D and 3D media. Integral to your study will be a deepening understanding of historical and contextual knowledge, developed through an open and enquiring mind. This course will encourage you to develop creative, intellectual, imaginative and intuitive skills; you will learn how to investigate, analyse, experiment and express aesthetic understanding and critical judgements as well as develop a broadening understanding of the function of Art, Craft and Design in contemporary society and in other times and cultures. You will develop your own strengths in the subject and identify and sustain your own lines of enquiry.

Examination & Assessment:

Year 12
Portfolio Unit: provides supporting evidence for Unit 1

Year 13
Unit 1 (Personal Investigation) = 60%
Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment) = 40%

The examination unit consists of a 15 hour controlled test.

Examination Board: Edexcel
Biology

Requirements:

At least a Grade 6 in each of the Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science, or at least Grade 6s in GCSE Biology and GCSE Chemistry. In addition, at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

Aims & Outcomes:

Issues that are biologically based continually crop up in everyday life. We study examples such as cystic fibrosis and place their contexts within the science of Biology. Our course is about turning A Level students into mature and effective biologists. We present the key concepts underpinning Biology today combined with a structured approach to learning the wider skills needed by the modern biologist. Students benefit from learning Biology in the context of real life situations which emphasizes the need for independent work and background reading.

Topics are based on a storyline or contemporary issue, such as risk and cardiovascular disease, with biological principles introduced when required to aid understanding of the context. In this way, information is presented in manageable chunks and grafted onto existing knowledge, leading to better understanding.

Employing a wide range of teaching and learning styles, activities introduce content, skills and experimental techniques. Biology students will undertake regular hands-on practical work, and as a minimum, must undertake 12 core practical activities. Students will develop their practical skills during the course and will need to demonstrate competence in various techniques in order to gain the Science Practical Endorsement.

This course is suitable preparation for study at university and can lead to a number of courses on offer such as Veterinary Science, Medicine, Environmental Science and Biochemistry to name but a few.

Examination & Assessment:

There are 3 written papers and no coursework. All papers may include: multiple-choice; short open; open-response; calculations and extended writing questions. All papers will also include questions that target mathematics at Level 2 as well as questions that target the conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods.

Paper 1 (33.3% weighting)

- Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk
- Topic 2: Genes and Health
- Topic 3: Voice of the Genome
- Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Topic 5: On the Wild Side

Paper 2 (33.3% weighting)

- Topics 1-4
• Topic 7: Run for your Life
• Topic 8: Grey Matter

Paper 3 (33.3% weighting)

• Topics 1-8
• Synoptic questions that may draw across different topics
• Question based on a pre-release scientific article

Examination Board: Edexcel (Salters Nuffield) Biology
Business

Requirements:

At Weald of Kent we recognise the need for students to learn skills that will prepare them for their chosen career. This course comprises both a theoretical and a practical understanding of business and the wider economic environment in which businesses operate. Therefore, the Business A Level develops a number of important skills that will help students progress in their careers. Such skills include; excellent communication skills, numeracy, in depth analysis of data as well as the ability to analyse and evaluate the outcomes of a variety of business and economic situations. An interest in current affairs related to the economy and the business environment will be beneficial, but it is not necessary to have studied Business Studies or Economics at GCSE level. Students wishing to study Business must have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Aims & Outcomes:

Business gives students problem solving tools to tackle traditional problems which arise within a dynamic business environment. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets. Students will also understand how businesses need to adapt and respond strategically to the changing environment in which they operate to survive and grow.

Subject Content:

The course is structured into four themes:

Theme 1: Marketing and People.

Included in Theme 1 are topics such as: “The Market”; “Meeting Customer Needs”; “The Marketing Mix and Marketing Strategy”; “Entrepreneurs and Leaders” and “Managing People”.

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities.

Included in Theme 2 are topics such as: “Raising Finance”; “Financial Planning”; “Managing Finance”; “Resource Management” and “The External Business Environment”.

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy.

Included in Theme 3 are topics such as: “Business Growth”; “Business Objectives and Strategy”; “Decision-Making Techniques”; “Influences on Business Decisions”; “Assessing Competitiveness” and ”Managing Change”.

Theme 4: Global Business.

Included in Theme 4 are such topics as: “Globalisation”; “Global Markets and Business Expansion”; “Global Marketing” and “Multi-National Corporations”.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed by three externally examined papers in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Paper 1 questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 4. This is a 2 hour exam which comprises data response and essay questions (35% of total qualification).
Paper 2: Paper 2 questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 3. This is a 2 hour exam which comprises data response and essay questions (35% of total qualification).

Paper 3: Paper 3 questions will be drawn from Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This is a 2 hour exam which will be based on a pre-released research task (30% of total qualification).

Examination Board: Edexcel
Chemistry

Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in each of the Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science or at least a Grade 6 in Chemistry GCSE. In addition, at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics is required.

It is highly recommended that students who wish to take Chemistry at A Level are also taking Mathematics at A Level. For those not taking Mathematics, whose mathematical skills require improvement, attendance at additional Mathematics for Scientists sessions will be compulsory.

Course Content

This course offers a flexible approach where the specification is divided into modules each covering key areas. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and both are examined through written papers. There is no coursework.

Module 1 – Development of practical skills
Module 2 – Foundations of chemistry e.g. atoms, amount, redox and structure & bonding
Module 3 – Periodic Table and energy
Module 4 - Core organic chemistry e.g. hydrocarbons, isomerism and infra-red spectroscopy
Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
Module 6 - Organic chemistry and analysis, e.g. carbonyls and nuclear magnetic resonance

Examination

Papers will incorporate multiple-choice questions, short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions.

- Paper 1 Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (37%)
  (assesses modules 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- Paper 2 Synthesis and analytical techniques (37%)
  (assesses modules 1, 2, 4 and 6)
- Paper 3 Unified chemistry (26%)
  (assesses all modules)
- Practical endorsement – students achieve a pass or fail. This is independent of their final grade but is recorded on their exam certificate. To achieve a pass, students have to successfully carry out 12 specified practical experiments including a formal write-up.

Examination Board: OCR Specification A (H432) A Level
**Computer Science**

**Requirements:**

You require a GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science and a GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics.

**Aims and Outcomes:**

Computer science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles in the classroom to real world systems. The course prepares greatly students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment, where a knowledge of Computing would be beneficial. Students who study Computing can go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

An A Level in Computer Science develops computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. Learners will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions which are all vital components of ‘post school’ life and is of particular relevance to Further Education, Higher Education and the workplace.

**Assessments**

The A Level Computer Science specification covers 2 written papers and 1 Non-examination Assessment (coursework).

**Paper 1**

This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science.

*On-screen examination:* 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)

*Content of examination:* A series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer document (EAD) provided by the exam board. Prior to the terminal examination, students will be issued with the preliminary material, a skeleton program (in Python) and, where appropriate, test data, for use in the exam.

**Paper 2**

This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions on Computer Science.

*Written examination:* 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)

*Content of examination:* Written examination, compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

**Non-examination Assessment**

The non-examination assessment (NEA) is worth 20% of the overall grade. The NEA assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Each learner is able to tailor the project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving.

**Examination Board: AQA**
Dance

Requirements

The focus of A level Dance is on performance and choreography and the students need to have a good technical ability in Dance. This can be in any style but students will study and be examined in Contemporary Dance on the course. Students need to have an interest in creating and watching dance works. Students require at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Aims and Outcomes:

The A level Dance course provides an opportunity to be creative, perform, engage in critical thinking about Dance, develop perception and self-discipline and achieve knowledge and the means of understanding about choreography, performance and appreciation of dances. The course provides a direct link to any arts based course in Higher Education or vocational courses and also for any career which demands skills in self-discipline, initiative, management and creativity.

Subject Content:

AS Level

- Performance in a solo and duet/trio including physical and interpretative skills.
- Solo choreography, developing and applying the practical knowledge and understanding of the choreographic process.
- Training, technique, health and safety of the dancer.

A Level

- Solo performance in the style of a practitioner.
- Performance in a quartet including physical and interpretative skills.
- Choreograph a group dance.
- Training, technique, health and safety of the dancer.

Examination Board: AQA
Design and Technology: Product Design (3D Design)

Requirements:

This course is suitable for students who have an interest in design and innovation, have studied a GCSE in Design Technology (Product Design; Resistant Materials or Graphic Products) and achieved a Grade 6 or above. It is a balance of academic and practical tasks and is a good subject to combine with Mathematics and Physics. You should have a working knowledge of materials along with some knowledge of designers and Design Movements. It is expected that you take an interest in this subject outside of school by visiting galleries, exhibitions and talks to help broaden your knowledge and understanding.

Aims & Outcomes:

The course helps you to take a broad view of design and technology, develop your capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. It is essential and expected that you will spend some of your private study time working independently (under supervision) in the workshop and studio. You will develop an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of a broad range of materials and components. You should understand why these are used in specific applications with particular emphasis on the life-cycle of products including manufacture, use and disposal. You should have a good understanding of the methods by which materials and components can be manipulated to manufacture products.

The course has 50% coursework in order to recognise the importance of project based work within this subject. The course accommodates coursework that focuses on Resistant Materials, Product Design or a combination of two elements, but the final outcome(s) must be 3D.

Subject Content:

Paper 1: 2 hour 30 minutes examination (25%)
Core technical principles of designing and making

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes examination (25%)
Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles

Both papers will test mathematical and scientific knowledge which will account for 15% of the marks.

Practical Application: 45 hours (50%)
Substantial design and make task

Examination Board: AQA
Drama & Theatre

Requirements:

If you enjoy reading and watching plays and discussing ways they could be performed, you will love Drama and Theatre at A Level. You should be willing to explore and experiment as an actor, trying out different styles and techniques. You will perform both scripted work and improvisation and work in a range of different groups. You will need to be committed, reliable and a good team player, who will work with a group to stage successful performances. We organise workshops in which you will be required to participate. We visit West End or local theatres regularly and expect you to accompany us. We expect at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama if studied in Key Stage 4 and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. Equally important is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject and an eagerness to participate in our very active lessons.

Aims & Outcomes:

You will gain an appreciation of the skills of acting and performance. You will grow to appreciate and understand how a script can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Students benefit by becoming confident in public speaking, time management and essay writing. An A Level in Drama and Theatre will open doors at all British universities and a degree provides excellent training for careers in the theatre, arts, law, media, publishing, marketing, education and all industries with a focus on interpersonal skills.

Component 1 (40%) Drama and theatre (3 hour written examination)

Section A – One question on a set text, answered from a practical perspective
Section B – One question on an extract from a second set text
Section C – One question on a single live production

Component 2 (30%) Creating Original Drama

An original devised performance influenced by the work of a prescribed practitioner, with a supporting working notebook. Students work in groups, using recognised techniques to create original work.

Component 3 (30%) Making theatre

Practical performance of an extract from a play, plus a reflective report. Presentation of an extract from a play. Assessment also includes preparatory and development work and supporting notes.

Examination Board: AQA
English Language

Requirements:
If you enjoy exploring how language varies according to its audience, purpose and type then you will love English Language at A Level. You will discover how children learn to speak, read and write and how language varies and changes. You should be able to write in a clear, controlled way, utilising linguistic frameworks and applying appropriate terminology. We expect you to have at least a Grade 6 in English Language at GCSE, but an equally important qualification is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject and an eagerness to participate in class discussions.

Aims & Outcomes:

You will gain an appreciation of the written word, and a wide variety of spoken and electronic media to sustain you throughout life. An understanding of linguistic subtleties and skills in re-writing will equip you for a career in journalism, education, law or industry. You will also gain an A Level in a subject respected by universities which qualifies you for many degree choices.

Subject Content:

You will learn how to analyse in context several types of writing, including newspapers, magazines, scripts and children’s stories as well as spontaneous and scripted spoken transcripts. You will also be taught how to create original texts and to challenge specific social representations. For coursework, you will do two tasks: undertake a language investigation, developing your independent research skills, and create a piece of original writing with a commentary.

Examination & Assessment:
A Level English Language is a linear course which consists of two examination papers and two pieces of coursework.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society
2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change
2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)
**English Literature**

**Requirements:**

If you enjoy reading, watching plays and discussing the ways in which writers use language, you will love English Literature at A Level. You should be able to write in a clear, controlled way but your teachers will always be on hand to advise and help you with the secrets of writing a Grade A essay. If you are willing to listen, learn and contribute to our seminar style learning then this is the course for you. We expect you to have at least a Grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE but an equally important qualification is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject, and an eagerness to participate whilst listening to others.

**Aims & Outcomes:**

You will gain an appreciation of the written word that will sustain you throughout life; an understanding of a range of plays, poetry and novels and an A Level grade in a highly respected subject. An A Level in English Literature will open doors at all universities and a degree in English provides excellent training for careers in the arts, law, education and the media.

**Subject Content:**

The course is Linear and you will study modern novels, drama and poetry across the ages.

**Examination & Assessment:**

**Drama 30%**

You will study one Shakespeare and one other play in conjunction with a critical anthology on either Comedy or Tragedy. The examination is two hours and fifteen minutes and open book.

**Prose 20%**

Two prose texts, one pre-1900. The examination is one hour and is open book.

**Poetry 30%**

You will respond to unseen modern poetry as well studying a range of poetry from a selected literary period or poet. The examination is two hours and fifteen minutes and open book.

**Non-examination Assessment (Coursework) 20%**

Comparative critical essay of 2,500 – 3,000 words on two literary texts.

**Examination Board: Edexcel**
Further Mathematics

Requirements

A Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE Mathematics is required to study Further Mathematics A Level. Like the A level Mathematics course the course is very demanding and requires excellent algebra and problem solving skills. It requires a full knowledge and understanding of all the GCSE content for Mathematics and also knowledge and understanding of the A level Mathematics content.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the course is that the students will be able to develop further the knowledge, skills and mathematical reasoning developed through the A level Mathematics course. Students will have a wider knowledge base and experience different areas of mathematics that are not covered in the Mathematics A level course.

Why study Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics?

Further Mathematics A level is an excellent foundation for engineering, design, technological and some scientific courses. Students wishing to study mathematical related subjects at University are often required to have studied Further Mathematics A level in addition to Mathematics A level. It is best to check out the requirements at specific Universities to see if the course you want to study needs Further Mathematics, in addition to Mathematics.

Examination Board: Edexcel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A level Further Mathematics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper 1:</strong> Further Pure Mathematics 1 Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 25% of the qualification 75 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper 2:</strong> Further Pure Mathematics 2 Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 25% of the qualification 75 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper 3:</strong> Further Mathematics Option 1 Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 25% of the qualification 75 marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paper 4</strong> Further Mathematics Option 2 Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 25% of the qualification 75 marks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geography

Requirements:

The course builds upon the skills and application of knowledge from GCSE. There is an expectation that students will be fully familiar with: process, key terms and have a sound understanding of both Physical and Human Geography. There is a minimum requirement of a Grade 6 in Geography at GSCE. There is an increasing element of Mathematics involved which potential students need to be aware of although there is no prerequisite above and beyond the Sixth Form entry requirements.

Aims and outcomes:

A Level Geography will excite the students’ minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. The two year course has seen units added which reflect the world today. The increasing demand and potential shortage of crucial reserves is balanced against the growing demand from emerging economies. The power and influence of Trans National Corporations is examined; a contemporary and increasingly political issue as the wealth and influence of global companies impacts on all of our lives as well as the environment. The course also examines debates concerning ownership and governance of the world’s oceans. The classics remain, such as Hazards and Population as well as a critical examination of the Carbon and Water cycles. The aim of the Geography A Level is to give the students a taste of university skills with the introduction of a 3000 word non-examination assessment in the form of coursework. The coursework will see students undertake a hypothesis/task question that they will then collect, analyse and assess data on. It gives them a feel of what completing a piece of extended work at university is like and will ensure that the transition is supported. The course aims to provide the students with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers which will benefit them long into the future.

Course content:

- The course is split into a human and physical paper, both worth 40% each. The remaining 20% is made up of your geographical enquiry (3000-4000 words).
- The papers are both 2 hours 30 minutes in length with a range of questions from multiple choice to larger 9 mark questions. Each paper will have a 20 mark extended writing question.
- The geographical enquiry includes four days’ fieldwork experience with two of the days collecting data for your hypothesis/aim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human modules</th>
<th>Physical modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Changing places</td>
<td>2. Coastal systems and landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Resource security</td>
<td>3. Hazards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Examination board: AQA
History

Requirements

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE History is expected.

Aims & Outcomes:

The A Level history course has been designed to create a deepened historical knowledge and understanding by promoting a lifelong enjoyment of the subject. The course will enable you to develop important skills including, critically evaluating evidence, researching and using historical documents, producing reasoned and thoughtful arguments, presentation and interpersonal skills. You will study the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time and will study the past through political, economic and cultural perspectives. History is an academic subject that is well respected in a variety of courses in Higher Education as well as in a vast range of careers.

Subject Content:

A Level Units

The A Level is made up of two units a Depth study and a Breadth study. Both contain source work as well as extended writing tasks and are equally weighted, each worth 40% of the total marks. The third unit is a Historical Investigation worth 20% of the total marks.

Examination & Assessment:

Unit 1. Tudor England, 1485 - 1603. This is the study of significant historical developments over a period of 100 years. This breadth option allows students to study issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period and will explore the reigns of all Tudor monarchs. This section is linked to historical interpretations.

Section A. One question linked to historical sources (30 marks)
Section B. Two essays from a choice of three (2 x 25 marks)

Unit 2. Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918 - 45. This is the study of an in-depth historical change or development, you will be expected to use primary sources provided by the exam board for Part A. This option provides for the study of a period of major change in German history, which saw the disintegration of democracy and the rise of Nazism. It also requires students to consider the multi-faceted reasons for the failure of democracy in Germany and how political parties were able to exploit social tensions across the country.

Section A. One compulsory two part exam question linked to primary sources or sources from the contemporary period. (30 marks)
Section B. Two essays from a choice of three (2 x 25 marks)

Unit 3. Historical Investigation. This is a study of Tsarist Russia and covers a 100 year period. It will be between 3000-3500 words and moderated by AQA.

Examination Board: AQA
Mathematics

Requirements

A Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE Mathematics is required to study Mathematics A Level. The course is very demanding and requires excellent algebra and problem solving skills. It requires a full knowledge and understanding of all the GCSE content for Mathematics.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the mathematics course is that the students will be able to:

- Develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.
- Develop their ability to reason logically and to recognise incorrect reasoning.
- Use mathematics as an effective means of communication.
- Recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between real-world problems and mathematical models, understanding how they can be refined and improved.
- Develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and society in general.

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics A Level is a good foundation for engineering, design, technological, scientific and medical courses. It is also a good course for those students who are interested in Art or Humanities subjects, but would like to broaden their options and develop their logical reasoning or statistical analysis skills. Students wishing to study mathematical related subjects at University are often required to have studied Further Mathematics A level in addition to Mathematics A level.

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<th>A Level Mathematics</th>
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| **Paper 1:** Pure Mathematics 1 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks | **Topics such as:**
| | Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Exponentials, Trigonometry, Vectors and Calculus |
| **Paper 2:** Pure Mathematics 2 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks | **Topics such as:**
| | Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Trigonometry, Iteration and Calculus |
| **Paper 3:** Statistics and Mechanics 33%, 2 hours, 100 marks | **Section A: Statistics (50 marks)**
| | Topics like Data Handling topics from GCSE such as averages, histograms, box plots and frequency diagrams. **Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)**
| | Topics like Speed, Forces, moving objects, (Physics related topics). |

Examination Board: Pearson’s EDEXCEL
Media Studies

Requirements:

Applicants are expected to have a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. Media Studies is highly compatible with many other subjects in the post-16 curriculum, as it provides training in independent and critical thinking analysis.

Aims & Outcomes:

The course leads to qualifications recognised by the media industry and opens up opportunities for future employment in this sector. Media Studies is an excellent foundation for further study of Media in Higher Education.

Subject Content:

During this two year course, students will study a contemporary, accessible and creative course, which will allow them to study the media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to the process of creating their own media productions. Media Studies is designed to widen the intellectual horizons of the learner through the analysis of both global and historical media. This course will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking to encourage engagement in the critical debates surrounding contemporary media, developing critical thinking and the ability to create exciting and dynamic media products.

Media products

Learners will explore how media products are used by institutions to construct different representations and how media audiences interpret these products. Learners will use aspects of the theoretical framework to analyse and evaluate their own cross-media productions.

Media in a digital age

Learners will explore and analyse the ideas and arguments from debates about the media. These debates will be drawn from:
• an historical perspective • the digital age • global media.

Making media

Learners will practically explore the creation of three linked media products in a cross-media production.

Media forms

Throughout this course, learners will study nine different media forms. These are:
• television • film • radio • newspapers • magazines • advertising and marketing • online, social and participatory media • video games • music videos.

Examination Board: OCR
Modern Languages (French & Spanish)

Requirements:

For success in Languages a Grade 6 or higher is needed at GCSE. This must include a Grade 6 or higher in the written GCSE papers.

Aims & Outcomes:

The aim of the A Level course is to broaden and deepen your knowledge of your chosen language, to enable you to communicate clearly at a higher and more fluent level. You will also enhance your cultural understanding as the course covers a range of social aspects which affects the principal country in which that language is spoken. You will hone other transferrable skills such as debating and defending your point view, carrying out independent research, and analysing literary texts. At Weald of Kent, we have state-of-the art facilities for teaching A Level Languages, including a fully online learning programme, use of the digital language laboratory and a dedicated Sixth Form study room.

Subject Content for both Spanish and French

The content for the new A level is conceived as an integrated study with a focus on language and culture and society and terminal exams at the end of Year 13.

The core topic areas will be:

- social issues and phenomena, such as wealth and poverty, racism and integration.
- Politics, current affairs and history, dealing with such issues as the rise of the right wing.
- Intellectual culture, past and present. This requires the study of at least two works – one of which must be a novel, chosen from a prescribed list.

Students will also have to complete an independent research project into an aspect of French speaking society or culture, which they will present as part of their speaking exam.

Examinations

Students will be assessed in three separate exams for

- speaking
- listening, reading and translation
- essay writing in French

Marks weightings will be as follows:

- Listening 20%
- Reading (assessed through speech and writing) 30%
- Language use 30%
- Culture 20%

Examination Board: AQA
Music

Requirements:
You will need to perform to approximately Grade 6 standard by the end of Year 13 though you do not have to have taken the formal qualification. You will have achieved Grade 6 at GCSE or if you have not done GCSE you will be of Grade 5 standard in both practical and theory examinations. It is extremely useful to have the ability to read musical notation including treble and bass clefs.

Aims and Outcomes
The aim is to provide you with a balanced and inter-related course of study covering a wide academic and practical understanding of music. This provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and Higher Education courses in music.

Subject Content:
The qualification includes Listening, Composing and Performing. With this course you can adjust the balance between composing and performing.
If you specialise in Performing the balance is Listening 40% Performing 35% and Composing 25%.
If you specialise in Composing the balance is Listening 40% Performing 25% and Composing 35%.
You do not have to decide on your specialism at the start of the course.

Examination & Assessment
The listening exam is a 2 hour 30 minute examination.
Performing is a video recording of a live performance.
Composing is assessed by audio recordings.
These are all undertaken in school, with no outside examiners.

Examination Board: OCR
Physics

Requirements:

At least a Grade 6 in each of their Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science, or at least a Grade 6 in Physics GCSE. In addition, at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is required.

Course content

OCR (Physics A) takes a content-led approach to learning Physics. Topics covered range from the smallest of subatomic particles to the vast history of the Universe, alongside relevant applications in Engineering and Medical Physics. Employing a wide range of teaching and learning styles, activities introduce content, skills and experimental techniques. Physics students will undertake regular hands-on practical work, working on 12 key practical skills. A log book will be used to demonstrate competence in these skills in order to gain the Science Practical Endorsement. The course content has been designed to provide a strong foundation of skills and knowledge for students looking to study Physics, or Physics-based subjects such as Medicine or Engineering, at University. There is also a focus on developing skills that can be transferred into many other career options. The exam board have indicated that 40% of the course will require the use of mathematical skills. It is recommended that students studying Physics should also follow an A level in Mathematics. However, this is not an essential requirement.

Examination & Assessment:

There are 3 written papers and no coursework. All papers may include: multiple-choice; short open; open-response; calculations and extended writing questions.

The Module Content is as follows:
1. Development of Practical Skills
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and Motion
4. Electrons, Photons and Waves
5. Newtonian World and Astrophysics
6. Particles and Medical Physics

Paper 1 Modelling Physics (37% weighting)
• Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
• Multiple Choice and short structured questions

Paper 2 Exploring Physics (37% weighting)
• Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
• Multiple Choice and short structured questions

Paper 3 Unified Physics (26% weighting)
• Topics 1-6
• Extended written questions that may cover any element from the course.

Examination Board: OCR A
Physical Education

Requirements:

For success in A Level PE a Grade 6 in GCSE PE or a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology is required. It will be expected that all students have a keen interest in sport and the issues surrounding it. In addition, all students must regularly compete outside of school in at least one sporting activity which can be assessed at A Level. External students are required to submit video evidence for practical sports.

Aims and Outcomes:

A Level Physical Education covers a wide range of exciting topics that give you an insight into the sporting possibilities at university and beyond. This could lead to a range of career opportunities such as: PE Teacher; sports psychologist; sports scientist; leisure and recreation manager; sports administrator; physiotherapist; conditioning coach; performance analyst; sports development manager and fitness professional.

Course content

There are three main theoretical concepts and topics in A Level PE. The first is physiology, which includes applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics. The second component focuses on skill acquisition and sports psychology whilst the last investigates socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

Examination & Assessment:

There are two written examination papers (70% weighting), a practical assessment in one activity where students can be assessed as either a player/performer, or a coach and an analysis and evaluation coursework module (30% weighting). All written papers include: multiple-choice; short open and extended writing questions for each section.

Examination board: AQA
Politics

Requirements:

Politics is an essay based subject, and so Grade 6s or above are expected in GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature and GCSE History.

The Politics A Level introduces students to the process of decision-making in the UK, allowing you to discover how people interact with the political process. You will be exposed to a wide range of debates about the UK and US systems happening right now, such as whether democracy in the UK is in crisis. While parts of the course will provide a historical context, you will study events as they happen, whether that is changes to the Brexit deal, resignations from the Prime Minister’s cabinet, or the latest twists and turns in Donald Trump’s presidency.

Aims and outcomes

The Politics A Level will allow students to deepen their understanding of the decision making process in the US and UK, including how individuals and groups are capable of having influence. Students will learn to critically evaluate arguments, using evidence from a variety of sources. They will learn how to debate different issues while keeping up to date on current affairs. The Politics A Level has a particular focus on the development of analysis and evaluation skills helpful for many higher education courses, but will also provide plenty of life skills such as critically evaluating news sources and how they are covered.

Course content

The first year focuses on exploring the UK political system, considering what the various branches of government are, how they interact and how powerful each is. It also examines the different ways people participate, whether through elections, referendums or pressure groups. There is also a section of the course dedicated to the major political ideas; conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Here, the key concepts and thinkers will be explored to see how these have developed over time, considering the tensions that exist within each one. The less familiar ideology of ‘anarchism’ will be explored in a similar way. The second year takes a number of these debates and issues and considers how they differ in the US. It will look at the role of the President and how this has differed between Obama and Trump, how Congress and the Supreme Court interact and how the American people participate in the system.

Examination & Assessment:
Paper 1: UK Politics and core political Ideas
Paper 2: UK Government and non-core political ideas
Paper 3: US Politics and Government

Examination board: Edexcel
Psychology

Requirements:

A Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grades 6 6 in GCSE Trilogy Science is/are needed as the course has a strong emphasis on Psychology as a Science, with a large amount of biological content.

Psychology is the scientific study of human cognitions and behaviours, and as such it is relevant to all of us. Through the A Level at Weald of Kent you will have an opportunity to study a range of topics and approaches, giving a broad perspective of the subject. It has links with many disciplines, including biology, mathematics, and the humanities. It involves the study of different theories, research evidence as well as an understanding of how research can be used in the real world. Therefore, Psychology is a perfect blend of creative thinking combined with the analytical skill of interpreting research.

A Level Psychology Specification

The A Level course is a 2 year course and you will be studying different theories and research studies across different fields in Psychology.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology 33.3%

Social Influence: Do people conform and obey because they believe that others are right, or for other reasons?
Memory: How does memory work? Can we rely on eyewitness accounts in court?
Attachment: Why do infants become attached to a caregiver? Are attachments the same in all cultures?
Psychopathology: What is abnormality? How do the main approaches to Psychology explain why people suffer from mental disorders? What treatments are there for these abnormalities?

Paper 2: Psychology in Context 33.3%

Approaches in Psychology: The Origins of Psychology and how we can understand behaviours from the cognitive, biological, humanistic and learning approaches.
Biopsychology: How the nervous system, brain activity and hormones can influence behaviour.
Research Methods in Psychology: In this section we analyse the different research methods, look at how data can be collected and how this data can be interpreted.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology 33.3%

Compulsory content: Issues and Debates in Psychology.
Optional Content: There is a choice of topics for the remainder of Paper 3, these will be selected by your teachers from the following:
One from: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development.
One from: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour and Stress.
One from: Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

Each Paper is assessed by a 2 hour written examination. You will answer questions (multiple-choice, short answers and an extended writing task) from each of the topics outlined above.

Examination Board: AQA
Religious Studies

Requirements:

For success in this subject a Grade 6 or above is expected in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. GCSE Religious Studies is not a requirement. Religion is a major driving force behind belief and action in the world today, and an understanding of it is vital to an understanding of life in the 21st Century. This is an exciting course that invites you to question some of the very foundations of religious ideas and practices. Philosophy of Religion poses some of life’s biggest questions about God and the nature of religious belief. Religion and Ethics considers how we should live our lives and what answers, if any, religion can offer. Finally, studying the New Testament allows an insight into how the New Testament writers shaped an understanding of the person of Jesus, and an evaluation of the meaning and purpose behind the key texts of Christianity.

Aims and Outcomes:

The A Level course will develop a wider knowledge base of the chosen areas and prepare you for the further study of religion and philosophy. Lifelong and transferable skills are embedded throughout the course, which provides you with the opportunity to investigate, critically evaluate, engage with current thinking and thinkers, discuss, research and argue. A range of teaching strategies will be employed to reach our aims and engage all learners and will include group work, debates, presentations, video material, source evaluation and some project based learning. A Religious Studies qualification can lead to careers in areas such as Law, Medicine, Teaching, Business, the caring professions, Journalism and anything else that involves working with people.

Subject Content:

The course is divided into three main topics:

**Philosophy of Religion:** Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language; Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief.

**Religion and Ethics:** Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.

**New Testament Studies:** Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament; Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus; Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship; Ways of interpreting the scripture; Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus; Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

Examination and Assessment:

Each unit will be assessed with a two hour written examination at the end of the course. The examinations will include three short, structured questions, two extended-response questions on an unseen passage, and a choice of two extended essay questions.

Each examination contributes 33.33% to the overall grade.

Examination Board: Edexcel
Sociology

Requirements:

Sociology will appeal to students who enjoy debating social issues and who are keen to explore their ideas about society. As the examination is a combination of essays and short answer questions it is important that students have a good written style, with at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Aims and Outcomes:

Students will learn to analyse issues through different perspectives, considering how a variety of different sociologists would consider the same problem. This will also help develop discussion skills as students learn to take on board differing opinions. They will also learn to evaluate the usefulness of theories and studies, considering the quality of the research carried out and its relevance to modern society. This will involve them designing their own sociological investigations. Studying Sociology equips students for many different career paths. It suits those who intend to study for a Humanities based degree or who would like a career requiring an understanding of human behaviour or social issues, such as healthcare, the judicial system, education, journalism, or law.

Course Content:

The A Level is assessed entirely at the end of Year 13, focusing on three different units. The first focuses on the Education system, looking at questions such as ‘why do girls usually do better than boys?’ ‘Does the current education system benefit everyone?’ This unit also involves students considering the different methods used by sociologists, their strengths and weaknesses, and the usefulness of such methods for studying the Education system.

The second unit focuses on two important topics: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society. The former considers the recent trends in family structures and tries to explain why they have happened, while considering possible future trends. The latter will explore whether religion is beneficial to society, why certain types of people are more likely to be religious, and why people join controversial religious organisations like Scientology.

The third unit will look back at the methods in unit one, but this time in the context of Crime and Deviance. This topic considers why crime exists, who is most likely to be a criminal and the impacts this could have on people. A key part of this unit is to see how the media can have an influence on crime.

Examination & Assessment:

A Level
Paper one: Education with theory and research methods
Paper two: Topics in sociology: 1) Families and households 2) Beliefs in Society
Paper three: Crime and deviance with theory and research methods.

Examination Board: AQA