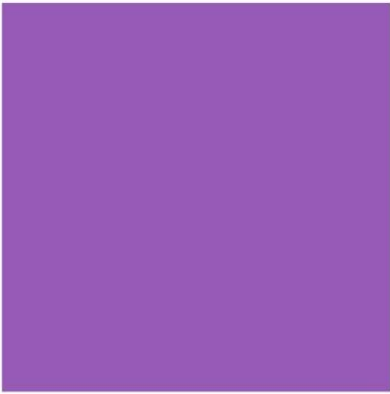


GATEACRE
SCHOOL
SIXTH
FORM



www.gateacre.org/sixth-form 0151 363 1111

PROSPECTUS 2023/24



Why choose Gateacre?

- Top performing school in Liverpool for A Level (DfE VA Performance tables Jan 2018 and Jan 2019)
- Outstanding results in all subjects offered at A Level and Vocational courses.
- 100% of our Year 13 students who applied to university gained a university place of their choice.
- We have a team of specialist subject teachers with long experience of post-16 education.
- We offer a range of enrichment activities to suit a wide variety of interests.

What did Ofsted say? (March 2020)

“Students in the sixth form benefit from high-quality curriculums. As a result, they achieve well in both academic and vocational courses.”

“In the sixth form, curriculum plans are planned and delivered well. As a result, students do well in both their academic and vocational examinations. This includes students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged students.”

“Leaders make sure that students are prepared well to move on to the training and courses they wish to undertake. Most students move on to university courses.”

“Students in the sixth form have high rates of attendance.”

What do our students say?

“There are plenty of activities in the Sixth Form - charity work, quizzes, sport etc.”

“I like the private study lessons. It gives you a chance to keep up with the work.”

“The teachers are really approachable and you know they care about you.”

“We get treated more like adults but still get lots of support, it feels like family”.

Courses Available and Entry Requirements

Level 3 courses: Level 3 courses are at a level of study that is higher than the work undertaken in year 11 and prepare students for entry to university.

The entry requirements for a level 3 programme of study is at least 5 separate subjects at grade 4 including English and Maths. There are two types of qualification at Level 3. If you wish to study A Levels you will be expected to have a grade 5 in the subjects that you choose and some subjects have specific entry requirements. These are outlined in the subject information pages and must be met.

We also have a range of Level 3 BTECs on offer.

It is at the discretion of the school whether a student who has a grade 3 in English or Maths is able to progress to Level 3.

Students will also be expected to have a good record of behaviour and attendance.

NB The courses listed will only run if sufficient numbers of students select them to make them viable.

Level 3 subjects:

Art

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Criminology

Drama

English Language

English Literature

History

ICT

Mathematics

Further Maths

Media Studies

Music

Music Technology

Physics

P.E

Psychology

Sociology

Spanish

Enrichment Activities

All students in the Sixth Form must follow an enrichment course. This comprises of one lesson a week of a non-examination topic. Students have a wide selection of courses which include: Ukelele for Beginners; Film & Media Club, Photography, Cooking, Make your own Soap and candles, Chess Club, Holiday Spanish, Driving Theory, Debate Club and Mindhunters.

We have various trips throughout the year including to different Universities, theatre/ concert trips, Bowling, Blackpool, New York and Berlin.

Students are also encouraged to organise and participate in various fundraising events such as Christmas Lunch for local pensioners, Open Mic/Acoustic nights, Christmas Hampers for the Homeless.

We also offer a range of Leadership opportunities such as Peer mentoring, Reading with Year 7, Lunch time supervision, Student Voice Leaders.



DofE Expeditions



Music Nights



Community Events



Sports Day



Bowling



Work Experience



Charity Fundraising



Volunteering Abroad

Students in year 12 are invited to go on an expedition. In 2018 our expedition was to Swaziland and Mozambique. We are currently planning a trip to Zanzibar in 2024.

These expeditions are designed to develop important life skills, helping students to:

- Hone teamwork and leadership skills
- Gain confidence and self-esteem
- Become more globally aware
- Enhance employment prospects

Being part of an expedition team can become a valuable part of your sixth form experience. *When considering your future Higher Education and employment aspirations, what better than to say your hard work and determination gave you a once in a life time opportunity abroad?*

Every expedition starts long before you step on a plane.
With support, you will take ownership of:

- Destination and itinerary planning.
- Fundraising ideas and events.
- Budgeting and money management.
- Preparation, fitness and nutrition.

On your adventure, you can spend time doing all of the following:

Acclimatisation phase

Challengers kickstart their expedition by diving into the local culture or with a light trek to prepare for their main challenge.

Trekking phase

Challengers get their teeth into trekking at high-altitude, in the jungle or on horseback, choosing the level of difficulty.

Project phase

Often cited as the most rewarding part of the expedition, students work in the local community or on conservation projects.

Rest & relaxation phase

This is a chance for some cultural sightseeing and adventure activities from white water rafting to zip-lining and wildlife safaris.

Our students who visited Malaysia in July 2014 and Cambodia & Thailand in 2016 and Swaziland and Mozambique in 2018. We are currently planning a trip to Zanzibar in 2024.



How to Apply

The following process outlines what you need to do and how we will support you to make the best choice for your future:

- Read the information about the subjects in this prospectus carefully and talk to your teachers about them.
- Think about the subjects you are most interested in. Students are always successful at the subjects they enjoy and can do.
- Talk to your teachers about your ability and your estimated grades. Ability is also essential for success.
- If you already think you know what you want to do at University or a future career find out if there are any subjects you have to study. The UCAS website will help you.
- Attend the Open Evening. This will be an opportunity to speak to Subject Leaders about the courses on offer.
- Application Forms are available on our website. Scan the QR Code below to go directly to the application form.
- If you have a good record of behaviour and attendance, you will be invited to attend a short interview in the Summer Term where you will be given an offer of a place in our Sixth Form, which is conditional on results.
- If you wish to change your options after this time, we will do all we can to support you but after the timetable is written this will only be possible if a class is not full and the subjects you wish to study are not timetabled at the same time.

Once you receive your GCSE results we can confirm your course and subject choices. Enrolment will take place on GCSE results day.

Application Form



Internal candidate



External candidate

Art and Design A-Level

A-Level Art and Design (EDUQAS board)

Over this two year course, pupils are supported on a visual and creative journey, which focuses on the learner's personal progress. Students are encouraged to explore and experiment across a broad range of materials, developing personal ideas along the way. Students opting for A'level art will be expected to have completed GCSE Art and/or GCSE Graphic design.

Art and Design

This creative and exciting course involves pupils experiencing new and developing practical skills. These will include drawing and painting, photography, graphics, mixed media, digital art, and art textiles and ceramics.

The course is a chance to visually explore and promote your own style and skill. You're given creative freedom to approach tasks in a personal way and develop your individual strengths to produce final outcomes. If you have any queries about the course please come and ask the art staff or current art artists, who will be happy to help.

Course Details: The full A-Level qualification is made up of-

Unit 1 60% – Coursework portfolio, 1 very personal project (y12-13).

Plus a written study (1000 – 3000 words).

Unit 2 40% – Controlled Assignment: 15 hr exam, plus prep work.

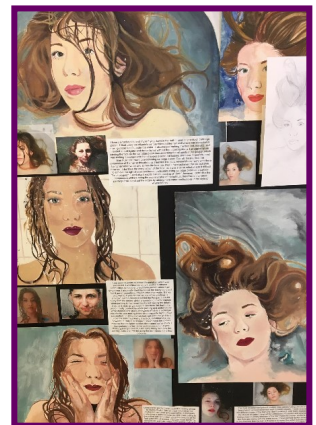
Possible Careers

- Contemporary artist
- Graphic design
- Magazine publisher
- Animation/Illustration/Advertisement
- Fashion and textile design/Promotion/Buyer
- Jewellery/3D design/Stage set design
- Teacher, Architect, Curator, Art historian, Art therapist.

Careers in the creative sector are one of the fastest growing in the UK. The creative industry provides around two million jobs, and employment is growing at double the rate of the economy as a whole. Come and start your artistic path to the future

In the art department we *pride ourselves on the excellent exam results achieved year upon year. We have established a record of success in Art, with 100% A-C results maintained over a several years.*

If you're interested in further information, please speak to any member of staff and/or our A'Level students.



AQA Level 3 Certificate/Extended Certificate in Applied Business

The AQA Level 3 Certificate in Applied Business will give students the opportunity to learn and understand the fundamental business and entrepreneurial knowledge and skills associated with working within a business enterprise.

Students will understand the way in which any venture in business (big or small) is a function of the relationship between its people, its marketing, its finance and its ability to deliver operationally upon its commitments.

Students will undertake a programme of assessment designed to assess not only their business knowledge and understanding, but also the way in which this knowledge and understanding can be applied to shape their practical skill in thinking and realising their own plans about business. For those who wish their learning to be practical and active, making use of their own business imagination, then the Certificate in Applied Business is a highly relevant qualification.

Year 12 culminates in Unit 3 Entrepreneurial Opportunities, which brings together key elements from units 1 and 2 into a practical, synoptic assessment of the learner's readiness for entrepreneurial activity and opportunity. This practical unit can be used as the seed for further study in the Extended Certificate (via the Business proposal unit) or as the basis for the learner's own initial business venture.

Year 13 makes is practical and hands on were students get to apply their knowledge and organise and event and write a business plan. Both these units are assessed through written coursework. The final unit is an exam which focuses on motivation, leadership and management.

A level Business is a practical course and in recent years students have had the opportunity to visit New York to learn about business in other countries. An exciting and practical course, a break down the study programme is below.



UNIT	UNIT TITLE	ASSESSMENT
1	Financial planning and analysis	External examination
2	Business dynamics	Internally centre assessed
3	Entrepreneurial opportunities (synoptic assessment unit)	External examination
4	Managing and leading people	External examination
5	Developing a business proposal	Internally centre assessed
7	Managing an event	Internally centre assessed

What is Criminology?

Criminology is an exciting and innovative **new** subject option here at Gateacre. Throughout the course you will explore different aspects of criminality and the criminal justice system, with a clear emphasis on the impact that crime has upon society. You will study issues such as victimisation, the legal process in the UK as well as gaining a theoretical understanding of crime and deviance, giving you an insight into the reasons *why people turn to crime* and how this has *real-world impacts on individuals and communities*.



What will I study?

In **Unit 1: Changing awareness of crime** you will explore the different types of crime that people commit and the reasons behind those crimes. This unit will seek to dispel some of the myths and stereotypes surrounding crime, giving you a more accurate picture of the complexities surrounding the nature and extent of crime in society today. When it comes to public and social policy, lawmakers and politicians often turn to the academic community to provide them with the evidence and theoretical justification for their solutions to problems in society. **Unit 2: Criminological theories**, will provide insight into the theory of criminality and give you the opportunity to critically examine these explanations by challenging existing beliefs. **Unit 3: Crime scene to courtroom**, will take you on a journey from when a crime is initially detected, through to the verdict in a courtroom. Finally, **Unit 4: Crime scene and punishment**, will explore the societal mechanisms, processes, institutions and agencies that are involved in either preventing crime in the first instance or how society deals with offenders once a crime has occurred.

Assessment

This qualification is a Level 3 Applied Diploma using the WJEC specification. It is the equivalent of an A-level, so for example achieving an A grade in Criminology will give you 48 UCAS tariff points, just like any other A-level. Over the two year course, you will be assessed using internal controlled assessments as well as external exams. Each of the units gives equal weight to your final overall result.



UNIT	TITLE	ASSESSMENT	% OF QUALIFICATION
1	Changing awareness of crime	Controlled	25
2	Criminological theories	Exam	25
3	Crime scene to courtroom	Controlled	25
4	Crime scene and punishment	Exam	25

A Level Drama and Theatre

Why choose this course?

Drama and Theatre can open many doors to many different careers. This is an academic A Level and therefore it has currency for a range of degrees. Universities recognise the value of this subject as it develops skills that can be applied to most areas of study: team work, communication and presentation skills, self motivation and responsibility, time management, analytical skills, confidence and high levels of creativity. There is a strong practical element to the course with options for students interested in art, design, media or music to hone their skills through developing specialisms in costume, set, sound, lighting, etc. Alongside this, the theoretical aspects of the course allow students to develop their analytical skills and written communication. Students who study Drama, therefore, can also often go on to being accepted onto wider ranging degree courses such as Medicine, Law, English and Business.

A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT :



Component 1: Drama and theatre	Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)	Component 3: Making theatre (practical)
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. • Study of two set plays, one chosen from List A, one chosen from List B. • Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. 	<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of creating devised drama. • Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). <p>Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.</p>	<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). • Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 3 hours • Open book • 80 marks • 40% of A-level 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working notebook (40 marks) • Devised performance (20 marks) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) • Reflective report (20 marks) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level
<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays from List A (25 marks). • Section B: one three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays from List B (30 marks). • Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks). 	<p>This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.</p>	<p>This component is marked by AQA.</p>

Further Information:

- It is recommended that candidates who wish to pursue this A Level have a grade 4 or above in GCSE Drama.

- You will be welcomed into a vibrant and busy department with state of the art facilities. We will also use our industry links to organise supportive practical workshops run by a range of professional actors, directors and theatre companies.

- You will be able to attend several theatre visits a year at different locations across the UK.

- You will also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra curricular events such as theatre in education projects, showcases, school productions, external projects and parades, etc.

- You will be taught by teachers who have industry experience and who pride themselves on a 100% A*-B pass rate for all practical performances.



If you have any questions whatsoever, please speak to Mrs. Gash, Head of Drama or email her at e.gash@gateacre.org

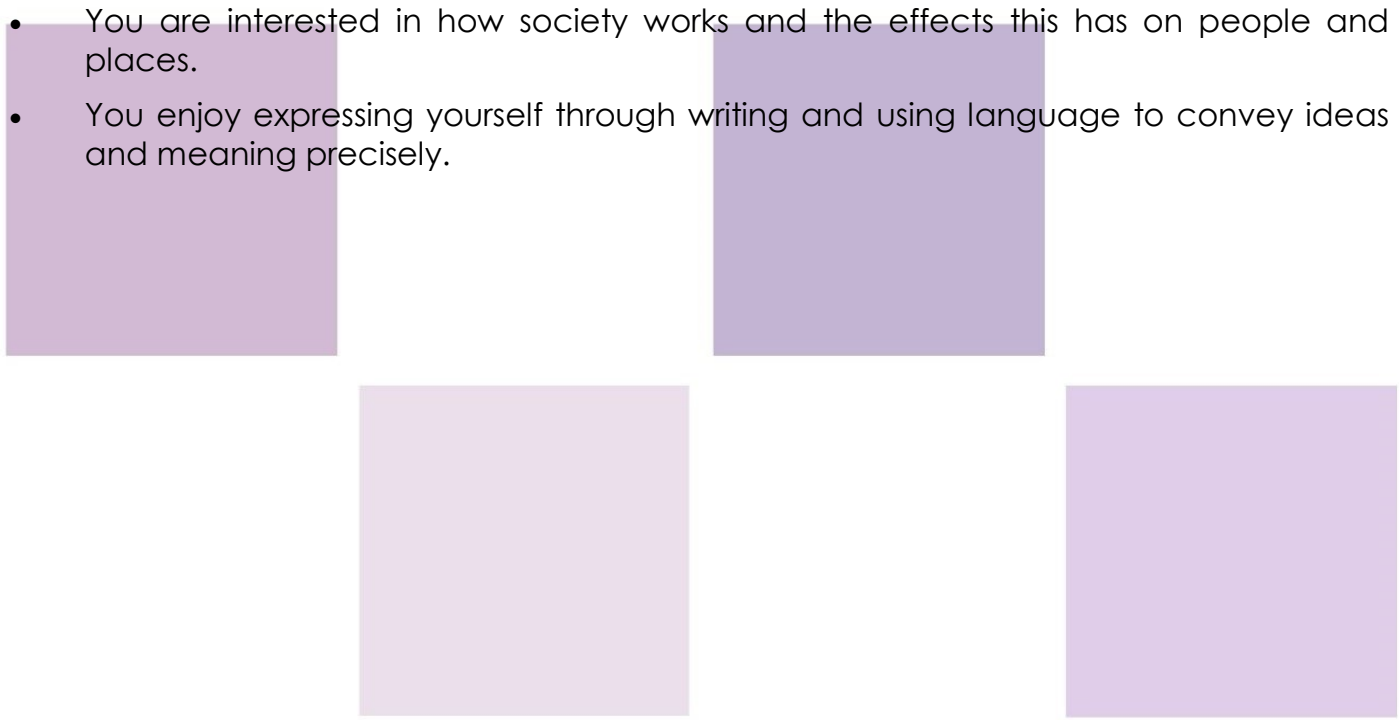
A Level English Language

The English Department offers two courses at A Level: A Level English Language and A Level English Literature. Both qualifications are well respected and desirable for all university Bachelor of Arts courses and develop the following skills:

- Communication skills
- Analytic skills
- The ability to 'read between the lines'
- Use of technical language
- Formal essay writing
- The ability to construct a coherent and convincing argument
- Critical thinking skills – the ability to question the world around us

A qualification in English is an asset to a wide range of professions including: journalism (television and print), publishing, advertising, teaching, Human Resources, law, politics, counselling, management and university administration.

Why choose an A Level English course?

- You enjoy reading and discussing ideas about what you have read.
 - You are interested in analysing how language is used to convey ideas about people, places, society, history and politics.
 - You are interested in how society works and the effects this has on people and places.
 - You enjoy expressing yourself through writing and using language to convey ideas and meaning precisely.
- 
- The page features several decorative purple squares of varying shades and sizes. Two medium-sized squares are positioned behind the third and fourth list items. Below the list, there are three larger squares: one centered under the first two items, and two others positioned to the left and right of the center square.

A Level English Literature

Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature

English Literature is one of the most popular and successful A level subjects at Gateacre. Students study a variety of literary periods and genres and are introduced to the conventions of literary study and critical thinking. The course also focuses on the social, historical and cultural contexts in which literary texts are written and understood. Candidates must have an interest in Literature and enjoy reading. Enthusiasm for writing is also advantageous.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1

Poetry

Written examination – 2 hours - 30% of qualification

Section A - Poetry pre-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list (*The Miller's Tale*, Chaucer)

Section B - Poetry post-1900 (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list (Carol Anne Duffy *Mean Time* & Philip Larkin *The Whitsun Weddings*)

Component 2

Drama

Written examination – 2 hours - 30% of qualification

Section A - Shakespeare (closed book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list (*King Lear*)

Section B - Drama (closed book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list

(Tennessee Williams *A Street Car named Desire* & John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*)

Component 3

Unseen Texts

Written examination – 2 hours - 20% of qualification

Section A - Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study

Section B - Unseen poetry

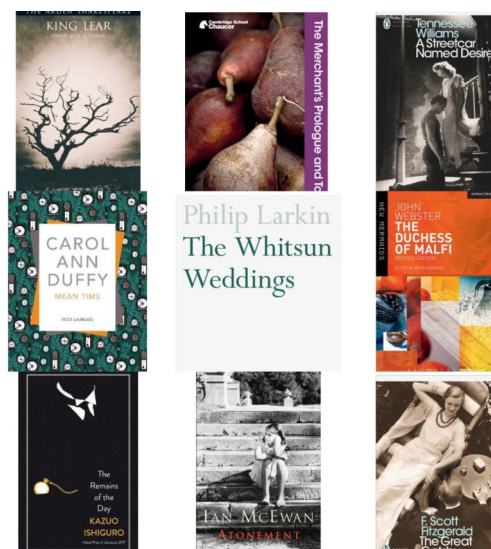
One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract

Component 4

Prose study

Non-exam assessment - 20% of qualification

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 (*Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro) and one post-2000 (*Atonement*, Ian McEwan).



A Level English Language

Entry requirements: GCSE Grade 5 or above in Language or Literature

English Language is one of the most popular and successful A level subjects at Gateacre. It covers many aspects of language including how children learn language, how language is structured, how we recognise varieties of English, how language operates within society and how language changes over time. Pupils are also given the opportunity to practise their own writing for different audiences and purposes, and are expected to conduct their own research and report on it. The 'A' level is accepted by all universities and would be of direct interest to most Arts students. Candidates would be expected to have an interest in language and to have shown enthusiasm for creative writing.

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; 100 marks; 40% of A-level

What's assessed?

Textual variations and representations

Children's language development (0 – 11 years)

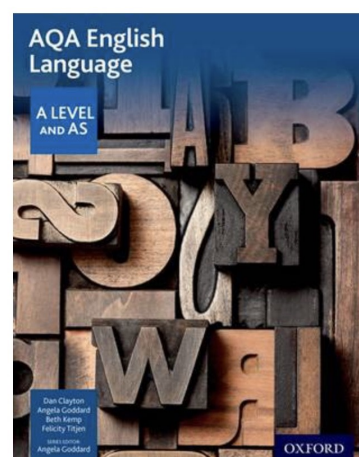
Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Section A – Textual variations and representations

- Two texts (one contemporary and one older text) linked by topic or theme.
- A question requiring analysis of one text
- A question requiring analysis of a second text
- A question requiring comparison of the two texts

Section B – Children's language development

- A discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language.



Paper 2: Language diversity and change

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes; 100 marks; 40% of A-level

What's assessed?

Language diversity and change; language discourses; writing skills (methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities)

Section A – Diversity and change

One question from a choice of two:

either: an evaluative essay on language diversity

or: an evaluative essay on language change

Section B – Language discourses

Two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change.

- question requiring analysis of how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions
- A directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts

Non-exam assessment (coursework): Language in action

Word count: 3,500; 20% of A-level assessed by teachers moderated by AQA

What's assessed?

- Language investigation
- Original writing
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities

Tasks

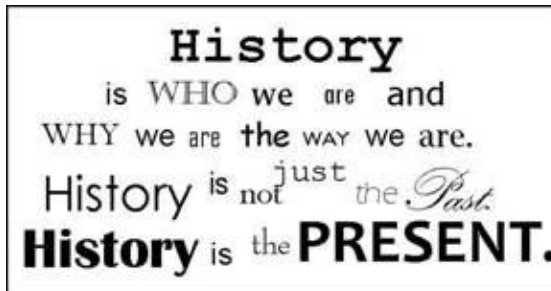
Students produce:

1. A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
2. A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words total)

A Level History

Why choose History?

History gives us a better understanding of the world we live in. It is a subject that helps develop analytical skills, communication skills and research skills. You will develop valuable life skills, such as analysis, evaluation and discussion. History is highly regarded by employers and universities. The History Department at Gateacre School has a proud record of academic achievement.



What topics do students study?

A-level History (AQA)		
Topics	Content	Assessment
Component 1 The Tudors: England, 1485-1603	How did the Tudors secure the throne? Was there a mid-Tudor crisis? Was the Elizabethan age really "golden"? In this unit you will explore one of the most famous periods of history in a completely different way than before. This thematic study looks at how England developed into a world superpower under the famous Tudor monarchs.	Examination at end of course (40%)
Component 2 Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945	Why was the Weimar Republic so unpopular? How did Hitler and the Nazis gain power? How did life change in Nazi Germany? How did the Holocaust happen? This unit is a depth study which looks in detail at life in Germany after the First World War from 1918-1933 (known as the Weimar Republic). Students then study Nazi Germany, 1933-45, for the second half of the unit. This unit looks at the impact of the First World War and how the Nazis were able to come to power and commit some of the most well-known atrocities in history.	Examination at end of course (40%)
Component 3 Historical Enquiry: Russia, 1815-1917	Why did Tsarism collapse in Russia? The Historical Enquiry involves a taught overview of the period before students complete an independent investigation about a key change using source materials.	Non Examined Assessment (NEA) (20%)



**A-level History visit to Berlin
(February 2020)**

What do our students say about A-level History?

With A-level history there is always something that you will find interesting no matter the topic and the teachers are amazing; they'll make sure you understand everything you need to and just make the whole experience better.

Regan, Year 13 student, 2021.

"A Level History is not only interesting, but I have found that the skills I have learnt and improved on has helped me in other subjects and has set me up with skills that are going to be useful for Uni. The topics are definitely interesting, and you will be sure to enjoy History."

Taylor, Year 13 student, 2021.

HOW CAN HISTORY HELP A STUDENTS CAREER?

There are so many careers out there that require the skills that studying history develops. These include: Law; Journalism; Research; Politics; Business, Finance and accountancy; and many more!

Information Technology

What does the qualification cover?

Cambridge Technicals in IT L3 (equivalent to one A-Level)

This course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Information Technology. The increasing importance of Information Technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT

A sound understanding of IT technologies and practices is essential for IT professionals. Information learnt in this unit will create a solid foundation in the fundamentals of hardware, networks, software, the ethical use of computers and how businesses use IT.

Unit 2: Global Information

This unit will provide students with a greater understanding of how organisations use information sources both internally and externally and the types of information they will encounter.

Unit 5: Virtual and Augmented Reality

Virtual Reality is a simulated environment that is intended to replicate the physical experience of being in places in the real or imagined worlds, by giving the user sensory experiences that match those which would be experienced were the user actually in that environment. Augmented Reality is the process of changing the user's view of the real world in order to give them an improved, or more detailed view of what they are seeing. This unit supports the development of skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to a job role in the areas of 3D modelling, digital transformation and even the film and games industry.

Unit 13: Social Media and Digital Marketing

The use of social media has increased massively over recent years and is now a world-wide phenomenon. This unit looks at social media and digital marketing as a concept and offers students the opportunity to explore the possible impacts, both positive and negative, that may be generated by the use of social media as a digital marketing tool.

Unit 17: Internet of Everything (IOE)

This unit is about the use of the Internet and how it is impacting people and society.

All learners are supported by the following:

- After school clubs available Monday – Thursday (before and after school)
- 6 purpose built I.T. classrooms and 2 I.T. pods (all equipped with 30 brand new workstations)
- Brand new I.T. equipment including new computers, VR headsets, several Raspberry Pi computers, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards, digital camcorders / flip-cams, graphics tablets, headsets etc.
- The latest industry standard software including MS Office 365, Serif Suite and Macromedia Software
- Online tracking so students can continually monitor their own progress
- Learners are also supported by a shared user area in school and the latest software such as Office 365 which means students can work from home as well. From here, learners can access their assignments, their ownwork and they can track their progress online.

If you would like an interesting, interactive and engaging choice of topics, then this course is for you.

Further details can be obtained from Mr Bargery in C101. Follow us on twitter: [@GateacreIT](https://twitter.com/GateacreIT)



What is Media Studies?

Media Studies A- Level is the critical examination of media products, e.g. Film, TV and print, and the way in which we interact with them. Many different media industries are studied, such as film, magazine, music videos, computer games, radio and TV texts. Students are also expected to develop and create their own products using the skills and ideas they have acquired.



Why should I take Media Studies?

The Media industries are one of the fastest growing employment sectors in the North West and students have a number of progression opportunities following their Level 3 studies. Students who have completed an A-Level course in media Studies have gone on to a variety of exciting study and employment opportunities, including journalism, film and TV work and developing digital content for online businesses.

What will the course entail?

We offer the EDUQAS revised curriculum. The new examination format is an exciting and rigorous course designed to introduce students to the critical and theoretical understanding of media products from a range of historical and cultural contexts. The course also offers students the opportunity to develop their own creative and practical production skills in the planning, production and presentation of media texts. Photography and graphic design skills are developed across this aspect of the course as students are given a brief to create a film/ games marketing campaign or a selection of magazine pages and they will use Photoshop to create professional standard products.

The A-Level course is a unitised qualification:

Component	TITLE	ASSESSMENT	% OF QUALIFICATION
1	Media, Industries and Audiences	Exam	35
2	Media Products and forms in depth	Exam	35
3	Cross- Media Production	Coursework	30

A Level Music

The A-Level music course may be seen as a continuation of G.C.S.E. Music in that it is based on three key components: **listening/appraising**, **performing** and **composing**.

COMPONENT 1: APPRAISING (listening, analysis and understanding) **40% of total A-Level marks**

An exam paper in three sections (A: Listening, B: Analysis and C: Essay) based on three Areas of Study:

The Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910

Including the Baroque solo concerto, Mozart's operas and the piano music of the Romantic period

Music for Theatre or Media

Including music by Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Jason Robert Brown or Bernard Herrman and Hans Zimmer.

Popular Music

Including Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyonce, Daft Punk and Labrinth

COMPONENT 2: PERFORMANCE **35% of total A-Level marks**

Solo and/or ensemble performance as an instrumentalist or vocalist.

Pieces selected by the candidate. **Free lessons** with a specialist tutor are available to support learning. Performances are recorded and submitted to AQA for external assessment.

A minimum of **ten minutes'** performance is required. This may constitute several short pieces.

COMPONENT 3: COMPOSITION **25% of total A-Level marks**

Candidates submit **two** compositions;

- Composition to a brief set by AQA
- Free composition (in a style of the candidate's choosing)

A minimum of **four and a half minutes' music in total** is required. Compositions are recorded/created using music ICT and submitted to AQA for external assessment.

The department encourages active involvement in all forms of music-making, both individual and communal and students should take advantage of the many and varied opportunities available to develop their practical, aural and technical skills.

As well as studying Music at Higher Education level, Gateacre students have gone on to careers as session musicians, sound engineers, teachers, music therapists and peripatetic tutors. The department is well-connected with regard to the worlds of higher education (Liverpool Hope University, LIPA) and industry (PA company Adlib Audio who have had engineers touring with Bob Dylan and The Kaiser Chiefs amongst many others).

We welcome all enthusiastic, committed and hard-working musicians.



Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering

This vocational **A-LEVEL EQUIVALENT course** is centred on the practical issues of the music industry. The qualification will have at its core Music Technology taught through a practical approach. All students study five Units (one of which is externally assessed) plus a series of four additional units.

EXTERNALLY ASSESSED UNIT:

- Unit 6: Digital Audio Workstation Production



FOUR ADDITIONAL UNITS:

- Unit 1: Live Sound
- Unit 2: Studio Recording Techniques
- Unit 13: Mixing and Mastering Techniques
- Unit 18: Working and Developing as a Production Team



As with all BTEC qualifications, the course is vocational – linked to the real world of work. In this respect, the Music Department boasts **excellent and long-standing industry links**, not least of all with many of our former students who have successfully pursued careers in music as award-winning sound engineers, studio owners, session musicians, song-writers and commercial composers.

The Music Department is well-equipped with its own studio complete with industry-standard hardware, outboard effects and compressors and a full range of microphone types. In addition, students have access to a range of software including the Nuendo, Sibelius and Cubase programs.

Our BTEC students are encouraged to develop their practical skills still further outside curricular time, taking advantage of opportunities to record and mix GCSE and A-Level Music performances and compositions or to set up and assist with the live sound for our many and varied range of musical events such as Christmas and Summer concerts, musicals, Bands Night gigs or A-Level performance evenings.

A Level Mathematics

Why take Maths A level?

Maths is one of the most desirable and challenging A levels. The skills that the course requires and develops in both numeracy and problem solving are always highly desirable by employers both in industry and further educational institutes.

Maths A level is an excellent gateway qualification leading into a range of sectors such as finance, business, ICT, economics, psychology and engineering. It is a mark of academic distinction and highly respected in further education.

In a 2016 study by Nottingham University it was also found that "students that had successfully studied A level Maths received an average of an 11% increase in salary by the time they reached 34. No other A level attracted such a sustained and steady wage premium."

Maths A level continues and develops concepts begun at GCSE and starts to really allow students to appreciate their importance and application in understanding the world around us, offering students the keys to the Universe.

Requirements for the Course

To study A level Maths it is crucial that the student has studied towards the higher paper at GCSE.

It is preferable for the student to have achieved at least a grade 6.

The Course

The A level Maths course covers three main areas:

Pure Maths:

In Year 12 Pure Maths develops a lot of the topics covered in the final stages of the GCSE, but in more depth. We look at a lot of the higher algebra techniques, circles, quadratic graphs and trigonometry in more detail. This allows a more general understanding of why these topics offer so much understanding of the world around us and how they can be applied to problems in a range of contexts. We also begin to look at Calculus (differentiation and integration) and why this has become such a fundamental part of how we understand so much about our world and its inner workings since its discovery by Newton and Leibniz in the 17th century. We also introduce exponentials and logarithms and investigate their application to subjects such as population growth and radioactive decay.

Statistics:

Statistics is the study of data and probability. It is one of the most widely used part of Maths in the real world and understanding its intricacies is an interesting and important skill sought after by employers. We start by again recapping a lot of the work done towards the end of the GCSE and develop more depth to students understanding of topics such as averages, charts & diagrams, bivariate data and probability. We also start to look at statistical modelling and hypothesis testing.

Mechanics:

Mechanics is the study of motion. Why do things move the way they do, and can we predict their movement if we know certain things about them? It is the precursor to Rocket Science! "Rocket Science is just Newtonian mechanics with variable mass." It builds on some of the ideas started in GCSE Maths such as speed distance and time, however it is the newest part of the syllabus. Students always love mechanics as it is the study of the real world. A lot of the ideas and models introduced are common sense once explained and their applications are everywhere around us.

In Year 13 a lot of the topics covered in Year 12 are built upon, developed and linked together. This allows students to broaden their understanding of Mathematics and truly start to appreciate it as a web of concepts, all interwoven and affecting each other in myriad ways and not just a list of separate skills done one after the other.

Exams:

The Edexcel course finished with three two hour exams, two Pure exams and one combined Statistics and Mechanics paper each paper counts for one third of the student's final grade.

If you are genuinely interested in a degree and career in mathematics, engineering or physics, it is worth considering choosing A-level Further Maths. Information about this A-level can be obtained from the maths department.



A Level Further Mathematics

A level Further Mathematics is fun and rewarding. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking. You will be introduced to interesting new areas of pure mathematics such as complex numbers and apply mathematics. In a wider range of contexts, including statistics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

Studying A level further Mathematics is likely to improve your grade in A level Mathematics. The extra time, additional practice, further consolidation and development of techniques contribute to improved results.

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics and especially Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straight forward.

Importantly students taking Further Mathematics find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience.

Students must have obtained at least a grade 8 at GCSE Maths, in order to take this course.





A Level Psychology

What is Psychology? It has been defined as 'The Science of Mind and Behaviour'. It's a fascinating subject that brings together aspects of science and social sciences and it considers questions as diverse as: How do we perceive colours? How do children acquire language? What causes schizophrenia? Is eyewitness testimony unreliable? Why do we dream? Why do people commit crime?



Psychology works toward trying to explain why we do things and how our genes, nervous system and environment enable us to do them.



Why study Psychology? Aside from the insight it gives into human behaviour, Psychology is a subject that can be applied in many different careers and areas of study. The understanding of human and societal interaction is valuable in Business, Computing, Media, Law, Teaching, Nursing, and Medicine.

Many universities offer Psychology courses with a wide range of specialisms such as Sports, Educational, Health, Occupational, Forensic or Criminal Psychology. It's an excellent A-level subject if you are curious about people, methodical and creative in your approach to learning and have good critical thinking skills.

Course requirements: This is a subject we start from scratch so you do not need to have studied it before, however an interest in understanding human behaviour would be an definite advantage. During the course you will need to be able to communicate effectively, and cope with data analysis and scientific thinking. To do the course you therefore must have a **GCSE level 4 in Maths, English and Science.**

A-Level Unit: Foundations in psychology (35% of the total A-Level marks)

You will study:

- Topic 1: Social psychology - how society effects human behaviour
- Topic 2: Cognitive psychology - how the brain functions
- Topic 3: Biological psychology - how our nervous system and genes influence our behaviour
- Topic 4: Learning theories - how we learn and acquire behaviour

Assessment: There will be a two hour exam covering questions on all four topics.

A-Level Unit: Applications of psychology (35% of the total A-Level marks)

You will study:

- Topic 5: Clinical psychology - how different psychologists explain and treat mental health issues. We examine different methods of diagnosis and look in-depth at the causes and treatments of schizophrenia and OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder).
- Topic 6: Criminal psychology – why people commit crime and how offenders are treated. We consider whether people are born criminals or influenced by the environment around them into criminal behaviour.

Assessment: There will be a two hour exam covering questions on both clinical and criminal psychology.

A-Level Unit: Psychology skills (30% of the total A-Level marks)

Topic 9 covers aspects of psychology from all areas on the A-Level. It examines:

- Research methods in psychology
- Different psychological studies
- Issues and debates in psychology; e.g. the 'nature versus nurture debate.'

Assessment: There will be a two hour exam covering questions from all areas of the A-Level course.

A Level Biology

Biology is the science of life and how living things work.

Biology is a useful qualification for many courses and careers including Biomedical engineering, Nursing, Healthcare of people and animals, Optician, Environmental Health Sciences, Biotechnology, Physiologist, Natural Resource Management, Wildlife Biologist, Archaeology, Marine Biology, Forest management, Agricultural Industries, Anthropology, Teacher Training, Ecology, Fish Farming, Crop Management, Nutritionists and many more!



Entry requirements:

Learners will need to have at least a grade 6-6 in **GCSE Combined Science**; a strong footing in GCSE Mathematics is also recommended with a 6 grade being highly recommended.

The course followed will be the new AQA Biology GCE Advanced course which consists of AS studied at Year 12 and A2 in Year13.

Course Details (Nb - page numbers refer to the specification document available on www.AQA.org.uk):

Further details are available from:

- Mr Byrne on p.byrne@gateacre.org

2.1 Subject content

Core content

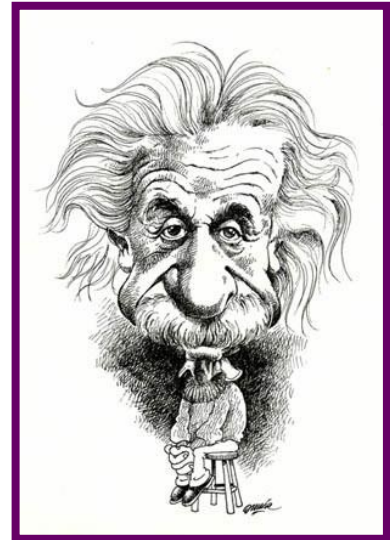
- 1 [Biological molecules](#) (page 11)
- 2 [Cells](#) (page 19)
- 3 [Organisms exchange substances with their environment](#) (page 25)
- 4 [Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms](#) (page 30)
- 5 [Energy transfers in and between organisms](#) (A-level only) (page 36)
- 6 [Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments](#) (A-level only) (page 41)
- 7 [Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems](#) (A-level only) (page 47)
- 8 [The control of gene expression](#) (A-level only) (page 51)

A Level Physics

Learners who have achieved an A-Level Physics at Gateacre in the past have gone on to a range of university courses; including Maths, Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Accountancy, Physics and Computing. Due to the nature of the subject being a course in the understanding of how things work, Physics also supports applications to courses without a direct scientific content.

The course studied is the AQA Physics GCE course which consists of AS, which is studied in Y12 and A2 which is studied in Year 13. Learners will have opportunities to develop themselves as scientists in ways such as:

- Recognition and recall to show understanding of scientific knowledge.
- Select, organise and communicate relevant information in a variety of forms.
- Analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and process.
- Apply scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations including those related to modern day issues.
- Assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.
- Demonstrate and describe ethical, safe and skilful practical techniques and processes.
- Select appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods and know how to make, record and communicate reliable and valid observations and measurements with appropriate precision and accuracy.
- Analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methodology, results and impact of their own and others experimental and investigative activities in a variety of ways.



Entry requirements:

Learners will need to have at least a grade 6-6 in **GCSE Combined Science**; a strong footing in GCSE Mathematics is also recommended with a 6 grade being highly recommended.

Course Details (Nb - page numbers refer to the specification document available on www.AQA.org.uk):

Further details are available from:

- Mr Gash on d.gash@gateacre.org

2.1 Subject content

Core content

- 1 [Measurements and their errors](#) (page 10)
- 2 [Particles and radiation](#) (page 12)
- 3 [Waves](#) (page 17)
- 4 [Mechanics and materials](#) (page 21)
- 5 [Electricity](#) (page 27)
- 6 [Further mechanics and thermal physics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 30)
- 7 [Fields and their consequences \(A-level only\)](#) (page 34)
- 8 [Nuclear physics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 41)

Options

- 9 [Astrophysics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 45)
- 10 [Medical physics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 49)
- 11 [Engineering physics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 54)
- 12 [Turning points in physics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 58)
- 13 [Electronics \(A-level only\)](#) (page 62)

Why choose Spanish?

Apart from being beneficial at a personal level, your A Level in Languages can help with quite a few career paths. For those who want to specialise in language, there's translation or teaching. Or maybe you want to work in the travel and tourism industry. But even as, say, an engineer or designer, being proficient in a language will give you broader career options.

What does it entail?

Throughout the course you will study a variety of themes. You will develop your understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and is a focus on how Spanish society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change.

Theme 1: Social Issues and trends

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyber space
- Equal rights
- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage
- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies
- Popular movements

Over the two years, we also study a book and a film which will be used as a focus for the writing exam.

You will also conduct a research project on a subject or key question which interests you and which is relevant to a Spanish speaking country. The aim of this is to develop your research skills and analyse and summarise your findings to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.



How is it assessed?

The course is assessed at the end of Y13 with 3 different papers:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

This involves an exam of 2hr30 on the themes and grammar we will have studied, as well as a translation of around 70 words and is worth 50% of your grade.

Paper 2: Writing

This involves writing two essays in Spanish about our chosen film and book. The essay will be around 300 words and the exam will last 2 hours. This is worth 20%.

Paper 3: Speaking

This will involve a discussion across a theme we have studied across the two years as well as a presentation and discussion on your individual research pro-

Students will be need to have a minimum of a Grade 6 at GCSE.

Any questions? See Mrs Foy or ask your Spanish teacher.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post16 students who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the sport sector. The qualification is **equivalent in size to 1 A Level** and aims to provide a coherent introduction to study of the sport sector at this level.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education.

The following mandatory units must be taken:

- **Anatomy and Physiology**. Assignments – Written exam set and marked by the exam board.
- **Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing**. Tasks - set and marked by the exam board.
- **Professional Development in the Sport Industry** - Internally assessed by the department and sent to external moderator.

In addition, students choose optional units from a range that has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in HE. They cover content areas such as:

- Application of fitness testing
- Sport psychology
- Practical sports performance
- Sports leadership.

What could this qualification lead to?

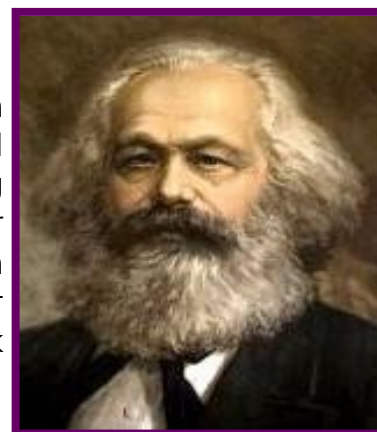
Study of sport particularly encourages the development of skills and behaviours such as teamwork, leadership, performance analysis, resilience, evaluation, analysis and synthesising concepts. These skills are developed through the variety of approaches to teaching and learning enabled by the specification.

The qualification will support entry to HE courses in a very wide range of disciplines, for students wishing to study an aspect of sport in HE, opportunities could include:

- BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, if taken alongside A Levels in Business and Mathematics
- BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and A Level in Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, if taken alongside an A Level in English Language and a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science.

What is Sociology?

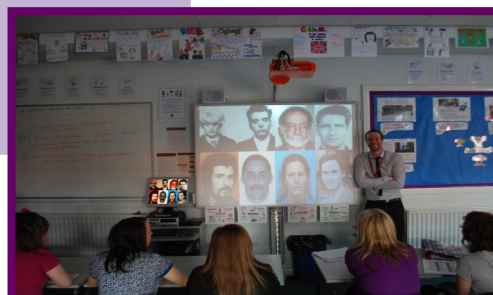
Sociology is a fascinating and stimulating subject with something to appeal to everyone. It involves exploring and asking questions about the society in which we live. Studying Sociology offers students opportunities to gain a greater understanding of society and to make sense of their own experiences within it. Sociology can be both thought provoking and challenging because it forces people to rethink some of their common-sense views and assumptions.



A-level Sociology (AQA)	
TOPICS	EXAMPLE OF CONTENT
<p>Component One</p> <p>Education with Theory and methods in context</p>	<p>Why do middle class children do better than working class children at school? What do we learn at school...is it more than simply the subjects on our timetables? Why are the girls doing so much better than the boys? Are teachers like police officers?</p> <p>How do Sociologists discover the answers to their questions? What did James Patrick discover when he spent some time as an under-cover member of a gang in Glasgow? How useful are official statistics?</p>
<p>Component Two</p> <p>Families and households with beliefs in society</p>	<p>Why has divorce become so common in Britain? Are men doing more housework than in the past? Have relationships within the family changed over time? Learn about the Nayar people and why the women could have up to twelve husbands!</p> <p>Is religion still important in modern Britain? Are people still guided by religious beliefs? Why do people join cult groups such as the Moonies? Is religion a force for good or evil? Is religious belief a source of social change or conservatism?</p>
<p>Component Three</p> <p>Crime and deviance with Theory and methods</p>	<p>What are the causes of crime? Who commits crime? Why are some many young men involved in knife crime? Why are single people more likely to commit suicide than married people? How is social order maintained?</p> <p>How does society operate? Who was Karl Marx and how did he explain the nature of society? Do individuals decide how to behave, or is it already decided for us by society? How can sociological research have an effect on policy decisions?</p>

Why Choose Sociology

Sociology is ideal for someone attracted to the idea of starting a subject from scratch - it is not necessary to have studied it to GCSE level. As Sociology gives an insight into many areas of life, it combines well with any other subject. It is particularly useful for someone to choose who does not wish to completely abandon either the arts or the sciences, as Sociology include elements of



Career Opportunities

The knowledge and skills gained by the study of 'A'-Level Sociology make it a useful qualification for almost any career which involves working with people, for example, teaching, social work, nursing, the police, travel and leisure.

Notes