

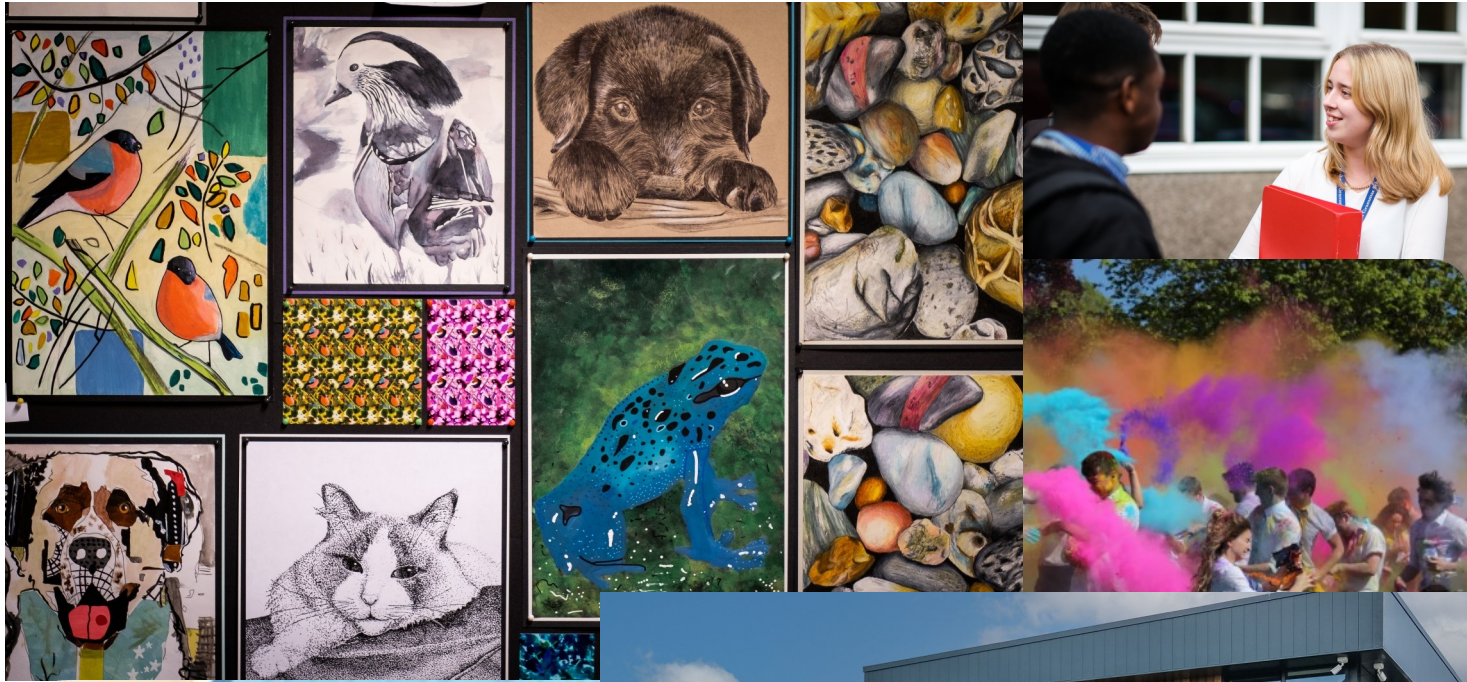


Queen Elizabeth Grammar School

Sixth Form

Curriculum Booklet

2026 - 2027



Entry Requirements

Standard Entry Requirements for A Level Courses:

A minimum Point Score of 48 in the best 8 GCSEs

A minimum of grade 5 in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or English Literature.

A Level Courses	Entry Requirements (<i>additional to Standard Entry Requirements</i>)	Page
Art	Grade 7 in GCSE Art	8
Biology	Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Biology)	9
Chemistry	Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Chemistry)	10
Design Technology: Product Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology or Engineering.	11
Drama and Theatre	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama plus an audition/interview	12
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature	13
English Language	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language	14
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language	15
Environmental Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology	16
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French	17
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics	18
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography	19
Geology	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 6 in GCSE Science	20
German	Grade 6 in GCSE German	21
History: International Relations	Grade 6 in GCSE History (<i>only one History course may be chosen</i>)	22
History: Modern	Grade 6 in GCSE History (<i>only one History course may be chosen</i>)	23
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics	24
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music or proof of practical expertise. Must be able to read music and perform to Grade 6 ABRSM or equivalent.	25
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE PE	26
Physics	Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Physics)	27
Politics	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature	28
Psychology	Grade 5, 6 combination in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or English Literature	29
Religious Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE RE	30
Sociology	Grade 6,6 across GCSE English & any Humanities subject	31

In exceptional circumstances, students who have not studied the subject at GCSE may still be considered for the A-Level course. These requests should be made to the Head of Sixth Form and will be considered on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Choosing Your Sixth Form Courses

It is important that you get your Sixth Form subject choices correct and that you make them for the right reasons.

Achievement at GCSE will be a major factor in deciding which combination of courses to embark on. QEGS staff will be happy to discuss your proposed programme of study and they will help guide you through the decision making process.

You should aim to select three A Level subjects. Everyone will also be able to take part in physical activity as part of the 'games afternoon' each week.

We are proud of the range of subjects available at A Level. You will be considering which combination fits your ability and higher education or employment choices. Make your choice methodically, take your time, research carefully and ask plenty of questions to find the right combination for you.

A Level subjects range from those you've probably already met at GCSE, to those which sound interesting but you may not know much about. Make sure to do research and ask questions about these courses. Don't assume that GCSE subjects will be largely the same at A Level, or that 'interesting' subjects will be what you expect.



Choose the subjects that you are interested in

Enjoyment and interest are paramount when it comes to taking A Levels. Intrinsic motivation and a keenness to learn more about your chosen subjects will be key in finding success.

You should consider:

Subject Content – what will you actually be studying?

Required Skills – how will these be developed further?

Independent Study – Generally, you will need an additional five hours per week per subject of independent study.

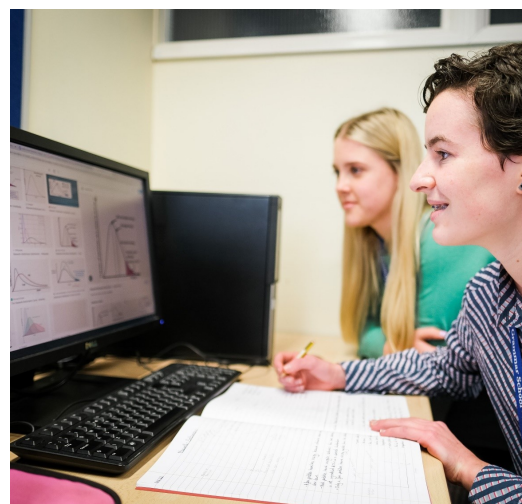
Coursework – Will any be required and what are the elements involved?

Seeking Advice – Your current school can help you.

Take time to research your subject choices

We recommend that you seek advice and guidance, before making your final selection of subjects. Talk to teachers who know you to seek their advice as well. It is advisable to try to keep pathways open through your choices - try not to narrow your options. Moreover, consider the additional level of difficulty if choosing a subject that you have found more challenging at GCSE. It may be better to make different subject choices to ensure success.

Remember, there are always alternative pathways that to help you on your journey to your chosen career. Make sure that you are happy with your final selection and are not persuaded by anyone else.





Choose subjects that will fit with your career plans

Not all students will have a precise career plan, but some will have an idea about the likely routes they want to take. If you know what you would like to do, research the required courses on the UCAS (University and College Admission Service) website to get an idea of which A Levels are needed to access certain higher education courses.

If you intend to enter the working world after Sixth Form, be clear about what courses certain jobs may favour. Again, your current school can guide you through these choices.

If you have no plans for your future career, try to keep as many doors open as possible. Choose a programme of study that interests you and gives you options as you move towards the end of formal schooling.

A Level Requirements for Popular Degree Courses

Chemistry A Level is essential or very useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology and Bio related subjects.

To study **Medicine**: Chemistry is essential, plus 2 other A Levels, one of which should be a science. Biology is not essential but it is useful.

For a **Business Studies** degree: No essential A Level subjects, though Maths is useful and you will need a good Maths result at GCSE. Economics A Levels are helpful. Top Universities do not like you to do both.

European Business Studies generally requires a European Language.

Law degrees: No essential subjects, though they like you to have subjects which show logical ability and the ability to write (e.g.: a mixture of Arts/ Humanities and Science subjects).

Psychology: No essential subjects (a mix of Arts and Science subjects is good.) You will need GCSE Maths.

Computing: No essential subjects for most courses. Maths A Level is essential for a few universities and useful for all.

Engineering: Maths and Physics are generally essential (though you can apply without them and do an extra Foundation year). Chemistry is essential for most Chemical Engineering degrees.

Most other degree courses either have no essential A Level subjects, or just require an A Level in the subject concerned, plus any two others. Do check though! Bear in mind that the top academic degree courses will generally expect two or three 'academic' A Levels.

Further Maths A Level: We do advise you to check both the universities and the specific courses you intend to apply to and look closely at their admissions requirements.



How to Apply?

Applications are to be made online through the QEGS website,
Sixth Form Admissions:

<https://qegs.website/year-12-admissions/>

Or

qegs.applicaa.com/year12



Students will receive an email with a decision as to whether a conditional place has been offered, based on expected achievement of the required GCSE grades.

Please note: option blocks will be determined based on student interest after the application deadline. Whilst we endeavour to meet the requests of all students we cannot guarantee that every subject combination will be possible. Students will be contacted by the Head of Sixth Form to discuss any situations where this is the case.

Applications will open on Thursday 11th December 2025 and close on Friday 9th January 2026

Sixth Form Induction

Sixth Form Induction: Monday 29th June 2025

A chance for prospective students to spend a day experiencing life at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form. Sixth Form Induction enables students to experience the opportunities we offer at QEGS and to allay any concerns they may have about making the next step in their education. The main aim of the induction programme is to allow students to experience lessons in the subjects they wish to study to facilitate the final decision making process.

Invites to the Induction will be issued to those who receive conditional offers.

Attendance at this is very important as it will give students an insight into their chosen courses and to plan for September 2026.

If you have any questions or queries about joining us or the application process, please do get in touch with the Sixth Form Team.

Email: Natasha Marshall, Head of Sixth Form nmarshall@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Tel: 01768 864621

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Head of Department: Mrs Lawson
Email: klawson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements No specific requirements

Assessment Overview

5,000 word essay or
An artefact and a 1,000 word
report

PLUS

A production log reflecting on
the process of completing the
EPQ. Complete on an online
platform—Project Q.

What is an EPQ?

EPQ is an independent research project equivalent to an AS Level and worth up to 28 UCAS points. It is an opportunity for students to spend time looking in depth at a topic of their own choice.

With support from their Supervisor, students carry out research and either:

- Write a 5,000 word essay; or
- Create an artefact and write a 1,000 word report

At QEGS, EPQ is completed in Year 12 so students have a centre-assessed grade in time for their UCAS applications at the start of Y13.

Recent topics have included:

- The impact of Taylor Swift's rerecords on the music industry (essay)
- A study of fast fashion and whether clothes can be made from upcycled materials (artefact)
- The ways in which film adaptations of Little Women have reflected prevailing feminism in the USA (essay)
- The impact of the "Bone Wars" on the field of palaeontology (essay)
- A study of the composition of Vogue magazine covers (artefact)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There are no specific entry requirements for EPQ. Students do need to consider carefully whether they feel they can fit in EPQ alongside their A-Levels. We do not recommend EPQ for students taking four A-Levels.

Topics for study

Almost anything you like! EPQ is more about the journey and the skills you will learn than the topic itself. As long as students can find appropriate research materials, their project can be completed ethically, and their topic is of personal interest, the sky's the limit. A Supervisor will work with students to help them identify a suitable topic and refine their research question.

Expectations of Independent Study

In addition to 30 taught hours, students taking EPQ will be expected to put 90 hours of independent study into their project. This will include completing a production log, research and note taking, writing an essay/creating an artefact, writing and delivering a presentation, and participation in a Marketplace event.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

EPQ teaches transferable skills including project management, research and referencing, and extended writing that will be of value to universities and employers alike.

Fine Art

Head of Department:	Mrs Bell-Prescott
Email:	MBell-Prescott@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board:	AQA
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Art

Why Study Fine Art?

Fine Art allows development of creativity and artistic expression; it is one of the only subjects to be almost entirely practical. Fine Art is vital in today's ever-changing world, where aesthetics are equally as important as function. Indeed, art surrounds us in our everyday living environment, from the buildings we live in, visual information shared via mobile phones, and the clothes on the high street. Students studying art will explore and develop their artistic skills in a variety of disciplines. Learners will also develop their ability to analyse artwork, including their own, think critically about the creative world and apply that knowledge to their projects. Students will learn autonomy and develop creative thinking, whilst taking risks and embracing mistakes as a vital part of the journey. The course is designed with further education in mind, so that students who wish to pursue a career in art and design have the skills and knowledge required. Many students do continue into highly successful careers in the widely increasing creative industries.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to have gained a grade 7 or above in GCSE Art. You will be required to explore drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture using a variety of methods and media on a range of scales. Students will work directly into sketchbook to increase confidence as an independent, risk-taking practitioner, documenting the creative process. Students will study

artists, take photographs and experiment with appropriate media to develop their work and progress through to a personal and meaningful response. This course requires a significant amount of independent study, as well as a commitment to developing and refining skills.

Features of the course

Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, installation, printmaking, film, textiles, animation, video, photography, lens-based and/or light-based media.

Expectations of Independent Study

You are expected to spend at least five and a half hours a week on your Art work outside of lessons. Sometimes the class will be set a specific task, but often the requirement will be continued development of classwork, whereupon it is vital that students manage their own time.

This will include:

- Continuing and completing tasks from lessons.
- Presenting work in sketchbooks and annotating and reflecting as you go.
- Investigation, research and analysis of contemporary and traditional art work connected to your project theme.
- Practical work refining and modifying this using a wide range of materials and processes.
- Planning and executing photoshoots relating to your

Assessment Overview

Unit 1 - Unassessed Explorative Portfolio

Unit 2 - Personal Investigation Project plus 1000-3000 words essay

Unit 3 - Externally set assignment (ESA) including a 15 hour examination

- topic, sometimes needing to travel to different locations.
- Planning, development and completion of final practical pieces, reflecting a high standard of skill in using the formal elements of art.
- Re-drafting of the Year 13 personal investigation essay and responding to teacher feedback.
- Personal organisation to meet practical and written deadlines.
- Visits to art galleries and museums.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

- Fine artist
- Graphic designer
- Animator
- Video game designer
- Fashion designer
- Set designer
- Commercial art gallery manager
- Exhibition designer
- Illustrator
- Secondary school teacher

Biology

Head of Department: Mr Harnett
Email: bharnett@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Biology)

Why study Biology?

Biology is the window onto the fascinating world of micro-organisms, plants, ecosystems, humans and other animals. Biologists try to understand some of the fundamental aspects of life itself.

Biology is a very rewarding subject that can lead to the study of biology in its own right as well as many associated subjects at a higher level. There are those subjects that are very obviously connected with biology such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. There are, however, many other courses and careers where having an A-Level in biology would be useful with the fastest growing areas being those of genetics, biotechnology and sports science.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

If you are thinking of studying biology beyond A-Level, make sure you get good advice before making your final A-Level subject choice. Some careers or university courses related to biology will require you to have achieved a full A-Level in a second science subject, most often, but not necessarily, chemistry. Some students have little intention of pursuing Biology beyond A-Level and simply wish to take it because it is a subject in which they are interested and one they know they will enjoy. Many students have demonstrated that it is a science that may be studied very successfully alongside art subjects.

Features of the course:

In Year 12 students will build on their knowledge of many of the themes covered at GCSE. Key topics include cell structure, variation, basic biochemistry and exchange and transport.

In Year 13 students will develop their biological skills further as they study energy transfers, responses to changes in their internal and external environments and genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.

Topics for Study

Biological molecules; cells; organisms exchange substances with their environment; genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms; energy transfers in and between organisms; organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; and the control of gene expression.

Expectations of Independent Study

You are expected to spend at least five and a half hours a week on your Biology work outside of lessons. This will include homework tasks, pre-reading, independent study tasks, making additional notes, reviewing lesson materials and reading around the subject.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%)

Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%)

Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%)

CPAC Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Studying Biology provides a huge platform for students to go into numerous fields some of which include:

- Biomedical science
- Veterinary science
- Environmental Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Microbiology
- Pharmacology
- Zoology
- Nursing
- Medicine
- Sports science

Chemistry

Head of Department: Dr Ireland
Email: sireland@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Chemistry)

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%)
Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%)
Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%)

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of the structures and properties of materials and of the reactions in which one substance is transformed into another. It seeks to explain all of this in terms of the behaviour of the atoms and molecules from which all matter is constructed.

The questions asked and answered by chemists are not confined to the immediate practical applications of their work. The origin of life on earth, the chemical basis of genetics, the nature of the planets and distant stars, the chemical composition of the centre of the earth's core, life support systems for astronauts and projected planetary colonies are just some of the exciting projects on which chemists throughout the world are working.

Chemistry underpins much of modern life and the high standard of living which most of us enjoy. The increased industrialisation of society has drawbacks, of course - the rapid use of finite natural resources, for example, and increasing pollution. If these problems are to be solved, it will be by the application of scientific knowledge and understanding. Chemistry and chemists will play a central role by developing ways of using our resources more efficiently, increasing our understanding of the chemistry of the atmosphere, oceans and soils, that we may, in future, grow the food we need without the use of large quantities of pesticides and fertilisers.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Chemistry provides a stimulating and rewarding study in its own right. A background in the subject is invaluable to those who are planning careers in engineering, materials science or metallurgy, geology, mining or the biological sciences. A knowledge of chemistry is essential for the successful study of medicine or veterinary science. The course has some mathematical content and you should be comfortable with handling chemical calculations involving moles and general rearrangement of formula.

Features of the course:

Roughly equal time is devoted to each of the three main branches of the subject:

- Physical Chemistry - the study of the underlying atomic and molecular principles.
- Organic Chemistry - which deals with the behaviour of substances based on carbon (thus with all substances of biological importance).
- Inorganic Chemistry - which covers all the remaining elements, with an emphasis on the properties of the metals.

Expectations of Independent Study

Students are expected to complete approximately 5 hours of independent study outside of lessons to apply their understanding of the concepts taught.

"Chemistry challenges my analytical and problem solving skills. The feeling when you understand a topic in Chemistry is so rewarding"

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Chemistry opens the way to studies and careers in:

- Chemistry
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary Science
- Food Science
- Physiotherapy
- Materials Science etc.

Design Technology: Product Design

Head of Department: Mr F Wilson
Email: fwilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology or
Grade 6 in GCSE Engineering

In exceptional circumstances, students who have not studied the subject at GCSE may still be considered for this course. Any requests should be made to the Head of Sixth Form and will be considered on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Assessment Overview

Component 1: Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes, 120 marks - 30%

Component 2: Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks - 20%

Component 3: Substantial design and make project, 100 marks—50%

Why Study Product Design?

Virtually everything you use or buy is designed or engineered. This course could be the pathway to many exciting and rewarding career choices in a rapidly changing, technology-based society. From engineers to technicians to designers, high-level manufacturing in the UK needs creative, forward-thinking and highly skilled people. As well as developing knowledge and skills across a wide range of topics, Product Design naturally develops transferable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and communication.

Product Design investigates the act of creating solutions to problems. Often this is a multi-disciplinary pursuit, as designers rarely work in one single material. Creating these products is exciting, inventive and fun. Mathematics, science and art complement product design and provide a valuable opportunity for anyone seeking a creative, technical and design-focused career.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Maths skills are fundamental to design and technology and will be assessed within the examination for this qualification. Students must have a sound working knowledge of ICT, as the future of manufacturing is increasingly computer-based. An interest in design from the past and present, and an enthusiasm for sketching, modelling and making, is key to getting the most out of this course.

Features of the course:

You will learn through practical work and theory lessons. You will have the opportunity to work independently and as a member of a group. Year 12 comprises a mix of theory lessons, important for developing exam practice, and practical work—completing several skills projects which develop 3D CAD and new material techniques. In Year 13, students complete a major project which is submitted at the end of the year on a topic of their choice. In the exam, students will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials, including modern and smart materials, and processes used in product design and manufacture. They will also need to develop an understanding of contemporary industrial and commercial practices applied to designing and manufacturing products.

Expectations of Independent Study

- Familiarise yourself with Autodesk Fusion 360 software.
- Read a design periodical (more information can be found in the DT department).
- Develop an understanding of design from the last 100 years, designers and classic products. Inside Designs (available in the school library) is a great start.
- Keep a sketchbook of design ideas and product investigations.
- Read the online AQA handbook.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

The course will enable students to progress to a degree or apprenticeship in a range of engineering disciplines, including Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic and Civil Engineering, provided they have also studied Maths and Physics at A Level. Examples of careers include:

- Furniture designer
- Industrial designer
- Product designer
- Automotive designer
- Graphic designer
- Materials engineer
- Design engineer
- Aerospace engineer
- Product/Project manager

Drama and Theatre

Head of Department: Dr Issitt

Email: jissitt@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Drama plus an audition/interview

In exceptional circumstances, students who have not studied the subject at GCSE may still be considered for this course. Any requests should be made to the Head of Sixth Form and will be considered on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Why Study Drama and Theatre?

Students of Drama and Theatre develop skills that are applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This specification refines students' individual and collaborative skills, their analytical thinking, their approach to research and ability to solve problems, meet deadlines and work independently. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision-making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-Level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps in life.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students need to demonstrate that they have an interest in drama and the theatre, and have creative ideas in performance. You need to be able to read widely and be able to reflect on the impact of theatre in different contexts. There will be opportunities for theatre visits, and possibly other workshop practices, for which there would be additional costs.

Features of the course:

This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding of the subject. Students learn through

experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise original theatre, and work on their individual and group performances. They explore two set texts, practically and theoretically, both of which are examined in the written paper. Students work as a group, to produce devised and scripted performances. Students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

Topics for Study

- Drama and theatre
- Creating original drama
- Making theatre
- Performance skills and theories

Expectations of Independent Study

Students are expected to engage with all aspects of theatre namely performance, and rehearsal. This requires research, wider reading, note taking and watching digital recordings of live theatre in their own time. Expectations are very high in the department due to the amount of teaching and independent learning involved.

There are wide ranging online resources available to each student which can be accessed at home. These resources help to develop their evaluative and analytical skills. A level students will often choose to use the drama studio prior to the practical examination, spending their time developing and refining their

Assessment Overview

- 1 x 2 ½ hour written examination (40%)
- 1 x Creating original drama practical, group assessment including portfolio (40%)
- 1 x Text in performance, individual or group performance and reflective report (20%)

Practical Endorsement:

Assessment of practical competencies reported

performance skills in a production company .

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Studying Drama helps you develop as an individual, with a group and also creatively. You will explore and apply your knowledge of the process of creating and developing drama and theatre and also learn performance skills. Drama can develop your confidence, communication and teamwork skills and your ability to plan and deliver an event. The skills you gain from studying Drama can lead to careers such as performing arts, media, business, law, advertising, sales, hospitality and tourism. Potential careers include:

- Actor
- Broadcast presenter
- Runner, broadcasting/film/video
- Theatre director
- Music producer
- Secondary school teacher
- Special effects technician

Economics

Head of Department:	Mrs Judge
Email:	kjudge@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board:	Edexcel
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 GCSE English Language or English Literature

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%)

Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%)

Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%)

Why Study Economics?

Economics is about choice in the face of limited resources and the costs of those choices for individuals, businesses, governments and the world. Studying Economics will help you develop valuable and sought after skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation, problem-solving, logical reasoning and essay writing. You will also develop commercial awareness. Due to the transferable skills that you will develop a range of higher education courses would be open to you including degrees in Economics, Business, International Relations, Law and Journalism.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It does not matter if you have not studied Economics before. You might have an interest in economics and business. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news; Why do some economies grow and others do not? Why did economists not predict the global financial crisis? What impact does the economy have on the business world? What is globalisation? This course will help you to understand all this and more.

Features of the course:

Markets, consumers and firms - in this theme, students explore the way in which consumers make choices and entrepreneurs create desirable products.

The wider economic environment - This theme explores how businesses

can become more competitive. It introduces students to the wider international and economic environment in which businesses operate.

The global economy - This theme builds on the content of theme 2 and continues its focus on the international economic and business environment. Issues such as globalisation and the impact of emerging economies are studied.

Making markets work - This theme considers degrees of competition within markets and then encourages students to apply their understanding to how governments may improve the functioning of markets and the economy.

Expectations of Independent Study

Students are expected to carry out a minimum of 5 hours of additional study per week for Economics. The expectation is that you would consolidate learning done in class by strengthening understanding of key terms to ensure a solid grasp of the fundamentals of the subject. Reading the textbook on the current and upcoming topics in class and making additional notes will allow students to be more actively involved during in-class discussions. Students are also expected to keep up to date with current affairs, by engaging with the news on a daily basis and being aware of changes to key economic indicators. Listening to business news on the radio and podcasts and downloading or subscribing to apps such as The Financial Times or The Economist is very much advised.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Economics students have many opportunities. Some go straight into apprenticeships and jobs, particularly in the banking and finance sector, but an A Level in Economics can also lead to a range of occupations. From HR to marketing students need an understanding of the economy. Students often go on to university to study Economics and many related degrees. Careers that may follow from this include:

- Chartered Accountant
- Data Analyst
- Economist
- Project management
- Civil servant
- Work in international development
- Work with charities

English Language

Head of Department: Mrs Cooke
Email: scooke@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: OCR
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Why study English Language?

Have a look at the questions below. If you answer 'yes' to all or most, then this may be the subject for you:

- Are you interested in how language is never the same, but always changing?
- Are you curious about how language links to gender, technology and power?
- Are you keen to discover how children learn language so quickly?
- Do you ever wonder why – or if – accent and dialect matter?

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This subject is a world away from GCSE English Language! Students, however, still need to have a good understanding of the work covered at GCSE. They should have an interest in how language is constructed and a desire to learn more. As the subject is very current, an interest in how language operates in the world is essential and students who supplement their studies with wider reading are at a strong advantage.

Features of the course:

Expect your linguistic journey to be both varied and challenging. The course explores the English language from all angles, from delving inside the grammar to see how it works, to ranging through the modern, technical, historical and traditional world to explore its multiple influences. Along the way you will learn about areas such as:

- The impact of technology on language (text speak or e.g. why our

spelling system looks the way it does)

- The way accent and dialect are used and perceived ('gan yam, anyone?')
- How different genders use language, and how those in power use it to control
- About issues which are current both in the popular press and linguistic forums (did you know that apparently teenagers write school essays in 'text speak'? No, neither did we, but the press think they do!)
- Finally, you will complete an independent study (coursework), investigating an area of language study that interests you. This can be anything you have touched on through the course.

Topics for Study

- Language under the microscope
- Topical language issues
- Spoken language
- Child's language acquisition
- The Language of power, gender and technology
- Language change
- Independent study and academic poster

Expectations of Independent Study

- Minimum of 5 hours focused work on the subject: if homework set does not fill this time, then students should complete their own further study.
- Writing up notes from lesson discussions, going over lesson annotations and notes, reviewing the week's learning.
- Taking topics mentioned in lessons and researching further, creating research threads and lists of useful

Assessment Overview

Paper 1 – Exploring Language - 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%

Paper 2 – Dimensions of Linguistic Variations - 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%

Independent Language

Research – 20%

“English Language is a subject that seems very relevant and lessons are fast paced and interesting”

websites.

- Bringing findings from independent study to lessons for discussion

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

University English Language and Linguistics departments are vibrant and forward-thinking places and a degree course in English Language, with or without an associated discipline, is to be recommended. For most degree courses, universities welcome the study skills that English Language A Level promotes, such as independent research, data manipulation, evaluative writing and accurate, fluent prose. English Language is a qualification valued in any job that involves communication, writing and/or literary knowledge. Such as marketing, journalism, law or business. However, your English skills are valued in scientific, engineering, technological and mathematical careers too. This is because writing proposals, academic papers, articles and communicating with others is vital in these fields to promote the work undertaken and gain funding for projects.

English Literature

Head of Department:	Mrs Cooke
Email:	scooke@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board:	Edexcel
Entry requirements:	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Why study English Literature?

Studying English Literature pushes you to ask the big questions about the world and challenges you to think for yourself. It is an enjoyable and thought-provoking subject for students who enjoy reading, talking and writing about a variety of texts, ranging from some of the earliest writers in the English canon, to contemporary texts written in the last few years. Teachers choose to teach poems, plays and novels that they are passionate about and there is also the opportunity for students to choose their own texts for independent study. The course will appeal to those who enjoy expressing their own opinions and developing independent ideas.

As well as for students who are already committed to the study of English at university, it is also an ideal choice for pupils who want to keep their options open for further study, being widely recognised as an academic and highly respected subject. Our A Level English Literature students in the last few years have gone on to further study in: English Literature, Law, History, Music, Medicine, Animation, Agricultural Studies, Art, Linguistics, Philosophy, French and more besides. We have a very successful Oxbridge programme, with seven successful applications in the last few years.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students need to have a good understanding of the work covered at GCSE level in English literature. They should have an interest in analysing literature from a range of genres. Wider reading is essential for success on this course.

Features of the course:

Lessons tend to be largely discussion based, as this is a subject that thrives on lively debate and a willingness to defend and challenge ideas. Outside of lessons, work tends to focus on independent reading and essay writing. The English department organises frequent theatre trips to complement the works being studied.

The ability to read critically and discerningly, to produce accurate, persuasive writing and to have confidence in one's own judgements are clearly invaluable skills.

Text choices change depending on the make-up of the classes, the combined interests of the two teachers delivering the course and what we can see on stage can often determine our drama choice. Our current Year 12 are studying: Waiting for Godot and Hamlet; Frankenstein and Never Let me Go; Atonement and Hard Times; twenty-first century poetry and Romantic poetry.

Topics for Study

- **Component 1:** Drama (30%)
- **Component 2:** Prose (20%)
- **Component 3:** Poetry (30%)
- **Component 4:** Coursework (20%)

Assessment Overview

- 1 x 2 hour 15 minutes open book examination (30%)
- 1 x 1 hour 15 minutes open book examination (20%)
- 1 x 2 hour 15 minutes open book examination (30%)
- 1 x 2500 - 3000 words coursework (20%)

Expectations of Independent Study

- Wider reading – texts by the same author, or in the same genre
- Wider reading - critical responses. We subscribe to Emag which is an online resource aimed at A Level students and a good starting point.
- Wider reading for coursework (NEA). You are given guidance here if needed.
- Researching the literary, social and historical contexts of the literature that we cover, developing an understanding of how to apply this knowledge
- Essays set by the teacher

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

English literature is widely regarded as a highly academic subject, facilitating further academic study in a range of arts, humanities and scientific disciplines. The literacy skills you will develop, alongside creative thinking and rigorous analysis are highly valued in journalism, the law, the media, education, publishing and medicine and this list is far from exhaustive. Being able to 'read between the lines' has never been more important than in today's world and an A-Level in English Literature gives you the tools to do just that.

Environmental Science

Head of Department: Mr Douglas
Email: jdouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Biology

Assessment Overview

2 x 3 hour written papers

Why study Environmental Science?

Environmental Science is an incredibly relevant and up to date subject. New legislation means that industry and the public sector are urgently seeking well-qualified individuals with a background in the subject. Now, more than ever, the world needs environmentally knowledgeable scientists, engineers, architects, politicians, economists, business owners and individuals.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The course focuses on the science of the environment. The underlying principles are rooted in scientific theory so a sound grasp of GCSE level science is essential.

Some reading material is supplied in Year 12, but a more independent approach is needed in Year 13 to ensure that students can reach the top grades.

Features of the course:

You will have the opportunity to gain insights and understanding of how geographical and biological components are interrelated. We study a variety of issues, some large scale such as deforestation, pollution and the loss of biodiversity. Others smaller or more local issues such as the conservation effects around the UK and around Penrith.

Environmental Science is a holistic subject with many interconnected systems and processes. A change to one process can affect many other

processes over different spatial and temporal scales. Students will develop an understanding of how human society relies upon natural systems for resources and life support systems. An understanding of these systems will be used to propose changes in society that would produce sustainable lifestyles. You will gain practical data collection skills, and the ability to evaluate information, analyse data, problem solving and apply your understanding to real-world contexts.

Topics for Study

- The living environment
- The physical environment
- Energy resources
- Pollution
- Biological resources
- Sustainability
- Research methods

Expectations of Independent Study

- Five hours per week. Keep up to date with classwork and homework.
- Make revision cards/notes every week throughout the course and review these on a weekly and monthly basis.
- Use the Environmental Science AQA web site to access practice papers.
- Keep up to date with the news.
- Have organised folders and notes.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Environmental Science could help you down a variety of career pathways. Paired with the right subjects you could pursue a career in manufacture and product design, conservation, politics, architecture, town planning, engineering, biological sciences, data analytics, journalism, ocean sciences, biotechnology and many more.

French

Head of Department: Mr J Wilson
Email: jwilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French

Why Study French?

Universities are keen to offer places to applicants with a language at A-Level as it demonstrates that you possess skills and attributes such as problem-solving, adaptability, a global mindset, communicating with different audiences and developing an analytical mind. Graduates with language skills are definitely more employable and earn an average of 8% - 20% more.

You can enhance your career prospects in many fields by having a language capability alongside other specialist subjects. As a tool for communication, a language at A-Level complements a wide range of sciences and humanities.

An A-Level in French will enable you to apply for any ab initio language course at university. It could be your door to Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic or many other exciting or unusual languages.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will study grammar in more depth at A-Level and learn how to express yourself much more fluently with a high level of complexity and accuracy.

Some of the topics at A-Level are an extension to those studied at GCSE. However, whereas GCSE focuses on your personal experiences, the A-Level course encourages the study of topics in the wider context of French society. For example, when at GCSE you might be asked "How do you get on with your siblings?" at A-Level you might discuss "Is there such a thing as a typical French 'family'?"

Features of the course:

We will study technological and social change, and look at diversity and multiculturalism and the benefits and issues they bring. You will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including art, music, architecture and cinema. You will learn about political engagement, how the political landscapes of France were formed and who wields political power in the French-speaking world. You will explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities. Throughout your studies, you will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Topics for Study

Social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, works: literary texts and films.

Expectations of Independent Study

- Have organised folders and notes
- Build a bank of vocabulary, organised by topic
- Revise vocabulary regularly
- A commitment to independent study is expected (five hours per week)
- Students should participate in wider reading (online newspapers, twitter feeds, magazines) and listening (podcasts, radio, videos, TV, films) each week to support their language skills.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing, written examination 2 hours 30 minutes (50%)

Paper 2: Writing, written examination 2 hours (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking, oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time (30%))

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

There are many courses for which an A Level foreign language is a direct qualification for entry, including degree courses in the language itself or in studies relevant to the country. Many degree courses can now be combined with a language either as joint degrees or as part of the course, i.e. History, Geography, Art, Business Studies, European Studies, Politics, Sociology and English.

Modern Foreign Language qualifications are highly valued by admissions tutors and employers as evidence of hard work, intellectual aptitude, intercultural competency and international outlook.

"The fact that studying a language is cross-curricular, is amazing in my opinion, as it gives you a wide knowledge of not only the language, but the culture, history, political landscape and media relations for example"

Further Mathematics

Heads of Department: Mr Conner
Email: sconner@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Why study Further Mathematics?

The Further Maths A-Level qualification is normally studied as a fourth A-Level and is both deeper and broader than A-Level Maths. As well as building on the algebra, trigonometry and calculus introduced in A-Level Maths, the Further Maths core content introduces complex numbers, hyperbolics and matrices; fundamental maths ideas with wide applications in maths, engineering, physical sciences and computing. The non-core content will cover mechanics to a deeper level than studied at A-Level Maths and looks in detail at collisions and strings and springs. The course will also introduce completely new content in the form of Decision Maths, this is a newer branch of Mathematics concerned with the study of objects that can be represented finitely (or countably). It encompasses a wide array of topics that can be used to solve problems that arise in everyday life, it provides an essential foundation for virtually every area of computer science, and its applications are correspondingly vast. The additional work in Pure Maths makes it a good choice for students with strong mathematical skills who are planning to study mathematics, physics or engineering at university, or just for those pupils with a real interest in Mathematics who want to see more of it.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A sound mathematical basis is crucial to be able to follow the course. Therefore, a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is essential and a grade 8 is desirable.

Features of the course:

Students will extend their algebra techniques by looking into topics such as complex numbers, matrices and alternative co-ordinate systems. In addition, students can study further mechanics or try out a very different type of mathematics called decision. Decision mathematics studies a range of algorithms, for example understanding how a satellite navigation system calculates a route using an algorithm.

Topics for Study

Further Pure Mathematics: Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors; polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations, coordinate systems, further numerical methods, inequalities, groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series.

Further Mechanics: Momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs, further kinematics, further dynamics, motion in a circle, statics of rigid bodies, elastic collisions in two dimensions.

Decision Mathematics: Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, algorithms on graphs II, critical path analysis, linear programming, transportation problems, allocation (assignment) problems, flows in networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations, decision analysis.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 3: Further Mechanics, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 4: Decision Mathematics, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Expectations of Independent Study

After every lesson, students will be expected to complete a set of practice questions relating to the work covered. Students should maintain a complete set of notes from the example questions they have been shown in lessons and organise their work from different elements of the course in folders. Students will be expected to complete independent study on top of set homework.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

People who have studied Maths/ Further Maths have an excellent choice of careers, many of which involve very well-paid professions. Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics use many mathematical techniques, and subjects such as Geography, Psychology and Sociology are also likely to have components which will be far more easily mastered by those with prior study of Mathematics.

Further Maths is also highly desirable, if not required, by many top universities for Mathematics, Science and Engineering courses, as well as Computing and Economics.

Geography

Head of Department: Mr Douglas
Email: jdouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: Eduqas
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Why study Geography?

An A-Level in Geography encourages learners to apply geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. In turn, this will enable learners to develop a critical understanding of the world's people, places and environments in the twenty-first century. Learners will develop both knowledge and understanding of contemporary geographical concepts, together with transferable skills that will enable them to progress to higher education and a range of employment opportunities.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE and particularly aims to develop a deeper understanding of, and ability to apply, the concepts of place, space, scale and environment.

Features of the course:

The human element of the course comprises of changing places and global governance. Changing places investigates how different places change over time and the impacts this can have, global governance looks at the impact and management of global issues like migration. The physical side includes changing landscapes, where we study glaciation and how different glacial environments have shaped certain parts of the world. It also includes how this has affected humans and also how humans are affecting

it. Global systems investigates key physical cycles such the water cycle. As well as this, we study plate tectonics and the associated hazards. There are 4 compulsory days of fieldwork in which we do a range of human and physical data collection to prepare students for their coursework and consolidate work done in lessons.

Topics for Study

- Component 1: Changing landscapes and changing places
- Component 2: Global systems and global governance
- Component 3: Contemporary themes in geography
- Component 4: Independent investigation

Expectations of Independent Study

- Review work from lesson and check notes are accurate and up to date.
- Watch the news and or read a news paper on a weekly basis and keep a diary of any relevant reports. A lot of elements taught in geography will appear in the news and it is important that you are up to date with what is going on. For example changes to the UK's immigration policy and Natural Hazard.
- Engage with wider reading in particular the geography review and recently published books like 'Prisoners of geography'.
- Take the initiative to complete your own practice questions, the exam board website has all the past papers and mark schemes on it.
- Complete independent study tasks set by your teacher and submit them on time.

Assessment Overview

- 1 x 1 hour 45 minutes examination (component 1 – 20.5%)
- 1 x 2 hour examination (component 2 – 27.5%)
- 1 x 2 hour 15 examination (component 3 – 32%)
- 1 x independent investigation of 3000-4000 words (20%)

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

"There is a growing recognition amongst both governments and the private sector that an understanding of location and place is a vital component of effective decision making", United Nations. The wide range of skills and knowledge obtained in the A Level course provides a good foundation to go on to a Geography degree but it is also a good base for other degrees such as International Development and Earth Sciences. You can go places with Geography!

Career pathways include:

- Accountancy
- Audit Associate
- Business Management
- Disaster Response Management
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) consultant
- Engineering
- Environmental monitoring/planning
- Journalism
- Law
- Meteorology
- Oceanography
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Policy Advisor on Climate Change
- Tourism Travel Advisor
- Town Planning
- Weather Producer/Presenter.

Geology

Head of Department:	Mr Douglas
Email:	jdouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board:	Eduqas
Entry requirements:	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 6 in GCSE Science

Why study Geology?

Geology can be considered as a leisure interest subject. It helps us to appreciate and understand our natural environment, both locally and further afield. Cumbria is a particularly good place in which to study geology with its varied landscape, wide range of formations and its long history of mining. Many students develop a keen interest in collecting minerals and fossils, which they continue after leaving school. Career opportunities are also extremely wide ranging.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There is no charge for the local fieldwork that is a compulsory part of the course, other than basic travel costs. Any equipment needed is supplied by the department but students may wish to buy their own hand lenses and field notebooks. There may be opportunities for optional visits that are further afield for which there would be additional costs.

Features of the course:

Geology involves the scientific study of the Earth. We examine in detail the materials that occur at the surface, the minerals and the various types of rocks and deposits. We look at how these materials are produced, changed and recycled, and how the processes involved change the landscape. There are in-depth studies of "big" topics - earthquakes, mountain-building, volcanic activity, ocean and continent formation - and we learn how these are related to huge changes in the earth's interior.

Emphasis is placed on applied geology. All nations depend upon a supply of essential resources: energy resources like coal, oil and gas; metals such as iron, copper, lead and zinc; construction materials such as limestone, sand and gravel, clay and roadstones; and an adequate supply of fresh water. Geologists are involved in finding and developing these vital materials. A consequence of human consumption of raw material is inevitably waste disposal - again needing geological expertise. Fieldwork is an essential part of the course and in the summer/autumn terms, four days of local field trips (Lake District, Eden Valley and Pennines) are arranged. In addition, there are afternoon excursions, which can be used to complete coursework requirements and occasional visits to local extractive industries such as the mine at British Gypsum.

Topics for Study

- **Component 1:** Geological investigations (35%)
- **Component 2:** Geological principles and processes (30%)
- **Component 3:** Geological applications (35%)
- **Practical Endorsement:** Assessment of practical competencies reported separately

Expectations of Independent Study

- Students are expected to undertake 5 hours of extra work a week outside of lessons, and to keep up to date with work.
- Go over lessons picking out key terminology and ensure you know how to spell and use these words. Make a geology 'dictionary' with all

Assessment Overview

- **Component 1:** 2 hour 15 minutes examination
- **Component 2:** 1 hour 45 minutes examination
- **Component 3:** 2 hour examination
- **Practical Endorsement:** Non-examined assessment (25%)

- your key words and their definitions
- Look around you, look at the rocks making up buildings, pavements, walls and when you're out in the countryside look at cliffs and any exposed rocks. Pay attention to the geology and try and work out what is going on as much as possible
 - Make revision materials at the end of each unit and keep these in a geology folder. Revisions materials you might produce include flow charts and spider diagrams, annotated drawings of for example fossils, revision cards or Venn diagrams.
 - Practice past paper questions. Go through the mark scheme and pay attention to where you did well and where you lost marks. Repeat these questions after a few weeks to see if you have retained the information. There are always papers available in the geology lab.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Geology is a subject for people passionate about the planet we share. A geology degree sets you up for a career within the energy, environmental or engineering sectors

- Engineering geologist
- Environmental consultant
- Geotechnical engineer
- Geophysicist
- Hydrographic surveyor
- Hydrogeologist

German

Head of Department: Mr J Wilson
Email: jwilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE German

Why study German?

Universities are keen to offer places to applicants with a language at A-Level as it demonstrates that you possess skills and attributes such as problem-solving, adaptability, a global mindset, communicating with different audiences and developing an analytical mind. Graduates with language skills are definitely more employable and earn an average of 8% - 20% more.

You can enhance your career prospects in many fields by having a language capability alongside other specialist subjects. As a tool for communication, a language at A-Level complements a wide range of sciences and humanities.

An A-Level in German will enable you to apply for any language course at university. It could be your door to Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic or many other exciting or unusual languages.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will study grammar in more depth at A-Level and learn how to express yourself much more fluently with a high level of complexity and accuracy.

Some of the topics at A-Level are an extension to those studied at GCSE. However whereas GCSE focuses on your personal experiences, the A-Level course encourages the study of topics in the wider context of German-speaking society. For example, when at GCSE you might be asked, "What did you do last Christmas?" at A-Level you might discuss, "Why are festivals like Christmas important in Germany?" .

Features of the course:

We will study social change, diversity, multiculturalism and the benefits and issues they bring. You will study highlights of German-speaking artistic culture, including art, music, architecture and cinema. You will learn about political engagement, how the political landscapes of Germany were formed by events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the role of the EU from the perspective of German speakers.

You will explore the influence of the past on present-day German-speaking communities. Throughout your studies, you will learn the language in the context of German-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Topics for Study

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Works: literary texts and films

Expectations of Independent Study

- Have organised folders and notes
- Build a bank of vocabulary, organised by topic
- Revise vocabulary regularly
- A commitment to independent study is expected (five hours per week)
- Students should participate in wider reading (online newspapers, twitter feeds, magazines) and listening (podcasts, radio, videos, TV, films) each week to support their language skills.

Assessment Overview

- **Paper 1:** Listening, reading and writing, written examination 2 hours 30 minutes (50%)
- **Paper 2:** Writing, written examination 2 hours (20%)
- **Paper 3:** Speaking, oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time (30%))

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

German allows access to a wide range of degree courses and professions. You can study German either as a single subject degree or in combination with another subject such as:

- European Studies
- Business Studies
- Marketing
- Law
- Politics
- History

People who can speak more than one language are in very high demand by employers. The possession of a second language often raises your basic salary considerably, making the study of a modern foreign language very profitable.



History: International Relations

Head of Department: Mr Baines
Email: pbaines@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE History

You can only study one History option

Assessment Overview

- 2 x 2 hour 30 minutes examinations (40% each)
- 1 x historical investigation of up to 4,500 words (20%)

Why study International Relations History?

History can help you learn how to think, process information and understand the origins of modern political and social problems.

Historians have always made a virtue of objective judgements based upon wide reading and an understanding of conflicting sources. We value the ability to write clear, literate, synoptic, analytical prose that represents a balanced assessment of the evidence but which is not frightened of drawing bold conclusions. A history training therefore imparts vital transferable skills that are essential to many jobs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have an interest in this period of history and be prepared to read more widely around the subject. You will need to present written work that shows an ability to justify and explain your thinking.

Features of the course:

British Empire and the Cold War:

The breadth study begins with the British Empire's growth through Africa and India. At the empire's peak, the British ruled over 400 million people and you will consider how so small a nation came to rule over so much territory, and the nature of that rule. To that end, you will study Britain's treatment of indigenous peoples and the role of explorers such as Cecil Rhodes, once celebrated for the founding of Rhodesia (now

Zimbabwe) yet now derided by many as a racist, and the subject of campaigns to have his statues taken down. Later in the course, you will study the decline of empire and how Britain had to adapt to life as a lesser power.

The Cold War depth study examines how the relationship between the USA and Soviet Union deteriorated to the extent that global nuclear war loomed large over the second half of the Twentieth Century. The course takes in the role of key personalities from Khrushchev and Kennedy to Stalin, Churchill and Chairman Mao, and covers flash points such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Berlin Crisis and wars in Korea and Vietnam. The course ends with the resumption of hostilities in the early 1980s, the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Topics for Study

- A breadth study - The British Empire, 1857-1967
- A depth study – The Cold War, 1945-1991
- A Historical Investigation

Expectations of Independent Study

In History, it is essential for you to complete independent study to perform at your highest ability. Without independent study, your knowledge recall, overall understanding and skills can suffer. Examples include:

- Watching documentaries to further your knowledge
- Wider reading around the subject
- Research projects into key events and individuals

- Creating revision guides, quizzes, podcasts or videos for use in the run up to examinations
- Redrafting previous essays and writing additional essays to those set

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

You can pursue further study, at college or University in pretty much every subject you want, from history to law and many more besides. Nearly every job is open to you, and popular choices include:

- Academic historian
- Archivist
- Conservator
- Historian
- Genealogist
- Librarian
- Museum curator
- Political analyst
- Solicitor
- Teacher or lecturer
- Writer or journalist

History: Modern

Head of Department: Mr Baines
Email: pbaines@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE History

You can only study one History option

Assessment Overview

- 2 x 2 hour 30 minutes examinations (40% each)
- 1 x historical investigation of up to 4,500 words (20%)

Why study Modern History?

History can help you learn how to think, process information and understand the origins of modern political and social problems.

Historians have always made a virtue of objective judgements based upon wide reading and an understanding of conflicting sources. We value the ability to write clear, literate, synoptic, analytical prose that represents a balanced assessment of the evidence but which is not frightened of drawing bold conclusions. A history training therefore imparts vital transferable skills that are essential to many jobs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have an interest in this period of history and be prepared to read more widely around the subject. You will need to present written work that shows an ability to justify and explain your thinking.

Features of the course:

Tsarist and Communist Russia, and Modern Britain

The breadth study focuses on Russia, a country that experienced wars, revolution and some of the most interesting and controversial individuals in the whole of history. The course examines the causes, extent and impact of political, economic, social and cultural change across this transformative period. It begins by investigating attempts to preserve the Tsarist autocracy of the late nineteenth century. It goes on to examine the political developments of

1917 before investigating the Bolshevik takeover and establishment of a communist dictatorship under Lenin and later Stalin. Finally, the course considers Khrushchev and the significance of his attempts to reform communism.

The depth study on the making of modern Britain will allow students to study the key social, economic, political and international changes that have helped to create the Britain we live in today. The course takes in major events such as 9/11 and the so-called war on terror, the Falklands War and Suez Crisis of 1956, whilst exploring concepts such as social division, cultural change and effective government, challenging students to reflect on Britain's place in the modern world. Students will be encouraged to assess historical questions such as the long-term impact of the Second World War on life in Britain, the extent to which the sixties really did swing, whether Mrs Thatcher really 'changed everything' in Britain as she declared and whether Britain had become 'cool Britannia' and a multi-cultural society by 2007.

Topics for Study

- A breadth study - Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855 - 1964
- A depth study - The Making of Modern Britain 1951 - 2007
- A historical investigation

Expectations of Independent Study

In History, it is essential for you to complete independent study to perform at your highest ability.

Without independent study, your knowledge recall, overall understanding and skills can suffer. Examples include:

- Watching documentaries to further your knowledge
- Wider reading around the subject
- Research projects into key events and individuals
- Creating revision guides, quizzes, podcasts or videos for use in the run up to examinations
- Redrafting previous essays and writing additional essays to those set

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

You can pursue further study, at college or University in pretty much every subject you want, from history to law and many more besides. Nearly every job is open to you, and popular choices include:

- Academic historian
- Archivist
- Conservator
- Historian
- Genealogist
- Librarian
- Museum curator
- Political analyst
- Solicitor
- Teacher or lecturer
- Writer or journalist

"The teachers are always willing to help. The subject is very interesting and is knowledge heavy, but if you keep up with the study, it all starts to link together"

Mathematics

Heads of Department: Mr Conner
Email: sconner@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: Edexcel
Entry requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Assessment Overview

- **Paper 1:** Pure Mathematics, 2 hour examination (33.33%)
- **Paper 2:** Pure Mathematics, 2 hour examination (33.33%)
- **Paper 3:** Statistics and Mechanics, 2 hour examination (33.33%)

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the most useful and versatile subjects you can study in the Sixth Form.

If you enjoy the intellectual challenge that mathematics offers and the great satisfaction that is gained from working through difficult mathematical problems, then you have chosen the right subject.

There are very few career routes that do not value A-Level mathematics and many that demand A-Level mathematics.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A sound mathematical basis is crucial to be able to follow the course.

Therefore, a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is essential.

Features of the course:

Over the two years, you study a combination of algebraic techniques in order to solve co-ordinate geometry, trigonometry and sequences problems amongst others. In addition, you will study mechanics and statistics.

Pure mathematics includes proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; numerical methods and vectors.

Mechanics studies things that move and what causes them to move, and things that do not move and the forces within them. The topics include:

quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws and moments.

Statistics allow you to analyse data using increasingly sophisticated techniques. The topics include: statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.

Topics for Study

- Pure Mathematics
- Statistics
- Mechanics

Expectations of Independent Study

After every lesson, students will be expected to complete a set of practice questions relating to the work covered. Students should maintain a complete set of notes from the example questions they have been shown in lessons and organise their work from different elements of the course in folders. Students will be expected to complete independent study on top of set homework.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics use many mathematical techniques, and subjects such as Geography, Psychology and Sociology are also likely to have components which will be far more easily mastered by those with prior study of Mathematics. If you have aspirations to pursue a career in medicine, engineering, finance, statistics or the experimental sciences, then maths would provide the foundation to do so.

Music

Head of Department: Miss Wilkinson
Email: nwilkinson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: Eduqas
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Music. *You must be able to read music and perform to Grade 6 ABRSM or equivalent.*

In exceptional circumstances, students who have not studied the subject at GCSE may still be considered for this course. Any requests should be made to the Head of Sixth Form and will be considered on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Why study Music?

The course is excellent preparation for higher education courses in music, but is equally valuable for non-specialists as a second or third area of study.

The A-Level qualification can lead to a wide range of careers in performance, composition, primary and secondary teaching, music therapy, publishing, promotion and marketing, journalism and many other areas.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have a good understanding of the content of the GCSE music course and demonstrate a practical ability in a musical instrument or voice at Grade 6. You must be able to read music and have an interest in a wide range of music.

Features of the course:

Eduqas A Level Music is an exciting and enriching course. As with GCSE, students will experience the three key areas of performance, composition and appraising. Once again, 60% of the course is based in controlled assessment, whilst the final 40% is based on a written exam. This will take place in Y13 of the course and is a listening paper based on a mix of set works and unfamiliar listening.

Topics for Study

There are two pathways available to you on this course. This allows you to

focus on the aspect of the course you enjoy the most and are strongest at.

Option A –

35% - Performing
25% - Composing
40% - Appraising

Option B –

25% - Composing
35% - Performing
40% - Appraising

Expectations of Independent Study

- Four hours of independent instrumental practice per week
- 20-30 minutes of wider listening per week
- 60 minutes of composition per week

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Music graduates have a wide range of career options available to them both inside and outside the industry, including: performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter (we think it's one of the greatest jobs out there), conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher. The range of roles can seem quite endless! There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as: careers in digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising. It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs.

Assessment Overview

Option A – Performing Focus

Performing – 35% - 10-12 minutes, with a minimum of **three** pieces. At least **one** piece must be a solo. **Two** pieces must reflect the musical characteristics of **two different** areas of study.

Composing – 25% - 4-6 minutes combined from **two** compositions. One must reflect the musical techniques and conventions of the **Western Classical Tradition**. The second is a **Free Composition**.

Appraising – 40% - Three areas of study including The Western Classical Tradition and a choice of two others. You choose between Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre and Jazz for the second area of study and Into the Twentieth Century and Into the Twenty-First Century for the third.

Option B – Composition Focus

Performing – 25% - 6-8 minutes, with a minimum of **two** pieces. They can be either solo, ensemble, or a combination of both. **One** piece must reflect the musical characteristics of **one** area of study.

Composing – 35% - 8-10 minutes combined from **three** compositions. One must reflect the musical techniques and conventions of the **Western Classical Tradition**. The second must reflect the **characteristics of a different area of study**. The third is a **Free Composition**.

Appraising – 40% - Three areas of study including The Western Classical Tradition and a choice of two others. You choose between Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre and Jazz for the second area of study and Into the Twentieth Century and Into the Twenty-First Century for the third.

Physical Education

Head of Department: Mr Worth
Email: aworth@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: OCR
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE PE
You must be competent in at least one sport assessed on the syllabus

In exceptional circumstances, students who have not studied the subject at GCSE may still be considered for this course. Any requests should be made to the Head of Sixth Form and will be considered on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Head of Department.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 2 hour examination (30%)

Paper 2: 1 hour examination (20%)

Paper 3: 1 hour examination (20%)

Non-exam assessment (30%)

Why study Physical Education?

Physical education encourages students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform or coach a sport (through the non-exam assessment component), and delve into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when you move on to higher education, employment or further training.

Students can develop a range of practical skills, including communication using appropriate language, dealing with pressure, split second decision-making, analysing and evaluating performance, and more.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to do at least one sport which is assessed on the syllabus. The sports you can do are too numerous to list here, please ask a member of PE staff. In exceptional circumstances, you do not have to have studied GCSE PE but you need to show a very positive attitude towards sport. It is preferred that you have some evidence of grade 6 in a number of GCSEs.

Features of the course:

You will study:

Physiological factors affecting performance: applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition and sports psychology.

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport: sport and society and contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

Performance in physical education: performance or coaching and evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement.

Expectations of Independent Study

Expectations are very high in the department due to amount of theoretical teaching and independent learning involved. Students will have 4 theory lessons per week. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 4 hours independent work in each section per week. Homework's will also be set in each separate section. In addition students are expected to be training and playing their chosen practical activity regularly.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

There are several professional career paths available from this A Level. Many students have gone on to study the more recognised career paths such as Sport Psychology, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. The course will enable students to make an entry into a sports and leisure environment, including sports leadership, leisure centre management. A Level Physics, Chemistry and Biology go well with PE and will be particularly useful when applying for jobs and university courses like Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Human Biological Sciences, Sport Psychology, Leisure Management and PE Teaching.

“A Level Physical Education is my favourite A Level that I study as it offers such a wide range of content, lessons vary from the history of the sport to psychological theories to physiological areas of performance.”

Physics

Head of Department: Mr St. John
Email: sstjohn@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6, 6, 7 combination from any two sciences and Maths (including Physics)

Why study Physics?

Physics is the most fundamental of all the sciences and is essentially, “the science of matter and energy and the interactions between the two”. Many physicists today are interested in either the science of the very small, such as investigating theories of fundamental particles called quarks and how matter is built from them, or the very large, developing theories on the formation and expansion of the universe.

The subject underpins all types of engineering and provides an excellent background for scientific careers at all levels. The employment prospects for those with qualifications in physics are generally good. Physics provides a route into many careers and opportunities exist throughout the world. The general skills of analysis and problem-solving that physicists develop are highly valued in many different fields of employment.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The mathematical content is modest in the first year of the course but becomes much more substantial in the second year. Suitable candidates would ideally have a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Mathematics.

Features of the course:

Each of the two years consists of four theory units, but practical work is woven into the course. During the two years, there are a dozen compulsory

practical activities that may be assessed in the written examinations. In addition to this, there is an entirely separate practical endorsement, based on demonstration of core practical competencies. Throughout the two-year course, there is a healthy emphasis on practical work. Students are taught how to make measurements of a range of quantities including length, current, potential difference and temperature. They will develop an awareness of the nature of measurement errors and of their numerical treatment.

Topics for Study

Core content: Measurements and their errors; particles and radiation; waves; mechanics and materials; electricity; further mechanics and thermal physics; fields and their consequences and nuclear physics.

Option taken at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School: Medical physics

Expectations of Independent Study

Students will be expected to complete a number of weekly homework tasks and make revision notes each week of the work covered in class. They will also need to revise for scheduled tests on the school timetable. We also expect students to adopt a curiosity for the subject and, in line with this, to take a wider interest in science books, podcasts and videos. Experience has shown that students who engage in this way often achieve above expectations.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: 2 hour examination (34%)

Paper 2: 2 hour examination (34%)

Paper 3: 2 hour examination (32%)

Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

A good pass in A-level Physics is essential for entry into a degree in all high technology courses such as electronics, materials science, astronomy and in all forms of engineering. It is also a requirement for those wishing to pursue a technical career in the Armed Forces and often preferred for studying Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. The knowledge and skills acquired during the A-level course provide a sound background for many different non-scientific careers, such as Computing, Accountancy and other financially orientated careers.

Politics

Head of Department: Mrs Judge
Email: kjudge@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

Assessment Overview

3 x 2-hour examinations containing a mix of medium length 'explain' questions, extract questions and essay style questions.

Why study Politics?

It is important that you understand how the country you live in operates. Studying this course will help you make sense of current affairs and produce academic and analytical essays.

Politics is particularly useful if you are considering employment in law, journalism or the civil service. The awareness and the skills that you develop through a study of politics, however, are relevant to almost every aspect of life.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Politics is an intellectually challenging and rewarding subject. There are significant elements of written work involved in the course. The ability to articulate views and ideas in both a verbal and written context is essential. You must have an interest in politics in both the UK and USA and be prepared to read widely around the subject.

Features of the course:

This course combines three of the most popular units currently offered by exam boards. It combines practical elements such as how government works in the UK and USA, with more theoretical aspects including the study of major political ideologies like conservatism, socialism, liberalism and nationalism.

The course aims to widen students' understanding of the key issues in modern society. It investigates where power lies, how people are represented and the opportunities for

change. This includes for example, debates over devolution, civil liberties, how policy is made, the obstacles facing minorities plus the role of political parties.

There are numerous super-curricular activities to support your study of Politics such as a joint history and Politics trip to London, debating society, Sixth Form discussion group and events like the school mock election.

Topics for Study

- **Unit 1:** Governments and politics of the UK
- **Unit 2:** Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
- **Unit 3:** Political ideas

Expectations of Independent Study

Students will be expected to be critical thinkers who enjoy engaging in debate on the most challenging of questions. Independent study involves a large amount of reading from politics journals to case studies, together with articles and awareness of current affairs. Students will complete research essays that develop wider skills. Students will also watch political debates, and analyse the role of the media on political thinking and outcomes. There is a real focus on the need to engage with the practical reality of government and more abstract theoretical concepts such as equality and human nature.

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

An A-level in Politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, civil service, teaching, and a range of management and business areas. Having A-level Politics presents you as a person who can rationally debate a passionate subject, who understands the needs of the UK, who understands how the country is run and what affects it, who can look at arguments with an empathetic but level-headed view and with great social knowledge. Having A-level Politics can lead you to university degree courses in Politics, Sociology, Ethics, Philosophy, Advertising and Media Studies, International Relations and Journalism amongst others, but you will need other complementary A-levels for your chosen education and career path.

Psychology

Head of Department: Ms Nohavicka
Email: snohavicka@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 5, 6 combination in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or English Literature

Why study Psychology?

Fundamentally Psychology is the study of human behaviour. By studying Psychology you will gain a fascinating scientific insight into how the human mind works and how it affects their behaviours. You will grapple with great questions about the use of offender profiling in criminal investigation, the causes of mental illnesses and how early childhood affects behaviours. You will develop an understanding of classic psychological theories by applying them to real life contexts, as well as carrying out psychological investigations and writing reports based upon your findings.

Psychology is a fascinating subject to study if you are interested in the world around you and want to find out more about the behaviour and decisions of individuals and groups. You will also develop a host of transferable life skills and a high level of self-awareness. As a result of the understanding you will develop of how people think, feel and behave, you will find that Psychology A level will help you progress in many professional careers.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to have a real interest in human behaviour and the mind. You need to be interested in researching and debating psychological topics and confident to interpret data. The exam is a mix of multiple choice, short and long essay style questions, so you need to enjoy essay writing!

Features of the course:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Infant attachment
- Psychopathology (including disorders such as OCD, phobias and depression)
- Biopsychology (including the nervous system and functioning within the brain)
- Research Methods
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

Topics for Study

- Topics in Psychology
- Psychology in Context
- Issues and Options in Psychology

Expectations of Independent Study

- Creating revision resources
- Independent wider reading
- Preparing and delivering individual and group presentations
- Practice exam papers
- Pre-learning - reading material prior to lesson

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Psychology is an excellent preparation for Higher Education as it develops the relevant skills necessary for success at this level. Many universities also recognise Psychology as a science in the same way as Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Assessment Overview

3x 2 hour papers:

- **Paper 1:** Topics in Psychology
- **Paper 2:** Psychology in Context
- **Paper 3:** Issues and Options in Psychology

Some careers which follow directly from the study of Psychology are:

- Doctor of Psychology (clinical, educational, forensic and counselling), Marketing
- Advertising
- Human resource management
- Police
- Teaching
- Social work
- Occupational psychology
- Mental health nursing
- Support worker

“Psychology is a fascinating subject where the student gains a greater understanding of their own neural processes and how we become the people we are today. I am fascinated by this subject as it gives me a greater awareness of who I am, and it provides explanations regarding relevant topics such as mental illness”

Religious Studies

Head of Department: Ms Booker
Email: lbooker@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: OCR
Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE RE

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion:
2 hour examination

Paper 2: Religion & Ethics:
2 hour examination

Paper 3: Development in
Religious Thought (Christianity):
2 hour examination

Why study Religious Studies?

In this subject we look at fundamental questions such as: Is there God? Do we have free will? Is there life after death? How do I make moral decisions? Can we prove that there is good and evil in human beings? To help us find answers to these questions we consider what great philosophers of the past have said, examining their arguments and discussing and debating their different views. We learn how to think clearly, argue logically and critically evaluate thoroughly. Over the 2-year course students will study all 3 elements: Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity. By the end of year 13 students will have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the key theories, they will be able to formulate opinions and offer critical explanations. Further from this they will have developed their ability to disagree agreeably, through active debate and discussions. Finally, they will be able to produce detailed essays which include critical analysis and personal opinions.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Any student considering this course should have an inquiring mind, should want to learn how to reason in a disciplined fashion and should want to

discuss their views with others in class.

Features of the course:

Philosophy of religion - In this unit we examine the philosophical issues relating to metaphysics, the study of the nature of reality. Topics include: issues surrounding God's existence, the nature and origin of evil, whether or not our perception gives us an accurate account of how the world really is. We study the thought of great philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant and Hume. Finally, we consider the relationship between the mind and body. Do we have a nonphysical soul or are we simply very complicated robots that can be explained by physical causes alone?

Religion and Ethics – In this unit we examine the difference between right and wrong. We think that it is wrong to kill but how do we know that? We might think that sometimes it is right to lie but what principles can we hold that tell us when we should do so? Is morality something that humans have invented or is it objectively true in the same way that science might thought to be? As part of this unit we study ethical theories that try to provide objective reasons for acting morally.

Developments in Religious thought – In the third section of the course we examine the development of philosophical thinking in the Christian

tradition. Topics include an in-depth study of St Augustine's theory of the Fall and the philosophy behind the ideas of heaven, hell and purgatory.

Conclusion – Philosophy is a subject of great value. It teaches students to think clearly and rationally. On completing the course each student should have a better idea of what we know to be true. Philosophy is helpful in life and has many applications. There are ethical issues underlying everything from genetics to justice. Each person has a philosophy of life, whether they like it or not. In this subject you get a chance to explore what yours might be.

Expectations of Independent Study

Students will be expected to be critical thinkers who enjoy engaging in debate on the most challenging of questions. Independent study involves pre-reading key articles, journal articles or extracts from the textbooks. Students will also watch films to explore a wide variety of philosophical and ethical dilemmas. There is a real focus on the need to engage with the wider questions of life as seen through the news and the media.

Sociology

Head of Department: Ms Nohavicka
Email: snohavicka@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk
Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 6,6 across GCSE English & any Humanities subject

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human society — how society has developed, how it is structured and how it works. You will look at culture and identity, social problems such as crime and poverty and the opportunities and challenges presented by globalisation. Sociology allows you to gain an understanding of the way society works and will involve engage with challenging topics. For example, you will have the opportunity to tackle contentious debates like why the prison population contains more people from ethnic minority backgrounds, why some sections of society have become obsessed with celebrity and the social and economic reasons behind health inequality by region and social class in the UK.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This course is suitable for students who have a strong interest in current affairs and the world around them, who enjoy asking and debating big questions about society and who are ready to challenge their own thinking. You will need to be able to look at an issue from a range of perspectives and evaluate them critically - it is not enough to just have your own view. The exam is a mix of short and long essay style questions. You will be asked to apply sociological theory and research methods to scenarios, so you need to enjoy that kind of task.

Features of the course:

- Education
- Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance with theory and methods
- Optional Modules (TBC)
- Health, poverty and welfare
- Families and Households
- Beliefs in Society
- Development
- Culture and identity

Expectations of Independent Study

- Creating revision resources
- Independent wider reading
- Preparing and delivering individual and group presentations
- Practice exam papers
- Pre-learning - reading material prior to lesson

Assessment Overview

3x 2 hour papers:

- **Paper 1:** Education with Theory and Methods
- **Paper 2:** Topics in Sociology
- **Paper 3:** Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What career pathways are open to me if I study this subject?

Many students go on to study related Social Science courses at university, and a background in Sociology is helpful in careers such as law, civil service, education, criminal justice system and social work. You will develop a strong skillset including written and oral communication, and the ability to analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources is useful in a wide range of professional contexts.

“A Level Sociology studies how people interact in society, and the forces that shape social change. Students learn about sociological theories and methods, and how to apply them to real-world situations



Queen Elizabeth
Grammar School Penrith

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