



Saint Benedict

Catholic Voluntary Academy

SIXTH FORM

Course Information



Love •• Belief •• Integrity •• Knowledge



Our Courses

Applied Business (BTEC)
Applied Science (BTEC)
Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Drama and Theatre Studies
Economics
English Literature
English Language and Literature Combined
Food Science and Nutrition
French
Geography
Government and Politics
Health and Social Care
History
Maths
Media (Cambridge Technical)
Music
Psychology
Physics
Performing Arts (BTEC)
Product Design
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish
Sport and Physical Activity (Cambridge Technical)

Entry Requirements

All Level 3 students must have 5 GCSE passes (9-4) which include English Language and Maths at Grade 4. Subjects have individual additional criteria.

Applied science (BTEC)	Grade 5-5 in Combined Science, or Grade 5 in a single science or Level 2 Pass in NQF BTEC Applied Science
Art and Design	Grade 6 in Art or Textiles
Biology	Grade 6 in Triple Biology or a 6-6 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in English Language/Literature and Grade 6 in Maths.
Applied Business	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Chemistry	Grade 6 in Triple Chemistry or a 6-6 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in Maths.
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in Drama and Grade 5 in English language/ Literature
Economics	Grade 6 in English Language and Maths
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature and Grade 6 in English Language.
English language and literature combined	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature.
Food and Nutrition	Grade 5 and English Language and Maths
French	Grade 6 - Must have studied the relevant language at Higher Tier at GCSE
Geography	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 5 in Maths
Government and Politics	Grade 6 in English Language
Health and Social Care	Grade 5 in English, Maths and Science
History	Grade 6 in English Language
Maths	Grade 7 in Maths

Media (Cambridge technical)	Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 in English Literature
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music OR Grade 5 in a Musical instrument including voice
Psychology	Grade 6 in English Language, grade 6 in Science (Biology if Triple) and grade 5 in Maths
Physics	Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 Physics (Triple)
Performing Arts (BTEC)	Grade 5 in English language and Grade 6 in one Arts Subject (if studied at GCSE) Portfolio of evidence required if not studied an Arts subject at GCSE
Product Design	Grade 6 in Maths and Physics
Religious Studies	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in Religious Studies (if studied at GCSE)
Sociology	Grade 6 in English Language
Spanish	Grade 6 - Must have studied the relevant language at Higher Tier at GCSE
Sport (Cambridge technical)	Grade 4-4 in combined Science or Grade 4 In Biology (Triple)

Applied Business

Course content

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is a vocational qualification equivalent to one A Level, designed to provide learners with a broad understanding of the business world. It covers key topics such as business operations, marketing, finance, and human resources, while also developing practical skills in research, problem-solving, and communication. Through a mix of coursework and externally assessed units, students gain both theoretical knowledge and real-world insights, preparing them for higher education or entry into a wide range of business-related careers.

Course overview

Unit 1: Exploring Business

- Types and features of business organisations, and what makes them successful
- How businesses are structured, their objectives, and how they communicate

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

- Principles and purposes of marketing, and setting marketing aims & objectives
- Using market research (primary & secondary), analysing data to support a campaign rationale

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

- Managing personal finance: functions of money, budgets, different financial products and services

Unit 14: Investigating Customer Service

- The role of customer service in driving business success; meeting customer needs and expectations
- Methods businesses use to monitor and improve customer service, using research, feedback, metrics

Assessment overview

Unit 1: Exploring Business

- Assessment is internal, through assignments

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

- This unit is externally assessed via a supervised assessment set and marked by the exam board

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

- This unit is also externally assessed via a written exam set and marked by Pearson. The exam is 2 hours long, 80 marks.

Unit 14: Investigating Customer Service

- Assessment for this unit is internal, via assignments.



How can I prepare?



Students can prepare for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business by building a basic understanding of how businesses work, for example by following current business news, researching well-known companies, and exploring key concepts like marketing, finance, and customer service. Developing good organisational skills, such as managing deadlines and structuring assignments, will also be valuable, as much of the course involves coursework alongside exams. Strengthening numeracy for finance units and practising clear written and verbal communication will further support success. Finally, showing curiosity about real-world business issues and being ready to apply theory to practical examples will give students a strong foundation before they begin the course.

Where will it lead me?



BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business is a diverse qualification that covers many different topic areas. As such this subject can lead into many different careers including; Marketing, Law, Project Management, Human Resources, Operations/Logistics, Finance/Accountancy, Media, Events Management, Retail Manager, Buyer..... and many more!

What else can I do?



- Work experience to develop knowledge of different businesses
- Watch Business programmes to develop business vocabulary e.g. Dragons Den, Inside the Factory
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

Catherine Burton (Director of Learning for Business and Computer Science)
cburton@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Applied Science

Course content

BTECs embody a fundamentally student-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied through a balanced combination of assignments and examinations. They enable the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to succeed in higher education and employment.

Course overview

Unit 1 - Principles and Applications of Biology

This unit explores the key components of biological science. It will examine cells and tissues, their varied structures and functions and the biological components that interact with their existence.

Unit 2 - Principles and Applications of Chemistry

Students will explore some of the fundamental concepts which underpin the chemistry and chemical reactions of the world around them.

Unit 3 - Principles and Applications of Physics

Students will explore the use of practical and mathematical skills in the study of waves, motion and electricity.

Unit 4 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Technique

Students will be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, including chromatography, colorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the scientific laboratory environments.

Optional Units (1 to be chosen)

Unit 5 - Science Investigation Skills

Unit 6 - Contemporary issues in Science

Assessment overview

Units 1, 2, 3 Biology, Chemistry & Physics

Externally assessed
3 x 50 mark papers

Unit 4 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

100% coursework internally assessed and externally verified.

Units 5 & 6

Are both internally assessed and externally verified.



How can I prepare?



As this is a new course and specification specific textbooks have not yet been released however, textbooks and revision guides for the previous BTEC L3 Applied Science specification will have most (but not all of the content). Biology, Chemistry and Physics A level textbooks and revision guides would also be very useful.

Where will it lead me?



Applied Science can send you down a variety of different paths, both academic and vocational. Previous students have studied Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Primary School teaching, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science and Zoology. If you have a specific university in mind please check that they will accept this qualification.

During this course you will learn many transferable skills such as problem solving skills that are useful for many other areas, too, such as Business Studies.

What else can I do?



- Science Poster Symposium
- National competitions researching and presenting science outside the curriculum
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs Alison Clewes (Assistant Director of Learning for Science)
aclewes@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Art

Course content

A broad-based course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media associated with two or more of the following titles: fine art, graphic communication, sculpture, ceramics, installation, print-making, moving image, and photography.

Course overview

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences that employ a range of traditional and new media, processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen areas of study. Knowledge of art, craft and design is developed through research, the development of ideas and making, working from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source materials.

Students will develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts
- how images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to
- continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions their social and cultural contexts
- a working vocabulary and specialist terminology.

Assessment overview

Component 1: Personal investigation

No time limit - 96 marks - 60% of A-level
Non-exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. Visits will normally take place in June.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time - 96 marks - 40% of A-level

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set by AQA, marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. Visits will normally take place in June.



How can I prepare?



To be successful and enjoy your A Level Art course, consider the following:

- Select themes that interest you and allow you to showcase your skills.
- Spend time researching artists and their work to understand different artistic styles, materials, and techniques.
- Regular practice of drawing and painting help improve your skills and confidence.
- Take time to reflect on your work and the process of creating it. This will help you learn from your mistakes and improve your technique.

Where will it lead me?



Successful A level Art students often progress to Art & Design foundation or degree courses in the UK and abroad, training in their chosen specialism before pursuing careers as Artists, Designers, Architects, or other Arts professionals.

The creative and cultural arts industries reflect the vital role of creativity in society, shaping the world around us and offering diverse career opportunities in fields such as Fine Art, Fashion, Graphic Design, Architecture, and more.

Art also builds valuable transferable skills, such as creative development, problem-solving, contextual interpretation, visual communication, organisation, presentation, and teamwork.

What else can I do?



- Work experience to develop knowledge of different roles within the creative industry
- Visit galleries in your local area as well as in our cities
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

Emma Snow (Head of Art)
esnow@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Biology

Course content

A Level Biology provides a foundation in biological systems from the molecular level to ecosystems, covering cell structure, biological molecules, and genetics to help students understand diseases and inheritance. It includes biodiversity, evolution, and ecology, emphasizing species conservation and human impacts on the environment. Human physiology, particularly immunity, links biology to medicine and public health, while genetics and biotechnology explore applications in genetic engineering and ethical issues. This course equips students with scientific insights relevant to healthcare, environmental science, and biotechnology, supporting solutions to global challenges.

Course overview

Content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in biology - This is taught within the other modules.

Module 2 – Foundations in biology

Module 3 - Exchange and transport

Module 4 - Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5 - Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Component 01 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Component 02 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Component 03 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

Assessment overview

Biological processes (01) 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper 37% of total.

Biological diversity (02) 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper 37% of total

Unified biology (03) 70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper 26% of total A level Practical

Practical Endorsement in biology (04) (non exam assessment) Reported separately



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead:

If you have completed a combined science course then please use the link to familiarise yourself with triple content that is included in A level Biology:

<https://www.stbenedictderby.srscmat.co.uk/curriculum/knowledge-books/>

A-Level Biology: Essential Maths Skills: for the 2025 and 2026 exams (CGP A-Level Essential Maths Skills)

Where will it lead me?



A Level Biology opens doors to a range of career paths in healthcare, research, environmental science, and biotechnology. With this qualification, you can pursue further studies in fields like medicine, veterinary science, pharmacology, and genetics. It's an essential foundation for careers that involve understanding living organisms, such as clinical research, conservation, and agricultural sciences. Many students go on to study biological sciences at university, which can lead to roles in lab-based or fieldwork positions. The analytical, problem-solving, and data-handling skills gained in A Level Biology are highly valued across scientific and technical careers. Ultimately, it provides a solid base for diverse career opportunities within both public and private sectors, from hospitals and research institutions to environmental organizations and biotech companies.

What else can I do?



- Science Poster Symposium
- National competitions researching and presenting science outside the curriculum
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

cfairclough@ben.srscmat.co.uk - Head of Biology

Chemistry

Course content

Our A Level Chemistry will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of chemistry. It covers the key concepts of chemistry and practical skills are integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Chemistry highly appealing.

You will learn about chemistry in a range of different contexts and the impact it has on industry and many aspects of everyday life. You will learn to investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts

Course overview

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry This module is taught alongside the theory developing planning, practical and analysis skills through numerous experiments

Module 2: Foundations in chemistry

Atomic structure and isotopes, amount of substance, bonding and structure, acids, bases and redox

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

The periodic table and periodicity, Group 2 and the halogens, reaction rates, equilibrium and enthalpy

Module 4: Core organic chemistry. Alkanes, alkenes, haloalkanes and alcohols. Spectral analysis

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements. Kinetics, equilibria, redox and transition metals

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis. Reactions associated with the various functional groups. Synthesis and spectral analysis

Assessment overview

Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry

100 marks

2 hours 15 minutes written paper

37 %

Paper 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques

100 marks

2 hours 15 minutes written paper

37 %

Paper 3: Unified chemistry

70 marks

1 hour 30 minutes

26 %

Practical endorsement

Reported separately

Non-exam assessment



How can I prepare?



Maths Skills for A Level Chemistry by Dan McGowan

Calculations in AS/A Level Chemistry by Jim Clark

The Disappearing Spoon and Other Extraordinary True Tales from the Periodic Table by Sam Kean

Where will it lead me?



A Level Chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry.

Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts. Chemistry can also complement a number of arts subjects.

A range of career opportunities including chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries and in areas such as forensics, environmental protection and healthcare.

The problem solving skills are useful for many other areas, too, such as law and finance

What else can I do?



- Science Poster Symposium
- National competitions researching and presenting science outside the curriculum
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

Dr Mala Mistry (Head of Chemistry)

mmistry@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Drama and Theatre

Course content

OCR AS and A Level Drama and Theatre specifications take a contemporary approach to studying the subject. It builds on the GCSE specification, giving students opportunities to develop key skills in performance of their chosen skill, in the creative and rehearsal process and in analysing and evaluating a range of theatrical texts. Students can choose a route through the course and will be assessed as either a performer or as a designer in the non-exam components.

Course overview

Practitioners in practice :

- Students will create their own devised performance based on and stimulus and influenced by the work of two practitioners others.

Exploring and Performing text:

- Students will produce a performance based on a text chosen by the centre, which will assess their chosen theatrical skill

Exploring/ Analysing Performance: 20% (60 marks)

- Students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding and their ability to analyse and evaluate.
- Section A: Students explore practically using extracts from two different texts
- Section B: This section asks the students to review a performance they have seen on their course.

Deconstructing Texts for Performance

- Study of a set text in detail from a directors point of view to understand how drama is developed for performance

Assessment overview

Practitioners in practice : 30% (120 marks)
non exam assessment

Exploring and Performing text: 30% (60 marks) Live performance to an external examiner

Exploring/ Analysing Performance: 20% (60 marks) Written paper 2hours 15mins

Deconstructing texts for Performance: 20% (60 marks) Written paper 1hour 45 mins



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead on the core texts, Othello by William Shakespeare, National Theatre's Frankenstein by Nick Dear, Sweeney Todd by Stephen Sondheim.

Watch as much live theatre of all different styles and genres as possible. The more you see the more inspired and creative you become when creating your own work

Where will it lead me?



Drama can send you down a variety of different paths both creative, technical and academic. Drama can lead to careers in community arts, actor, voice actor, director, set designer, lighting designer, script writer, drama therapist, radio tv presenter, journalist, stage manager, teacher, stage manager, runners, Lighting operator, stage technician, audio visual designer/ operator, technical manager.

What else can I do?



- Theatre Trips
- Volunteer at a local theatre
- Join an amateur dramatic company
- Support teachers in school with leading clubs and shows

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs Anna West (Director of Learning for Performing and Creative Arts)
awest@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Economics

Course content

Students are introduced to economics through building knowledge of core microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts, and by investigating economic theory through real-world businesses and the environments in which they operate. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding with applications to more complex concepts and models are developed in the second year of study.

Course overview

Theme 1: Markets, Consumers and Firms

- Scarcity, choice and potential conflicts
- Enterprise, business and the economy
- Introducing the market
- Role of credit in the economy
- Market failure and government intervention
- Revenue, costs, profits and cash

Theme 2: The Wider Economic Environment

- Business growth and competitive advantage
- Firms, consumers and elasticities of demand
- Productive efficiency
- Life in a global economy
- The economic cycle
- Introduction to macroeconomic policy

Theme 3: The Global Economy

- Globalisation
- Economic factors in business expansion
- Impact of globalisation on global companies
- Impact of globalisation on local and national economies
- Global labour markets
- Inequality and redistribution

Theme 4: Making Markets Work

- Competition and market power
- Market power and market failure
- Market failure across the economy
- Macroeconomic policies and impact on firms and individuals
- Risk and the financial sector

Assessment overview

• Paper 1: Markets and How They Work

- Content: Themes 1 & 4
- Duration: 2 hours | 100 marks | 35% of qualification

• Paper 2: Competing in the Global Economy

- Content: Themes 2 & 3
- Duration: 2 hours | 100 marks | 35% of qualification

• Paper 3: The Economic Environment and Business

- Content: Themes 1–4
- Pre-released context (issued Nov before exam)
- Duration: 2 hours | 100 marks | 30% of qualification



How can I prepare?



Before starting A level Economics, students can prepare by building a general awareness of current affairs and how economies function. Reading quality news sources such as the Financial Times, The Economist or BBC Business can help them understand real-world examples of supply, demand, and government policy. Listening to economics and business podcasts, like BBC's The Inquiry or The Economist Podcasts, can make complex topics more engaging and accessible. A basic grasp of GCSE Maths; percentages, ratios, interpreting graphs is helpful, as economics involves data analysis. Finally, being curious about issues like inflation, unemployment, global trade, and business decisions will give students a strong foundation and context before starting the course.

Where will it lead me?



- **Finance & Banking:** investment banker, financial analyst, accountant, actuary, stockbroker
- **Business & Management:** business consultant, project manager, entrepreneur
- **Government & Public Sector:** policy advisor, civil servant, local government officer
- **Economics & Research:** professional economist, economic researcher, data analyst
- **Marketing & Sales:** market researcher, pricing analyst, advertising strategist
- **Law & Regulation:** compliance officer, solicitor (with further study)
- **International Roles:** trade analyst, diplomat, NGO policy advisor, development economist
- **Education & Communication:** teacher/lecturer, journalist (business/economics reporting)

What else can I do?



- Work experience to develop knowledge of different businesses
- Watch Business programmes to develop business and economics vocabulary
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books
- Watch the news and read quality newspapers regularly

Who do I contact for more information?

Catherine Burton (Director of Learning for Business and Computer Science)
cburton@ben.srscmat.co.uk

English Literature

Course content

Our A Level in English Literature offers a broad range of stimulating fiction texts across a range of genres and styles. Students complete detailed study of plays, poetry and novels; thinking critically and analytically about the texts. Students will explore literary techniques and develop an understanding of how to link critical reading to contextual factors. Students will complete an independent study unit that allows them to explore two free choice texts linked by theme, movement, author or period. Students have the opportunity to develop a detailed comparison between the two texts.

Course overview

Component 01 Drama focuses on the study of 'plays. Students will study 'Othello' by William Shakespeare and the post 1900 text 'A Streetcar named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. Students will explore and develop an understanding of critical reading and discuss relevant themes and contextual factors.

Component 02 Prose involves the study of two texts reflecting and exploring ideas of 'Science and Society'. Students will study 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley and 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood. Students will critically evaluate linguistic and literary features in the texts individually and then consider comparisons between the texts.

Component 03 Poetry allows students to study in detail two poetry anthologies. One comprising poets from The Movement and one exploring post 2000 poetry. Students will compare studied poems and also compare to an unseen poem through critical reading and making links to relevant context.

Component 03 is the Independent Study which allows students to select their own choice of a play, novel and poetry collection to explore. They must produce a piece of close analysis of one text and a comparative study of the other two texts.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 Drama

- Written exam (closed book)
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 60 marks
-

Paper 2 Prose

- Written exam (closed book)
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 60 marks

Paper 3 Poetry

Independent Study (20% of course)

- Non-exam assessment
- 40 marks



How can I prepare?



- Read as many and as big of a variety of texts (plays, novels and poetry) as possible.
- Read ahead on core texts: 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood; '1984' by George Orwell; 'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare; 'A Doll's House' by Ibsen and Christina Rossetti Poetry.

Where will it lead me?



English Literature can lead to a variety of pathways, both academic and practical. English Literature teaches you valuable skills that are transferable to areas like Law, Business, Marketing, Journalism, Editing, Broadcasting, Publishing, Editing, Writing, Teaching and Advertising, amongst many others. A Literature degree gives you freedom and flexibility of choice for a number of careers.

What else can I do?



- Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)
- Catenian Public Speaking Competition
- Massolit Expert Lectures
- Univeristy Lectures
- Theatre Trips

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss Laura Kelly (Head of English)
lkelly@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Mrs Helen Cundy (Head of KS5 English)
hcundy@ben.srscmat.co.uk

English Language and Literature

Course content

Our A Level in English Language and Literature offers a broad range of stimulating fiction and non-fiction texts. Students combine the exploration of both literary and linguistic approaches to become confident, critical readers but also skilled producers of original writing. Students will explore the contexts of production and reception of texts and develop their understanding of the impact of these in non-fiction, narratives and drama. Students are encouraged to engage with set texts and wider reading, enhancing their understanding and articulating fresh, individual responses to texts. Uniquely, this is done through engagement with wider themes such as Society and the Individual. Students are given the opportunity to write creatively, both fiction and non fiction, as part of their coursework. These skills provide students with thorough preparation for a variety of careers and/or further study.

Course overview

Component 01 Voices in Speech and writing

Firstly, 'students will focus on exploring an anthology comprising non literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st century, The second aspect is the study of a drama text, 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. For both, Students will consider linguistic and literary features and contextual factors.

Component 02 'Varieties in Language and Literature' involves the study of two texts reflecting and exploring ideas of 'Society and the Individual'. Students will study 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald and 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry. Students will critically evaluate linguistic and literary features in the texts individually and then consider connections across both texts.

Component 03 Non examination assessment

This unit allows students the opportunity to apply their knowledge to their own creative pieces. Students have free choice of a topic and will choose 2 texts that reflect the topic. They will produce one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing. They will also submit an analytical commentary reflecting on their chosen texts and the writing they have produced.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 'Voices in Speech and Writing'

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 50 marks, 40% of qualification

Paper 2 Varieties in Language and Literature

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 50 marks, 40% of qualification
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Independent Study

- Non exam assessment
- 60 marks 20% of qualification



How can I prepare?



- Read as many and as wide a variety of texts (plays, novels, non fiction and poetry) as possible.
- Read ahead on core texts: 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald; 'A Streetcar named Desire' Tennessee Williams and 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry

Where will it lead me?



English Language and Literature can lead to a variety of pathways, both academic and practical. English Language and Literature teaches you valuable skills that are transferable to areas like Law, Business, Marketing, Journalism, Editing, Broadcasting, Publishing, Editing, Writing, Teaching and Advertising, amongst many others. A Language and Literature degree gives you freedom and flexibility of choice for a number of careers.

What else can I do?



- Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)
- Catenian Public Speaking Competition
- Massolit Expert Lectures
- Univeristy Lectures
- Theatre Trips

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss Laura Kelly (Head of English)
lkelly@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Mrs Helen Cundy (Head of KS5 English)
hcundy@ben.srscmat.co.uk

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

Course content

This qualification provides an in-depth understanding of food science, nutrition, and their application in real-world contexts. You will explore the relationship between diet and health, food safety, and the development of innovative food products. The course combines academic theory with practical skills, preparing you for higher education or careers in areas such as dietetics, food science, public health, and product development.

Course overview

You will study:

- Nutritional needs across the life stages
- Practical food production skills
- Principles of food hygiene and food safety
- Optional units on food experimentation or current issues in food science and nutrition

Assessment overview

In Year 12:

- Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
- Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills – Internal assessment – 25%

In Year 13:

- Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
- Plus one optional unit (Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems OR Unit 5: Current issues in food science and nutrition) – Internal assessment – 25%



How can I prepare?



The course is taught through a mix of classroom-based theory, practical sessions in a fully equipped kitchen, and independent research. You will develop advanced cooking techniques, understand food safety legislation, and apply scientific principles to food production.

Practice your cooking skills at home and research different types of food outlets and restaurants

Where will it lead me?



It is also relevant for careers in:

- Dietetics and nutrition consultancy
- Food product development
- Public health and food policy
- Catering and hospitality management

What else can I do?



This qualification supports progression to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Public Health Nutrition
- BSc Food Science and Technology

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs Bishop

LBishop@ben.srscmat.co.uk

French

Course content

Our A Level in French offers an extensive range of engaging topics to discover and learn from. Students will become confident communicator in French, being able to listen and speak about specific subjects. They will also gain confidence in reading a range of authentic material from news articles to a novel entirely in French! We will develop a wide range of skills including writing and translating too. The course also contains an independent research project in an area of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level.

By the end of the course, students will have developed their understanding of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken.

Course overview

AS units focus on the aspects of French speaking society, its current trends and the artistic culture. Specific topics include the changing nature of the family, the cyber-society, the place of voluntary work, a culture proud of its heritage, francophone music and the cinema.

A2 Units focus on the current issues in society such as the positive feature of a diverse society, the life of marginalised people and how criminals are treated. There is also a study of the political aspects of French speaking countries, including the right to vote and teenagers, protests and strikes and finally immigration and politics.

Cultural study: students will study a film and a book, one in AS and the other in A2 and will write essays on each in the final exam.

Independent Research Project: every student will complete independent research on a topic of their choice and will write a presentation on this for the speaking examination. this will be followed by a discussion of the topic chosen.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 Listening Reading and Writing (2h30, 100 marks, 50 %)

Students will be tested on their understanding of French and their ability to answer in French. There will be MCQ, comprehension, T/F/NM, Who says...?, gapfills and summarising in French as well as translations.

Paper 2 Cultural studies essays (2h, 80 marks, 20 %)

Writing essays on the book and film studied

Paper 3 Speaking (18 min + 5 min preparation, 60 marks, 30 %)

Students will discuss one topic studied and also complete their IRP during their speaking.

AO1 understand and respond to spoken language

AO2 understand and respond to written language

AO3 accuracy in manipulating the language

AO4 showing knowledge and understanding, showing critical and analytical responses



How can I prepare?



The best thing to do is get organised and start practising the basic grammar that you saw in GCSE. As a minimum we recommend a confident use of the present tense, imperfect and future/conditional. Of course, all these will be reviewed in the course but a basic understanding and knowledge will give you a headstart. Now it's not all about grammar and verbs! Remember that you want to learn about a different culture and society... why not watch some films or series online in French with subtitles on? And what about some music? There are countless sources available, please ask your teacher if you need some sources!

Where will it lead me?



Languages open doors!

It is a very sought after skill and it can lead you to so many careers, not just teaching languages or being a translator. You could work for a newspaper and travel abroad, work as an analyst for GCHQ, be an engineer in a different country, work for humanitarian charities across the world, have your own business and expand beyond the doors of the UK... possibilities are endless!

What else can I do?



- Linguistic Olympiad competition
- Run a club for Yr7-8 to share your passion for languages
- help organise events in the MFL department, such as European Day of Languages
- create displays about news in the world, culture and traditions in other countries

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Hallam (DoL MFL)
thallam@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Geography

Course content

Our A Level in Geography offers a broad and balanced curriculum where you will study a range of Human Physical topics. You will learn about the processes shaping the Coastlines of the world as well as how Climate change is beginning to affect them. At the same time you will be learning about how Urban areas have been shaped by Governmental policies and how we try to solve the environmental problems affecting our cities and making our Urban areas Sustainable. At the end of year 12 you will undertake visits to both Coastal and Urban areas. We stay overnight in Liverpool and look how this amazing city has been shaped by past and present processes. In year 13 you will look at the Water and Carbon Cycle and how Global organisations try to manage our 'Global' area such as Antarctica. Finally you look at major Natural hazards facing our planet - From Earthquakes in Turkey to Wildfires in California, and Volcanoes in Iceland.

Course overview

Paper 1 focuses on Physical Geography. The three Physical Geography topics are 'Coasts', which is taught in Year 12, and then 'The Water and Carbon Cycle' and 'Hazards', which are both taught in Year 13.

Paper 2 is the 'Human Geography' Paper. The three Human topics are 'Changing Places' and 'Contemporary Urban Environments' which are both taught in Year 12, and then 'Global Governance' which is taught in year 13.

At the end of Year 12, pupils undertake Geography fieldwork, looking at the issues taught above, and practising the skills needed to complete their NEA.

The NEA is the Independent Study which allows students to select their own choice of a geographical issue to research. The topic will be decided in consultation with staff, and will be linked to the A level topics taught. Pupils will set themselves an enquiry question to research, and will then collect data, present the data, analyse it and reach conclusions.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 - Physical Geography

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 40 % of the exam
-

Paper 2 - Human Geography

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 mins
- 40 % of the exam

NEA Independent Study

- Non-exam assessment
- You choose the title of interest and it is agreed with your teacher
- 20 % of the exam



How can I prepare?



- Use the TV , Social Media and especially Podcasts to expand your knowledge of current world events and issues - they will all apply to A level Geography and will allow you to develop your exam answers
- Read the books '*Disaster by Choice*' and '*Adventures in the Anthropocene*'

Where will it lead me?



Geography can lead to a variety of pathways, both academic and practical. The skills you will learn include Research and data collection, analysis and evaluation, mathematical skills, written and oral communication skills (including essay writing and data presentation) and problem solving. These are transferrable skills. Careers Geographers often enter include Land Surveyor, Meteorologist, Geoscientist, Sustainability consultant, Tourism officer, Ecologist, Town planner and Climatologist.

What else can I do?



- Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)
- RGS Young Geographer of the Year competition
- National Hazards conference
- University Lectures
- 2 day Fieldwork to Liverpool

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Michael Booth
Mbooth@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Government and Politics

Course content

Politics is the broad and essential study of how governments, policies, and internal relations work.

Politics plays a role in every country in the world, whether it be federal, democratic, communist or republic.

It's through politics that many important questions are answered, and global challenge are addressed – including human rights, poverty, equality, and welfare.

Whether you want to become a politician, or you're simply fascinated by the subject, an A level in politics will leave you with an arsenal of skills that will service you well in most careers.

Course overview

1. Government and politics of the UK

- Parliament
- Prime Minister's power
- Elections
- Political Parties
- Judiciary
- Devolution and EU

2. Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

- US Congress
- Presidential power
- Elections
- Political parties
- Supreme Court
- Civil Rights
- Comparison of the UK and USA

3. Political ideas

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Nationalism

Assessment overview

Government and politics of the UK (1/3 of course)

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 77 marks

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics (1/3 of course)

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 77 marks

Political ideas (1/3 of course)

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 77 marks



How can I prepare?



- Newspapers- keep on top of current affairs
- Watch: the news, Question Time, Have I Got News For You

Where will it lead me?



Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK country is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence.

It's ideal if you're considering studying politics, sociology, ethics, advertising or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.

What else can I do?



- Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)
- Visit to Parliament
- Visit from an MP

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Tomlinson and Mr Bounds
atotlinson@ben.srscmat.co.uk
sbounds@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Health and Social Care (Cambridge Advanced National (AAQs))

Course content

Students will learn and be able to apply theoretical knowledge to a health and social care setting. The areas of study include principles of health and social care, person based care, supporting people with mental health, anatomy and physiology, and supporting people with physiological conditions and healthy eating. This allows pupils to develop a real appreciation of the theory, pupils will analyse, evaluate and apply the theoretical knowledge to a health and social care.

Course overview

Unit F090

Principles of Health and social care

Unit F091

Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

Unit F092

Person-centred approach to care

Unit F093

Supporting people with mental health conditions

Unit F094

Supporting people with long term physiological conditions

Unit F097

Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles

Independent study

Students will be able to apply their theoretical knowledge to a health and social care setting and research a wide of care providers and what roles they play whilst building upon theoretical knowledge

Assessment overview

Unit F090 20% final mark

Principles of Health and social care

Exam 1 hour 30 mins

Unit F091 20% final mark

Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

Exam 1 hour 30 mins

All other Units are NEA - Coursework completed within school

60% final mark each unit is worth 15% final mark

Unit F092

Person-centered approach to care

Unit F093

: Supporting people with mental health conditions

Unit F094

Supporting people with long term physiological conditions

Unit F097

Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead on the how the body works and its body systems, look at government health initiatives and what a health diet consist off.

Reading widely around the course:

- mental health conditions
- physiological medical conditions
- healthy eating
- what care providers roles and responsibilities are

Where will it lead me?



A health and social course can send you down a variety of different paths, both academic and practical. Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning disabilities/Mental health) , Midwifery, Healthcare and Health Science, Health Sciences, Paramedic Science, Public Health and Well being, Social Work, teaching, care home assistant, health advisor, youth worker, psychologist, and occupational therapist to name a few.

The direction you choose to take is up to you!

What else can I do?



- Research local government initiatives in relation to health and well being
- Research mental health conditions and how they are treated
- Research initiatives that promote physical health and well being
- Look at the anatomy of the physiology of the body

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss Mills (Director of learning for Physical Education)
nmills@ben.srscmat.co.uk

History

Course content

The AQA A-Level History course aims to:

- help students understand the significance of historical events
- the role of individuals in history
- the nature of change over time.
- gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Course overview

1C- The Tudors, England 1485-1603

- Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty. England 1485-1547 including: Henry VII (1485-1509) and Henry VIII (1509-1547)
- Part two: England; turmoil and triumph 1547-1603 including: Instability and consolidation 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis' (1547-1563) and The Triumph of Elizabeth (1563-1603)

20- Democracy and Nazism, 1918-1945

- Part one: the Weimar Republic, 1918-1933
- Part two: Nazi Germany, 1933-1945

NEA- Fall of Russian Tsardom, 1825-1917

- Non-examined assessment
- 4,500 words
- Investigating the causes behind the fall of the Russian Tsar across an approximately 100 year date range

Assessment overview

C- Tudor England (40%)

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 3 questions (1 compulsory)
- 80 marks

20- Germany (40%)

- Written exam
- 2 hours 30 minutes
- 3 questions (1 compulsory)
- 80 marks

NEA- Fall of Russian Tsardom (20%)

- 4,500 word essay
- Marked by teachers and moderated by AQA



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead:

- The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction
- Nazi Germany: A Very Short Introduction
- Russian History: A Very Short Introduction

Where will it lead me?



History A-level is a valuable qualification because of the skills acquired by students. Students will develop an ability to interpret and use a wide variety of types of information. They will be able to reach their own conclusion and be able to communicate any ideas they have in a variety of ways. These aptitudes are useful for students who wish to study for a degree course and for entry into a range of professions, especially legal, managerial and public sector services.

What else can I do?



- Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)
- Visit local museums/country houses (Hardwick Hall, Beth Shalom and Bosworth Battlefield).

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss T Hayre, Director of Learning for Humanities
thayre@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Maths

Course content

Our A Level in Mathematics allows you to explore mathematical concepts to a deeper level than GCSE.

The course consists of pure maths and applied maths. Pure maths is the study of the main concepts and processes of Maths. Applied is the study of how those processes are used. The pure section of maths makes up two thirds of the course and includes the study of number, proof, algebra methods, vectors and trigonometry and introduces students to calculus. Applied has two strands, statistics and mechanics. Statistics involves analysing data distributions and relating to probability. Mechanics is the study of forces and motion.

Course overview

Year 12

Algebraic expressions, Straight line graphs, differentiation, integration, Equations and inequalities, circles, Graphs and transformations.

Algebraic methods, Trigonometric ratios, trigonometric equations and identities, Exponentials and logarithms, Vectors, radians, Trigonometric functions, modelling with trigonometry, Algebraic Methods, Functions and graphs, Binomial Expansion, Radians, Differentiation, Trigonometric Functions, Modelling with Trigonometry, Data collection, Measures of location and spread, representations of data, correlation, probability, Statistical distributions, Hypothesis testing, Modelling in mechanics, constant acceleration, Forces and motion, variable acceleration

Year 13

Sequences and Series, Parametric Equations, Numerical Methods, Vectors, Integration,

Moments, Regression, Forces and Friction, Conditional Probability, Data collection, Measures of location and spread, representations of data, correlation, probability, Statistical distributions, Hypothesis testing, Modelling in mechanics, constant acceleration, Forces and motion, variable acceleration, Projectiles, The Normal Distribution, Applications of forces, Further Kinematics
The Normal Distribution, Applications of forces, Further Kinematics

Assessment overview

Paper 1 - Pure 1

- Written exam
- 2 hours

Paper 2 - Pure 2

- Written exam
- 2 hours

Paper 3 - Applied

- Written exam
- 2 hours



How can I prepare?



Continue to practice the methods and content from Mathematics GCSE

Read ahead - investigate some of the A-Level topics such as calculus. (see the reading list for some ideas)

Find out what uses these topics have in the real world.

Where will it lead me?



Mathematics can lead to many varied careers, some that heavily involve Maths and some that do not.. The skills you will learn include mathematical reasoning, logical thinking and problem solving. These are transferable skills. Careers for Mathematicians include: Engineer, Retail, Finance and Accountancy, Software Developer.

What else can I do?



Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.)

Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities. Ian Stewart

Fermat's Last Theorem. Simon Singh

More or Less Podcast

Wrong but useful Podcast

Keep practising your algebra, trigonometry, geometry and number skills.

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr I Lewis

ilewis@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Media

Course content

OCR Cambridge Technical in Level 3 Media Studies helps students develop the knowledge and practical skills required in the ever growing media industry. New doors are opening in the world of media and communication faster than in any other industry. This course is designed with progression to higher education or the workplace in mind and the student can achieve a Distinction* (A*), Distinction (A), Merit (C) or Pass (E), with the potential to acquire up to 56 UCAS points.

Course overview

Analysing media products and audiences: This unit helps learners to understand media institutions, how they work and the products they produce. Learners will understand production processes, target audiences, distribution and marketing through the analysis of media products.

Planning and pitching a print based media product: Learners will study print based media products and the importance of research and planning to produce them. They will generate and select ideas for their own print-based media products, and pitch them to an editor..

Print-based advertising media: Learners will understand advertising campaigns and how print-based advertising media is used within them and will plan an advertising campaign for a product, and produce print-based advertisements for this product.

Photography for media products: Photography for media products: Learners will understand the use of professional photographs in media products. They will plan for a photographic shoot, and take and edit a range of photographs for a specific media product.

Social media products: Learners will understand existing social media products and will be able to generate ideas for their own social media product.

UK radio broadcasting: Learners will understand the structure and organisation of UK radio broadcasting. and will be able to plan a new UK radio programme to pitch to a producer.

Assessment overview

There are 6 units that candidates must complete at equal intervals during years 12 and 13. Each unit carries an equal weighting of marks. It is important that students work consistently throughout the whole two years.

There are no examined units.

All work is completed digitally on OneNote

The units studied are:

- Unit 1 - Analysing media products and audiences
- Unit 13 - Planning and pitching a print based media product
- Unit 15 - Print-based advertising media
- Unit 31 - Photography for media products
- Unit 35 - Social media products
- Unit 53 - UK radio broadcasting



How can I prepare?



Look at adverts, notice how they are laid out. Read magazines look at the design style. Be up-to-date on the style of online blogs and uses of social media. Take practice photographs with a purpose - e.g. for a travel blog or a lifestyle magazine. Watch films, TV series and think about how they appeal to the demographic they are targeting.

Where will it lead me?



Media Studies can lead to careers in:

journalism, photography, photo editor, photoshop editor, presenter, public relations, magazine editor, copy writer, content editor, sound engineer, sound designer, camera operator, videographer, video editor, video effects designer, creative director, producer, production assistant, technical producer, director, broadcast researcher, social media blogger/vlogger, writer, announcer, news reader, reporter, radio operator, creative director, graphic artist, graphic designer, publicist, promotions specialist, advert design, web designer, media and communication equipment operator, public relations specialist, stage hand, project manager

What else can I do?



- Visit newspapers, apply for work experience at the BBC
- Volunteer at a local newspaper or magazine
- Work in hospital radio or a community radio station
- Visit media departments at universities and colleges and volunteer to help

Who do I contact for more information?

- **Mrs Rowlands** - jrowlands@ben.srscmat.co.uk
- **Mr Jarvis** - jjarvis@ben.srscmat.co.uk
- **Mrs Bateman** - abateman@ben.srscamt.co.uk

Music

Course content

Our A-Level Music course is a three-part qualification that builds from GCSE music. It focusses on the three strands of performing, composing, and appraising music. Students will study specific musical periods, like the Western Classical Tradition, as well as musical theatre and 20th-century music, applying their knowledge to create their own musical ideas through performance and composition. The course develops critical thinking, technical skills, and creative awareness through practical music-making and analytical study of musical works.

Course overview

Controlled assessment is worth 60% of the final grade.

You will perform: Performance

This is worth 35% of the final grade. You will perform a 10 minute recital on your chosen instrument to an examiner. This will consist of at least three pieces and you will be assessed on your accuracy, expression and overall performance

You will create: Composition

This is worth 25% and requires two compositions to be written that must include a score or written account, a recording, a composition log detailing the process and influences, and a clear link to the brief. One composition must adhere to a set brief from September of the assessment year, while the other allows for free composition. Both are assessed on the effectiveness of musical ideas, development, and coherence.

You will listen and analyse: Appraisal

You will listen to a wide range of music from different genres and eras and learn to analyse it in terms of the musical elements. You will learn how it fits in historically and socially to its time and compare and contrast pieces of music.

Assessment overview

Performance - 35%

A ten minute recital on your instrument (including voice) to a visiting examiner which is around grade 6 standard of traditional music performance exams

Composition - 25%

Two compositions (around 4-6 mins long altogether). One composed in year 13 to a set brief and a free composition composed in year 12.

Listening and Appraising exam - 40%

2hours 15 mins approx on three areas of study:

A: The development of the symphony from 1750-1900

B - Musical Theatre

C - New Directions in music

There will be a mixture of longer answer essay based questions and shorter listening questions. There will be a mixture of questions based on set works and unfamiliar music.



How can I prepare?



By practising your musical instrument (or voice) and building a repertoire of music you can perform.

By listening to as many pieces of music in different styles as you can.

By reading books on the Western Classical Musical tradition such as Nicholas Cook's 'Music: A very short introduction'.

Be practising your reading of treble and bass notation

Where will it lead me?

A-Level Music can lead to university degrees, conservatoire study, or direct entry into music-related industries like performance, sound production, teaching, and music therapy. It provides a foundation for diverse careers, from being a professional musician, composer, or producer to roles in areas such as advertising, film, and theatre. The qualification develops transferable skills in analysis, communication, and creativity, making it a valuable asset for various academic and professional pathways.



What else can I do?

Be an active member of the Music Department - performing in concerts and shows.

Exploring your creative side by writing music for a realistic brief such as a lower school performance or Christmas song

Enter music competitions - young composer/performer



Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs J Rowlands

Performing Arts

Course content

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts builds on existing skills in Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre and gives students the opportunity to develop all of these skills in a practical way. Alongside performance students will also have the opportunity to create and devise works and to analyse a number of works.

Course overview

Unit 1 Investigating Practitioners Work

You will study 2 practitioners in the performing arts. You will understand who they are, what they have achieved, their work and contextual features. You will explore practical workshops as well as theoretical lessons.

Unit 2 Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

You will participate in practical dance, acting and singing lessons. You will develop skills and techniques in these areas. You will have coursework to discuss your progress including strengths, weaknesses and areas to improve. You will then practically rehearse, reproduce and perform a professional piece of repertoire.

Unit 3 Group Performance Workshop

You will work in small groups to respond to a stimuli. You will create your own performance piece which will be performed to an audience. This will be supported with ideas, skills and evaluation controlled assessments.

Unit 27 Musical Theatre

You will develop skills and techniques in musical theatre. You will participate in practical workshops and perform a small section of a musical to an audience. This will be supported by rehearsal logs and milestones.

Assessment overview

There are 4 units that candidates must complete - 2 in year 12 and 2 in year 13. In year 12 you will study unit 1 and unit 2.

Unit 1 is preparing and conducting research on practitioners for a computer based exam which is undertaken around March time. Unit 2 is a development of skills and techniques in dance, acting and singing in order to re create professional repertoire.

You will complete rehearsal logs, evaluations and practical work which will be submitted as evidence. Unit 3 is a devising unit where students will complete controlled exams using the computer based on their ideas, rehearsal process and evaluation of their practical devised work. Students will work together in small groups to create their devised piece.

It is important that students work consistently throughout the whole two years. This course is based on points and students will be awarded points for each unit which will be added together to gain their overall mark. This course is marked on a Pass, Merit and Distinction basis.



How can I prepare?



Read books on the development of Musical Theatre in the 20th Century

Read books on Bob Fosse, Matthew Bourne and Lin Manuel Miranda

Listen:

To Podcasts on the development of musical theatre

Watch: Performances of musical theatre live or digitally

Where will it lead me?



Performing Arts can lead to a variety of different paths as through the course you will explore skills required in the Performing Arts industry alongside transferable skills of research, presenting, group work, leading others and managing time effectively to name but a few. It can be a stepping stone to further study in the Performing Arts - some students may choose to carry on to a Performing Arts College or University. It can lead to careers in the community arts, careers as an actor, voice actor, director, set designer, lighting designer, script writer, drama therapist, radio tv presenter, journalist, stage manager, teacher, stage manager, runners, lighting operator, stage technician, audio visual designer/ operator, technical manager.

What else can I do?



- Watch and listen to as many theatre productions as you can
- Join an amateur dramatic group
- Take part in school productions
- Volunteer to help with younger students in dance club/drama club/choir

Who do I contact for more information?

- **Mrs Rowlands - jrowlands@ben.srscmat.co.uk**
- **Mrs Tipper - ctipper@ben.srscmat.co.uk**
- **Mrs Persico- Hollis - rpersico-hollis@ben.srscmat.co.uk**

Physics

Course content

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics are to enable students to develop:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills.
- Their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject.
- An understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

Course overview

Advanced Physics I - Paper 1

This paper will examine the following topics:

Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Electric Circuits, Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics.

Advanced Physics II - Paper 2

Working as a Physicist, Materials, Waves and Particle Nature of Light, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields, Oscillations.

General and Practical Principles in Physics - Paper 3

Questions in this paper may draw on any of the topics in this specification. The paper will include synoptic questions that may draw on two or more different topics. The paper will include questions that assess conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods (indirect practical skills) that will draw on students' experiences of the core practicals.

Assessment overview

Advanced Physics 1 - 30%

Assessment is 1 hour 45 minutes. The paper consists of 90 marks. The paper may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Advanced Physics 2 - 30%

Assessment is 1 hour 45 minutes. The paper consists of 90 marks. The paper may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

General and Practical Principles in Physics - 40%

Assessment is 2 hours 30 minutes. The paper consists of 120 marks. The paper may include, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Practical endorsement

Reported separately. Non-exam assessment



How can I prepare?



Through two doors at once: The elegant experiment that captures the enigma of our quantum reality - Anil Ananthaswamy

Brief answers to big questions - Stephen Hawking

Four Colours Suffice - Robin Wilson

The Big Picture - Sean Carroll

Where will it lead me?



Studying A Level Physics will develop your reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills to the next level. This will position you ideally for university level study or the workplace. It can lead to a range of fulfilling and exciting careers such as : Astronomer, Clinical scientist, medical physics, Lecturer/academic, Nanotechnologist Radiation protection practitioner. It can even lead to other roles which include: Data analyst, Operational researcher, Patent attorney Software engineer to name but a few.

Due to the heavy mathematical element to physics, a qualification can also help you explore mathematical studies and career path. It is also an essential qualification if you wish to go to medical school.

What else can I do?



- Science Poster Symposium
- National competitions researching and presenting science outside the curriculum
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss Alisa Trubilina (Head of Physics)

ATrubilina@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Applied Science

Course content

In Psychology, we use scientific theory to make decisions about which factors are most likely to influence behaviour and consider a range of approaches to explain specific behaviours. Psychology is evidence based where claims need to be supported by research, but you will choose to align yourself with certain perspectives. For example, is schizophrenia caused by 'Nature' such as an imbalance of neurotransmitters in the brain or 'nurture', confusing messages from a critical mother? You will use your critical thinking to analyse a variety of different behaviours including memory, depression and obedience and this will allow you to have a more critical view of the world around you.

Course overview

Topic info here

Year 12:

- Research methods
- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches
- Biopsychology

Year 13:

- Issues and debates
- Schizophrenia
- Gender
- Forensic behaviour
- Research Methods

Assessment overview

Paper 1: introduction to psychology **96 marks, 2 hour paper**

4 sections (24 marks each) Social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. this paper also includes research methods

Paper 2: psychology in context **96 marks, 2 hour paper**

3 sections, approaches (24 marks) biopsychology (24 marks), research methods (48 marks)

paper 3: topics in psychology **96 marks, 2 hour paper**

4 sections, (24 marks each) Issues and debates, schizophrenia, gender, forensic psychology.



How can I prepare?



Use the simply psychology website to make notes on the main approaches in psychology:

Behavioural, social learning theory, cognitive, biological.

Where will it lead me?



Careers

- Become a psychologist - clinical, forensic, educational, occupational etc
- counselling
- teaching
- HR
- research
- neuropsychology

Skills

- Analytical
- Extended writing
- Mathematical

What else can I do?



- Visit the Freud Museum
- follow Tutor 2U psychology on youtube
- ensure you have a high level of Maths and English in all of your subjects as this will benefit you in Psychology.

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs Marie Flynn

mflynn@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Applied Science

Course content

The world of Technology and Engineering is fast growing with an abundance of opportunities for students who have knowledge in this field. OCR A Level Design & Technology: Product Design specifications builds on the content covered within KS4 Product Design, Engineering Design and Engineering Manufacture, giving students opportunities to develop key skills and knowledge in many design and making disciplines. Students will study for 2 written exams covering Principles and Problem Solving. They will use knowledge gained to undertake a Design and Make Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). An understanding of Maths and Science at Grade 6 or above is needed for this course.

Course overview

Paper 1 - Principles of Product Design

Students will Analyse existing products; Demonstrate applied mathematical skills; Demonstrate their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques; Undertake case studies to demonstrate their understanding of wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries

Paper 2 - Problem Solving in Product Design

Students will apply their knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products to given situations and problems

Demonstrate their higher thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations and suitability of design solutions.

Iterative Design Project

Central to this non-examined assessment is the requirement for students to understand and apply processes of iterative designing in their design and technology practice: exploring needs, creating solutions and evaluating how well the needs have been met. Students identify an engaging and challenging context of their own choice that offers design opportunity or problem to respond to in the development of a design solution. They create a chronological portfolio of evidence in real-time as they design, make and evaluate the project according to the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate.

Assessment overview

Principles of Product Design

External Exam 26.7% (80 marks) Written Paper 1 Hour 30 mins

Problem Solving in Product Design 23.3 % (70 Marks) Written Paper 1 Hour 45 mins

Iterative Design Project - NEA- 50% (100 Marks) Approx 65 Hours





How can I prepare?

For a number of these principles, Design/Engineering, Mathematical and/or Scientific knowledge is also required so reading and practice in these areas advisable.

Reading Technology , Design or Engineering journals.

Developing Computer Aided Design skills is also a big advantage - programs such as Fusion 360 are free to students to use and gain experience with. Tutorials can be found on Youtube.

Watch T.V. programmes, such as Dragon's Den, Repair Shop to give an idea of manufacturing processes and design innovation.



Where will it lead me?

Product Design can send you down a variety of different paths such as academic progress to University to study Design, Engineering or Technology based courses.

It can lead onto apprenticeships in Engineering companies, such as Rolls-Royce or Toyota or a design based apprenticeship

This can eventually lead into careers in Engineering, such as Mechanical Engineer, Quality Engineer, Electrical Engineer etc. if studied with Maths and Physics



What else can I do?

- Visit museums such as the Design Museum or Museum of Making
- Join a club that offers making skills
- Look at making hobbies such as robotics, modelling etc

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Alan Snell (Director of Learning for Technology)
asnell@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Religious Studies

Course content

The Eduqas A level in Religious Studies encourages learners to:

- Develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world.
- Develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of religious philosophical and ethical thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies.
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Course overview

A study of Religion - Paper 1

A study of Christianity:

There will be four themes within this component: religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts and religious life; significant social and historical developments in religious thought; religious practices and religious identity.

Philosophy of Religion - Paper 2

There will be four themes within this component: arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; religious experience; religious language.

Religion and Ethics - Paper 3

There will be four themes within this component: ethical thought; deontological ethics; teleological ethics; determinism and free will.

Assessment overview

A study of Religion - 33.3%

Assessment is 2 hours. The paper consists of 100 marks.

The paper will require you to choose two sets of questions, each set consisting of two essay style questions

Philosophy of Religion - 33.3%

Assessment is 2 hours. The paper consists of 100 marks.

The paper will require you to choose two sets of questions, each set consisting of two essay style questions

Religion and Ethics - 33.3%

Assessment is 2 hours. The paper consists of 100 marks.

The paper will require you to choose two sets of questions, each set consisting of two essay style questions



How can I prepare?



Peter Vardy series:

The Puzzle of Ethics
The Puzzle of God
The Puzzle of Christianity

Nigel Warburton:

Philosophy Bites
A Brief History of Philosophy

Podcasts:

Philosophy Bites
The Panpsycast

Where will it lead me?



You will develop transferrable skills that are valued by employers as a result of studying Religious Studies, such as the ability to:

- Develop higher thinking skills, helpful in careers such as **law**.
- Communicate clearly and effectively, useful in careers such as **journalism**.
- Construct well informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence as used in such professions as **medicine**.
- Engage in ethical and philosophical debates in a way that recognises the right of others to hold a different view, aiding professions in **healthcare**.
- Understand the importance for religious believers of religion both in history, and in contemporary society.
- Follow logical lines of argument, which aids careers in the legal field.

What else can I do?



- Religious Studies essay paper competitions
- Reading outside the curriculum e.g. articles or books
- Debate Club
- Feminist Society

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs L Murphy - Director of Learning
Lmurphy@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Sociology

Course content

A level Sociology helps you to develop knowledge and understanding of the essential sociological theories and methods (such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism) It helps you make sense of the diversity of societies. Sociology helps you to understand the forces which have and will continue to shape social change.

Course overview

1. Education with theory and methods

- Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- The role and functions of the education system
- Differential educational achievement of social groups
- Educational policies

2. Methods in context

- Sources of data
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations in research
- The nature of science and the relationship between theory and methods
- Debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom.

3. Families and Households

- The relationship between the family and society
- Different familial relationships
- Gender roles
- Nature of childhood
- Demographic trends

4. Beliefs in Society

- Ideology, science and religion
- Religious organisations
- The relationship between different social groups and religious/ spiritual organisations
- The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world

5. Crime and deviance with theory and methods

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society
- Crime control and the role of the criminal justice system

Assessment overview

Paper 1 (33.3%):

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 80 marks
- Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2 (33.3%):

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 80 marks
- Families and the Household
- Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 (33.3%):

- Written exam
- 2 hours
- 80 marks
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead:

- Haralambos Sociology: Themes and Perspectives
- Sutton Trust
- A Beginner's Guide to Social Theory -Shaun Best
- The McDonaldisation of Society. George Ritzer
- Chavs. Owen Jones
- Headscarves and Hymens -Mona Ethaway

Where will it lead me?



Sociology will help you to think about society in a new and critical light, questioning the status quo and developing a sophisticated understanding of the real issues that affect the society we live in. It is an excellent subject for showing you how society works and for making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals within society experience. You will develop skills valued by higher education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

What else can I do?



Reading outside the curriculum (books, articles etc.

Who do I contact for more information?

Mrs Beardsley
cbeardsley@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Spanish

Course content

Our A Level in Spanish offers an extensive range of engaging topics to discover and learn from. Students will become confident communicator in Spanish, being able to listen and speak about specific subjects. They will also gain confidence in reading a range of authentic material from news articles to a novel entirely in Spanish! We will develop a wide range of skills including writing and translating too. The course also contains an independent research project in an area of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level.

By the end of the course, students will have developed their understanding of the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken.

Course overview

AS units focus on the aspects of French speaking society, its current trends and the artistic culture. Specific topics include the modern and traditional values, the cyberspace, equal rights, modern day idols, Regional identity in Spain and the cultural heritage.

A2 Units focus on the current issues in society such as immigration, racism and integration in society. There is also a study of the political aspects of Spanish speaking countries, including the right to vote and teenagers, monarchies and dictatorships and finally popular movements (protests and strikes, unions, etc).

Cultural study: students will study a film and a book, one in AS and the other in A2 and will write essays on each in the final exam.

Independent Research Project: every student will complete independent research on a topic of their choice and will write a presentation on this for the speaking examination. this will be followed by a discussion of the topic chosen.

Assessment overview

Paper 1 Listening Reading and Writing (2h30, 100 marks, 50 %)

Students will be tested on their understanding of French and their ability to answer in French. There will be MCQ, comprehension, T/F/NM, Who says...?, gapfills and summarising in French as well as translations.

Paper 2 Cultural studies essays (2h, 80 marks, 20 %)

Writing essays on the book and film studied

Paper 3 Speaking (18 min + 5 min preparation, 60 marks, 30 %)

Students will discuss one topic studied and also complete their IRP during their speaking.

AO1 understand and respond to spoken language

AO2 understand and respond to written language

AO3 accuracy in manipulating the language

AO4 showing knowledge and understanding, showing critical and analytical responses



How can I prepare?



The best thing to do is get organised and start practising the basic grammar that you saw in GCSE. As a minimum we recommend a confident use of the present tense, imperfect and future/conditional. Of course, all these will be reviewed in the course but a basic understanding and knowledge will give you a headstart.

Now it's not all about grammar and verbs! Remember that you want to learn about a different culture and society... why not watch some films or series online in Spanish with subtitles on? And what about some music? There are countless sources available, please ask your teacher if you need some sources!

Where will it lead me?



Languages open doors!

It is a very sought after skill and it can lead you to so many careers, not just teaching languages or being a translator. You could work for a newspaper and travel abroad, work as an analyst for GCHQ, be an engineer in a different country, work for humanitarian charities across the world, have your own business and expand beyond the doors of the UK... possibilities are endless!

What else can I do?



- Linguistic Olympiad competition
- Run a club for Yr7-8 to share your passion for languages
- help organise events in the MFL department, such as European Day of Languages
- create displays about news in the world, culture and traditions in other countries

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Hallam (DoL MFL)
thallam@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Sports Science

Course content

Students will learn and be able to apply theoretical knowledge to different sporting activities. The areas of study include sports injuries, physiology and anatomy, sports psychology, and sports coaching and activity leadership. This allows pupils to develop a real appreciation of the theory, pupils will analyse, evaluate and apply the theoretical knowledge to sporting examples. Students will also plan and lead 6 coaching sessions in a sports of their choice. The course includes a combination of written coursework and examinations.

Course overview

Unit 1 Body systems and effects of physical activity.

This focuses on the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems. How the systems work and how they respond to physical activity.

Unit 2 Sports coaching and activity leadership.

The main focus of this unit is leading/coaching 6 sessions of your chosen sport. You plan and implement the sessions and then evaluate.

Unit 3 Sports organisation and development

This unit looks at the theoretical information behind sports organisation such as governing bodies and barriers to participation.

Unit 17 Sports injuries and rehabilitation

You learn about the theory of sports injuries, then apply this to a practical and design your own rehabilitation program

Unit 19 Sport and exercise psychology

In this unit you learn about athlete responses to situation and the theoretical knowledge behind our behaviour in the sport and exercise arena.

Independent study

Students will be able to apply their theoretical knowledge to their own sporting experiences and research a wide range of physical activity to apply this knowledge in their written work.

Assessment overview

Unit 1 Body systems and effects of physical activity

1 hour 30 minutes exam
30%

Unit 2 Sports coaching and activity leadership

Written coursework
30%

Unit 3 Sports organisation and development

1 hour exam
12%

Unit 17 Sports injuries and rehabilitation

Written coursework
14%

Unit 19 Sport and exercise psychology

Written coursework
14%



How can I prepare?



Reading ahead on the how the body works during physical activity and looking at the core text book used Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Sport and physical activity.

By Suzanne Bointon et al

Reading widely around the course:

- Sport Science: A complete introduction: Teach yourself
- Sport Psychology: A complete introduction: Teach yourself
- The anatomy of sport injuries by Brad walker

Where will it lead me?



A sport course can send you down a variety of different paths, both academic and practical. Teacher /lecturer, Youth worker, Sports Journalist , sports coach / development officer, Physiotherapist, Professional sportsman, nutritionist, project manager / events organiser Sports psychologist, Leisure manager, Sports scout, Sports manager / team manger, sports analysts , police office , sports therapy , sports lawyer, referee / umpire.

The direction you choose to take is up to you!

What else can I do?



- Watch a variety of different sports both live and recorded
- Learn the origins of 3 different sports
- Research who governs sport and issues surrounding this
- Research initiatives that promote physical health and well being

Who do I contact for more information?

Miss Mills (Director of learning for Physical Education)
nmills@ben.srscmat.co.uk

Community Languages



Course content

If you speak any other of the following languages at home, and have completed a GCSE/or are currently studying a GCSE in them then you will be able to study them to A-Level.

These courses will be self-taught and will require permission from parents to proceed.

ARABIC
BENGALI
CHINESE (MANDARIN/CANTONESE)
GERMAN
GREEK
GUJARATI
ITALIAN
JAPANESE
PERSIAN (FARSI)
POLISH
PORTUGUESE
RUSSIAN
TURKISH
URDU

It is really important that students practice the language in a much higher register, especially for the extended essay questions as part of the research project. Whilst none of the language A-Levels have speaking components, it is even more important that their quality of language use is high. On all of the specifications, students need to have read a book and studied a film (in their own time) from the list specified by the exam board. Students will be asked to analyse aspects of character, plot and theme. We do not provide those texts/films, so these will need to be purchased by home.

Who do I contact for more information?

Mr Hallam (DoL MFL)
thallam@ben.srscmat.co.uk