

ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPTIONS

BOOKLET





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WELCOME MESSAGE



Miss L Kirkbright & Mr N Sutton
Co-Directors of Sixth Form

The Areté Sixth Form within St. Bede's Catholic College has quickly established itself as one of the leading Post-16 providers within Bristol. It is an outstanding college where students are encouraged to excel.

At Areté we strive for academic excellence by enabling students to achieve their full potential. Combining academic work with an extensive co-curricular programme prepares each individual for a full and rewarding life.

The college has a distinctive culture and climate where staff strive to promote a love of learning and intellectual curiosity. Our young people are valued, stimulated and challenged to develop their talents to the full, whatever their ability, within a calm and industrious environment. We support students to become active, critical and open-minded thinkers. Areté is a place where achievement, effort and diversity are valued and celebrated.

Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and to track their progress against challenging targets. Working to be the best you can be is our aim and expectation for students and staff.

Areté offers a broad and balanced curriculum giving students the best possible advantage in preparation for their future, encouraging them to develop individual gifts and talents. It is designed and taught to bring about success in terms of external examinations, as well as opening avenues into wider learning.

A Level options on offer are largely those referred to as 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group universities. This study path equips students with the skills they need to access a range of competitive courses and increases their chances of study at the most respected academic institutions, if this is their desire. In addition, the Extended Project Qualification is available for those who seek to stand out and compete favourably with the best when applying to well-established universities.

At Areté we want to ensure students are supported and valued. The ethos of the college is shaped by Christian principles of unselfish love, integrity and humility. Everyone can contribute towards creating this spirit through our community. The Sixth Form is at the forefront of our college and we are committed to providing an excellent education which empowers all students to be the best they can be.



ART



The Art department has specifically chosen a course to suit the diverse needs of all students.

This course will allow students to explore and experiment with a range of media, develop ideas and delve deep into the work of others.

In year 1 there is a focus on practical exploration, allowing for students to develop an extended project, exploring work in their own preferred specialised area.

In year 2 it is tailored to encourage the students to work more independently.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Students are able to work in one or more areas of art:

- Drawing and painting
- Mixed media
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Installation
- Printmaking
- Moving image and photography

Students will explore overlapping areas and a combination of areas.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam board—AQA

Component 1

Personal Investigation. A body of research and investigation
60% of total mark.

Component 2

Externally set assessment. 15 hour exam
40% of total mark .



BIOLOGY



The OCR A level Biology A specification will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. The topics cover molecular biology, ecology, disease and plant biology.

Practical skills are integrated throughout the course and you will be awarded a separate qualification for these skills. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Biology highly appealing.

You will learn about recent advances in genetics, medical sciences and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will study the biology of living organisms and the investigation of the science behind living things.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The course is split into 6 modules:

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology

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

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam board—OCR

Paper 1- 2 hour 15 minute Written paper
37% of total mark

Paper 2- 2 hour 15 minute written paper
37% of total mark

Paper 3- 1 hour 30 minutes written paper
26% of total mark

Practical endorsement (non exam assessment)



BUSINESS STUDIES



Students are introduced to business in themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work.

Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Theme 1

Marketing and people

Theme 2

Managing business activities

Theme 3

Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4

Global business

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
35% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
35% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
30% of total mark



CHEMISTRY



The A level Chemistry specification will develop a candidate's knowledge and understanding to provide a pathway to further study, employment and general career development.

You will study 10 modules over the 2 years. The specifications are designed to thus motivate both teachers and students and to encourage more students to study chemistry at a higher level.

Students will study aspects of chemistry that are often in the media and affect their lives. You will need to have the necessary knowledge and understanding to explain many different aspects of contemporary chemistry.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Module 1

Practical skills

Module 2

Foundations of chemistry

Module 3

Periodic table and energy

Module 4

Pure organic chemistry and analysis

Module 5

Organic chemistry and analysis

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam board– OCR

Paper 1– 2 hours 15 minutes written exam
41% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hours 15 minutes written exam
37% of total mark

Paper 3– 1 hour 30 minutes written exam
22% of total mark

Practical Endorsement (non exam assessment)



COMPUTER SCIENCE



The IT and Computer Science Faculty offers the OCR A level Computer Science course. Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop: An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science mathematical skills.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices.

Software and software development, exchanging data data types, data structures and algorithms, legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

Elements of computational thinking
Problem solving and programming

Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

You will also choose a computing problem to work through

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hours 30 minutes written exam
40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hours 30 minutes written exam
40% of total mark

Programming project (non exam assessment)
20% of total mark



DRAMA



This A Level is an ideal choice for anyone who loves performing, creating and studying literature. You need to have an ability to consider literature from both a performance and theoretical perspective.

It is a highly respected A Level that can be instrumental in helping students gain university places in a variety of subjects. Students will also gain a great deal of academic prowess through a subject that promotes the development of transferable skills.

Drama students are taught to be empathetic, allowing themselves to consider the decisions of themselves and others. Drama insists that students take part in class discussion and the development of analytical skills. Ultimately Drama teaches students how to present themselves and information to an audience.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Devising

Students work in groups to devise a piece of theatre based around a script stimulus which is influenced by the style of a theatre practitioner.

Text in performance

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two contrasting texts.

Theatre makers in practice

Students conduct a practical exploration of a set text and a re-imagining of a set text for a contemporary audience in light of a practitioner.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

Non-exam assessment 1
assessed on either acting or design
40% of total mark

Non exam assessment 2
assessed on either acting or design
20% of total mark

Written exam– 2 hours and 30 minutes
40% of total mark



ECONOMICS



Economics is about choices and the impact of our choices on each other and the world around us. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals to the policies and systems created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices.

The course is made up of macroeconomic topics where you are expected to analyse and understand the “Big Picture”, looking at the national and international economy, and microeconomic topics where you look at how individual businesses and their markets work.

The course is split equally between the two sides of Economics; microeconomics and macroeconomics. The study of both macro and micro is compulsory and they are weighted at 50%.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

Economic methodology and the economic problem, individual economic decision making, price determination in a competitive market, production, costs and revenue, perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly, the labour market, the distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality.

The national and international economy

The measurement of macroeconomic performance, how the macro economy works, economic performance, financial markets and monetary policy, fiscal policy and supply-side policies, the international economy.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written exam
33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written exam
33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written exam
33.3% of total mark.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE



At A Level, this specification enables candidates to explore the fundamental structures and functions of writing, speech and conversation and how language functions in different social contexts and at different stages through childhood.

Students are able to study children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language as well as studying the uses of language within different social contexts.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Textual variations and representations

Children's language development

Language diversity and change

Language discourses

Writing skills

Language investigation

Original writing

A language investigation will be undertaken allowing students the opportunity for original writing. Further analysis and commentary will be expected of their writing.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Non– exam assessment
20% of total mark



ENGLISH LITERATURE



This course takes a historic approach to the study of literature and focuses on reading texts within a shared context. It works on the belief that no text exists in isolation but is a product of the time in which it was produced.

The specification is designed to:

- Deliver as much choice as possible for teachers and candidates.
- Develop interest in and enjoyment of English literature, through reading widely and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts.
- Encourage candidates to develop as informed, independent readers and critics of literary texts.
- Develop personal responses to literary texts.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Core content

Love through the ages
Texts in shared contexts
Independent critical study: Texts across time

Options

WW1 and its aftermath
Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

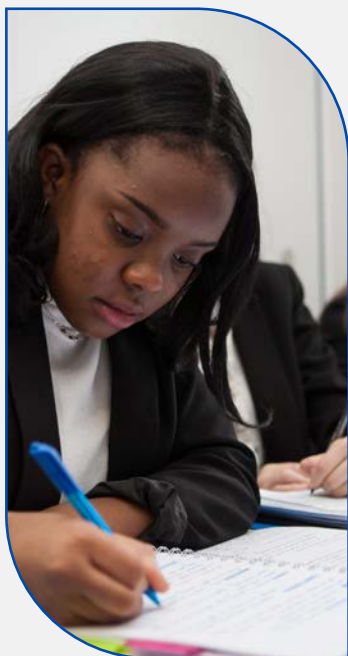
Paper 1– 3 hour written exam
40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Non-exam assessment
20% of total mark



FRENCH



Students study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world.

Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them.

Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Social issues and trends:

The changing nature of family
Cyber-society
The place of voluntary work

Artistic culture:

A culture proud of its heritage
Contemporary music
Cinema

Literary texts and films:

A study of one film/text

Grammar

Knowledge

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written paper
50% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
20% of total mark

Paper 3– 21-23 minute oral exam
30% of total mark



GEOGRAPHY



Our A level Geography course is the perfect progression from GCSE, and offers a strong base for students that are motivated by studying a global issue-based or analytical subject at university.

Learners will have the opportunity to consider their own values and attitudes towards a range of world issues, take a scientific approach towards physical concepts and broaden deeper existing skills, including map skills, statistical and analytical skills.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Physical geography

Water and carbon cycles
Glacial systems and landscapes
Hazards

Human geography

Global systems and global governance
Changing places
Contemporary urban environments

Geography fieldwork investigation

Geographical skills

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Geography fieldwork investigation (non exam
assessment)
20% of total mark.



HISTORY



The A level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time

Component 1 British History (Breadth Study) -The Tudors
Students will be expected to study and respond to the different interpretations of historians on the Tudor period.

Component 2 (Depth Study) -Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945
Students will be expected to study and respond to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period.

Component 3: Historical Investigation
This consists of students studying an overview of the USA Civil Rights Movement and then focusing on a particular area for their independent research.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Component 1

Breadth Study—The Tudors—1485-1603

Component 2

Depth Study– Democracy and Nazis 1918-1945

Component 3

Historical Investigation– USA Civil Rights Movement

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 30 minute written exam
40% of total mark

Historical Investigation
Non-exam assessment
20% of total mark.



LAW



The Law A level course offered is aimed at students who are critical thinkers who enjoy problem solving and applying what they have learned about the law to different situations.

The course covers a range of fascinating legal cases and encourages students to evaluate how the law was applied so that they can learn to apply the law to new scenarios.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The nature of law and the legal system

Nature of law, the rule of law, law making and the legal system

Criminal law

The rules of criminal law, liability, fatal and non-fatal offences and property offences

Tort

Liability in negligence, occupiers liability, defences and remedies

Law of contract

The rules & development of human rights law, restrictions on human rights, enforcement of human rights

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark



MATHS



A level Maths consists of pure maths, mechanics and statistics. Mechanics is the study of forces and motion, statistics is the study of data and probability and pure maths is primarily about algebra and functions.

A level Maths is taught mainly by exposition by the teacher. Although students will be expected to contribute to class discussions of new topics. A significant part of the course will be in keeping up with the home learning tasks, normally set after each lesson.

Much of the course involves problem solving and students will need to demonstrate perseverance in order to succeed. Maths A level is a necessity if you wish to study any form of engineering or physical science at degree level and is also desirable if you wish to study any other form of science.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Pure Maths

- Algebra and trigonometry
- Coordinate geometry
- Calculus

Mechanics

- Dynamics (moving objects)
- Statics (stationary objects)

Statistics

- Analysis of data
- Elementary probability theory

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written exam
33% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written exam
33% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written exam
33% of total mark



FURTHER MATHS



Students studying further mathematics A level do this in addition to the single mathematics A level course. Students will be introduced to new areas of maths such as complex numbers and matrices.

There will also be an opportunity to study decision mathematics. Decision mathematics is the study of algorithms and optimization, finding efficient solutions to problems. The work covered is applicable to many real world situations and is a useful part of the course for students studying Computer Science.

The extra mechanics unit would be particularly useful for any students planning on studying Engineering or Physics at a higher level.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Students complete two additional pure units:

Further pure mathematics 1 (FP1)
Further pure mathematics 2 (FP2)

Students complete two additional applied units, we are currently offering:

Mechanics (FM1)
Decision mathematics (D1)

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

FP1– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

FP2– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

FM1– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

D1– 1 hour 30 minute written exam

You will complete the exam of the units you have studied.



MATHS STUDIES



Maths Studies gives students the opportunity to continue studying aspects of mathematics that will be useful to them at university or in employment. The course has been developed with the help of many universities and major employers to help pupils to retain and improve their knowledge and understanding of mathematics ready for the next stage of their lives. The course covers personal finance as well as analysing statistical data to complement other science subjects. The content will include both GCSE Higher and A Level mathematics content and is suitable for students with a grade 5 or above at GCSE.

Maths Studies is completed in one year and is ideal for pupils who want to maintain fluency in maths to help them with a future degree or apprenticeship in a science or social science. At the end of the course students will be sitting exams to achieve a Level 3 certificate which is recognised by universities and employers.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Analysis of data:

Collecting and sampling data

Representing data numerically,
Representing data diagrammatically

Maths for personal finance:

Percentages, Interest rates, Borrowing money,
Estimation, Taxation

Estimation:

Critical analysis of given data and models

You will also cover some other optional units.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1

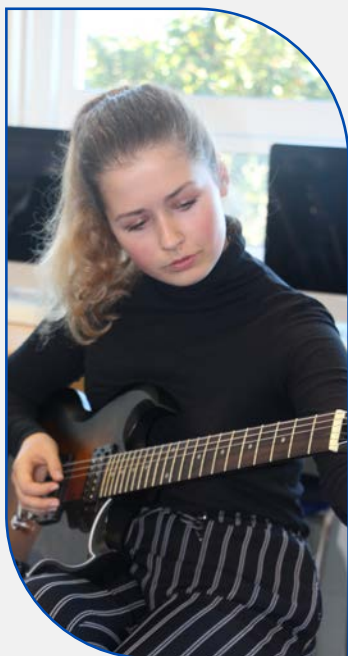
1 hour 30 minute written exam

Paper 2

1 hour 30 minute written exam



MUSIC



The A level Music specification enables students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of music, to create and develop their own musical ideas and to demonstrate technical and interpretive skills through performing music.

This course builds on the knowledge and skills gained from GCSE music and/or musical experience gained outside the classroom. The A level music programme provides a sound preparation for the study of music in higher education, as well as providing opportunities to develop strengths and interests leading to music-related careers.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Component 1

Appraising music—one exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music

Component 2

Performance— A performance as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble. A minimum of 10 minutes of performance is required

Component 3

Composition— A composition of two pieces of music. A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1

Written and listening exam
40% of total mark

Performance

Minimum 10 minute performance (solo and/or ensemble)
35% of total mark

Composition

Minimum 4 minutes and 30 seconds of music
25% of total mark



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will students have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, they will also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. They can perform, and then through the academic study improve your performance or coaching through application of the theory.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Physiological factors

Applied anatomy and physiology
Exercise physiology
Biomechanics

Psychological factors

Skill acquisition
Sports psychology

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

Sport and society

Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport

Performance in physical education
Performance or coaching of an activity
Evaluation and analysis of performance

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hour 15 minute written exam
37% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 15 minute written exam
37% of total mark

Paper 3– 1 hour 30 minute written exam
26% of total mark

Practical endorsement– non-exam assessment



PHYSICS



The dictionary definition of physics is “the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them”. This really means that physics is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting.

Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) careers and you’ll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Module 1

Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2

Foundations in physics

Module 3

Forces and motion

Module 4

Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5

Newton’s world of astrophysics

Module 6

Particles and medical physics

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—OCR

Paper 1– 2 hour 15 minute written exam
37% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour 15 minute written exam
37% of total mark

Paper 3– 1 hour 30 minute written exam
26% of total mark

Practical endorsement– non-exam assessment



POLITICS



Lively, relevant, controversial... there are many ways to describe A level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

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

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

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Government and politics of the UK

The government of the UK
The politics of the UK

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

Government and politics of the USA
groups
Comparative politics

Political ideas

Core ideologies
Other ideologies

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark



PSYCHOLOGY



Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior and experience. This stimulating subject combines fascinating content with a rigorous and scientific approach to investigation.

It has recently undergone a huge growth in popularity, both as a choice for A level and undergraduate students.

The course aims to develop both an academic understanding of the subject and an appreciation of its impact on people's daily lives.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Compulsory content:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in psychology

Other optional units (other options are available)

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic psychology

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
33% of total mark



RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Religious Studies A Level is an essay based subject aimed at encouraging students to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a rigorous study of religion and relate it to the wider world.

There are three papers: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and New Testament Studies.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Philosophy of Religion:

The classical arguments for the existence of God
The nature of religious experience
The problem of evil and suffering

Religion and Ethics:

Environmental issues
Equality
Natural Moral Law

New Testament Studies:

The prologue in St John's Gospel
The 'I am' sayings in John
Miracles and signs

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—Edexcel

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark



SOCIOLOGY



Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? How has the family changed and what is its purpose in the 21st century? What makes someone a criminal?

A Level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to conduct research, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you experience so you can relate to the topics but also learn other perspectives; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Education with theory and methods

The role of education
Gender, class & race in context

Crime and deviance

Theories of crime and deviance
Social distribution of crime

The media

How the media affects behaviour
Media representations

Families and households

The relationship of the family
Gender roles
Childhood

Sociological Theory

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark

Paper 3– 2 hour written paper
33.3% of total mark



SPANISH



Students will study technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. They will study highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations. You will learn about aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.

Students will explore the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities. Throughout your studies, you learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them.

Students will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Social issues and trends:

The changing nature of family
Cyber-society
The place of voluntary work

Artistic culture:

A culture proud of its heritage
Contemporary music
Cinema

Literary texts and films:

A study of one film/text

Grammar

Knowledge

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Exam Board—AQA

Paper 1– 2 hour 30 minute written paper
50% of total mark

Paper 2– 2 hour written paper
20% of total mark

Paper 3– 21-23 minute oral exam
30% of total mark





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