

MARITIME ACADEMY
SIXTH FORM

Course Guide

2027-2029

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Applying for Sixth Form at Maritime Academy

Entry requirements

- **Five GCSEs Grade 4-9 (or equivalent)**
- **This must include Grade 4-9 in GCSE English and Maths**

Subject specific entry requirements are detailed within the course information throughout this booklet. Applications are welcomed by prospective students completing an application on the Kent Choices website.

Academic study at Maritime Academy's Sixth Form provides students with the opportunity to achieve Level 3 qualifications, opening pathways to university, employment, apprenticeships and further education or training. Maritime Academy is committed to providing a broad and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs, aspirations and interests of students within our local community.

At Maritime Academy's Sixth Form, we place a strong emphasis on personal development, leadership and wider enrichment. Through programmes such as Horizon and PSHE, alongside leadership opportunities, students are encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills, values and attributes that underpin our commitment to Strength, Pride and Unity.

Students are encouraged to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), enabling them to explore an area of personal interest while developing independence, research and critical thinking skills, project management and confidence beyond the academic curriculum. Our strong pastoral provision ensures students are well supported throughout their time in Sixth Form. Students benefit from regular contact with the Sixth Form Leadership Team, daily meetings with their Fleet Captain and a comprehensive pastoral programme. Regular parent consultation and information evenings ensure families are informed and able to support students in achieving their academic and personal goals.

We work closely with CXK to provide impartial careers information, advice and guidance, helping students explore their options and make informed decisions about their future. Unifrog and UCAS further supports students in researching and applying for their chosen destinations, ensuring every student is well prepared for their next steps beyond Maritime Sixth Form.

Message from the Vice Principal

We are delighted that you are considering Maritime Academy Sixth Form for the next stage of your educational voyage. Choosing a Sixth Form is an important decision, and we want you to know that you will be joining a community where you are valued, supported and challenged to achieve your very best.

At Maritime Academy, we are committed to transforming life chances. Through a culture of aspiration, we will help you develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve your goals and excel without limits.

Our values of Strength, Pride and Unity are at the heart of our Sixth Form. We develop strength through leadership, empowering you to take responsibility, embrace challenges and become a confident role model. We foster pride through enrichment, giving you opportunities to discover new interests, develop your talents and make a positive contribution to our community. We build unity through excellence, encouraging collaboration, mutual support and a shared commitment to achieving our very best.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team and expert teachers will provide the guidance and encouragement you need to become an independent learner and prepare for your future. Whether your ambition is university, an apprenticeship, further education or employment, we will help you develop a clear pathway towards your goals.

Your Sixth Form experience will be about more than qualifications; it will be about discovering your strengths, developing your character and preparing to make a positive contribution to the world.

We look forward to welcoming you to Maritime Academy Sixth Form and supporting you as you take the next steps towards an exciting and successful future.

Own your tomorrow. Create your future.

Mrs Culley
Vice Principal



Applied Science

Course Title: Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Exam Board: Pearson (610/3965/2)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 5 or above in Combined Science or equivalent. Those studying Triple Science should achieve grade 5 in at least one of the Sciences.

Course Summary

Students develop practical and theoretical scientific skills across biology, chemistry and physics. They explore laboratory techniques, scientific investigation, data analysis and real-world applications of science, preparing them for further study or careers in scientific and health-related fields.

Course details

- Develop practical laboratory skills across biology, chemistry and physics.
- Plan and carry out scientific investigations, collecting and analysing reliable data.
- Apply scientific theories and principles to real-world problems and applications.
- Develop skills in evaluating evidence, drawing conclusions and communicating scientific findings.
- Explore scientific techniques and technologies relevant to further study and careers in science and healthcare.

Assessment

Exam - Mandatory	Principles and Applications of Biology	Exam (50 marks, 60 GLH)
Exam - Mandatory	Principles and Applications of Chemistry	Exam (50 marks, 60 GLH)
Exam - Mandatory	Principles and Applications of Physics	Exam (50 marks, 60 GLH)
Internal Assessment - Mandatory	Practical scientific procedures and techniques	Internal Assessment (90 GLH)
Internal Assessment - Optional	Either Science Investigation Skills/Contemporary Issues in Science	Internal Assessment (90 GLH)

Future Pathways

On successful completion of this course, various pathways could include Biomedical science, Biochemistry and laboratory science, Nursing, Midwifery and other healthcare pathways, Engineering and technical careers, forensic science, environmental science and pharmaceutical science. This course could be used to access university, higher apprenticeships and employment in scientific, laboratory and healthcare settings.

Art and Design

Course Title: A Level Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)

Exam Board: AQA (7201)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 6 in Fine Art, Photography or DT

Course Summary

Students explore a broad range of art, craft and design disciplines, developing practical, creative and critical skills. Areas may include drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, textiles, printmaking, photography, digital art and 3D design, with opportunities to combine processes and develop individual creative ideas.

Course details

- Students explore a broad range of art, craft and design disciplines, developing practical, creative and critical skills.
- Areas may include drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, textiles, printmaking, photography, digital art and 3D design, with opportunities to combine processes and develop individual creative ideas.
- Students will be taught a range of artistic skills, techniques, materials and processes alongside developing their own independent practice. Students are expected to work consistently both during lessons and independently outside of school, as the course is predominantly coursework-based.
- Both components are assessed against AQA's four Assessment Objectives and marked by the centre before being moderated by AQA. The 15-hour supervised assessment forms part of Component 2 and provides students with the opportunity to realise their final outcome from their preparatory work.

Assessment

Internal Assessment	Personal Investigation Students complete a sustained, self-directed practical investigation based on a personal idea, issue or theme, supported by written and contextual research	Internal Assessment (96 marks with score scaled x3, 60%)
Exam	External Assignment Students respond to an AQA-set starting point, developing preparatory work before producing a final outcome during a 15-hour supervised assessment.	Exam (96 marks with score scaled x2, 40%)

Future Pathways

A Level Art, Craft & Design can lead to a wide range of creative careers and further study, including: Architecture and interior design, Fashion and textile design, Furniture and product design, Advertising, marketing and graphic design, Illustration, animation and photography, Fine art, sculpture and installation, Film, media and creative production Theatre, set and costume design, Art education, curation and gallery work. The course provides a strong foundation for creative degrees, apprenticeships and careers where visual communication, creativity, problem-solving and practical skills are highly valued.

Business

Course Title: A Level Business

Exam Board: Edexcel (9BS0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9

Course Summary

Business is a dynamic and practical subject that explores how organisations operate, compete and make decisions in an increasingly competitive world. You will develop an understanding of how businesses are created, managed and developed, while considering the challenges and opportunities they face.

Whether you are interested in becoming an entrepreneur, working for a major organisation, studying economics or finance, or simply want to understand the world around you. A Level Business provides valuable knowledge and skills for your future.

Course details

The Pearson Edexcel A Level Business specification (9BS0) covers a wide range of topics, allowing you to explore business from both a theoretical and practical perspective.

You will study:

- Marketing and people – how businesses identify customer needs, develop products and services, build brands and manage their employees.
- Managing business activities – how businesses plan, finance and manage their operations, including sources of finance, budgeting, business performance and supply chains.
- Business decisions and strategy – how businesses analyse information, respond to competitors and make strategic decisions to achieve their objectives.
- Global business – how businesses operate in international markets and respond to globalisation, exchange rates, international competition and changing economic conditions.

Assessment

External Assessment (120 minutes)	Paper 1 - Marketing, people and global business	Exam (100 marks, 35%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Paper 2 - Business activities, decisions and strategy	Exam (100 marks, 35%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Paper 3 - Investigating business in a competitive environment	Exam (100 marks, 30%)

Future Pathways

A Level Business can lead to a wide range of careers in areas such as marketing, finance, management, human resources, sales, entrepreneurship and business consultancy. The course develops valuable skills in communication, problem-solving, analysis, decision-making and working with data, which are highly valued by employers across many industries.

Core Maths

Course Title: Mathematics in Context (Level 3 Core Maths)

Exam Board: Pearson (7MC0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 4 in Maths GCSE

Course Summary

Core Maths brings mathematics to life through finance, data, statistics, probability and real-world problem-solving. Students develop the confidence to analyse information, make informed decisions and apply mathematics in further study, work and everyday life. Lessons use problem-solving activities, scientific calculators and spreadsheets to help students interpret information, analyse data and communicate mathematical conclusions.

Course details

- Apply mathematics to real-life situations, including personal finance, data analysis, probability and estimation.
- Interpret information from tables, graphs, charts and reports to make informed decisions.
- Develop mathematical modelling, problem-solving and reasoning skills through practical contexts.
- Communicate clear, logical conclusions and evaluate whether solutions are realistic and reliable.

These points reflect the practical focus of the Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context, which develops students' ability to use mathematics confidently in the real world.

Assessment

Exam 100 minutes	Comprehension content - Applications of statistics, probability, linear programming, sequences and growth	Exam (60 marks, 40%)
Exam 100 minutes	Applications content - Applications of statistics, probability, linear programming, sequences and growth	Exam (80 marks, 60%)

There is no coursework for this qualification.

Future Pathways

Core Maths works particularly well alongside: Biology and Psychology for analysing data and using statistics Business and Economics for finance, forecasting and decision-making Geography and Environmental Science for interpreting data, graphs and trends Health, Social Care and Sports Science for research and quantitative skills University, higher apprenticeships and employment in a wide range of sectors The qualification supports progression by strengthening the practical mathematical skills required across many Level 3 subjects and degree courses.

Criminology

Course Title: Level 3 Criminology

Exam Board: WJEC (4543QD)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 4 in Maths GCSE

Course Summary

Criminology combines elements of sociology, psychology, and law to explore the nature of crime and criminal justice. Over the four units, students investigate why crimes go unreported, examine biological and psychological theories of criminal behavior, follow the justice process from the crime scene to the courtroom, and evaluate the effectiveness of punishment agencies like police and prisons.

Course details

- Explore why crime happens – learn about the different explanations for criminal behaviour, including biological, psychological and sociological theories.
- Understand different types of crime – investigate crimes such as hate crime, cybercrime, white-collar crime and crimes that are often under-reported or under-represented in the media.
- Examine how crime is investigated – discover how evidence is collected and analysed, from the crime scene through to the investigation and preparation of a case for court.
- Explore the criminal justice system – learn how the police, courts, lawyers and other agencies work together to investigate crime and bring offenders to justice.
- Consider how society responds to crime – examine different forms of punishment and social control, and evaluate their effectiveness in reducing crime and reoffending.
- Challenge perceptions of crime and criminals – explore how the media, campaigns and public attitudes influence our understanding of crime, and develop the skills to analyse real-life criminal cases.

Assessment

Internal Assessment	Unit 1 - Changing awareness of crime	Internally assessed, (25%)
External Assessment (90 minutes)	Unit 2 - Criminological theories	Exam (75 marks, 25%)
Internal Assessment	Unit 3 - Crime scene to courtroom	Internally assessed, (25%)
External Assessment (90 minutes)	Unit 4 - Crime and punishment	Exam (75 marks, 25%)

Future Pathways

The qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service. This can also lead onto higher education degree courses such as BSc Criminology, BA Criminology, BA Criminology and Criminal Justice, BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology, BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology, BA (Hons) Criminology, BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology, BSc Criminology with Law.

Design and Technology

Course Title: A Level Design and Technology

Exam Board: AQA (7552)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including Grade 6 in GCSE Product Design or related Design subject. If DT has not been studied at GCSE, a portfolio of relevant design work may be submitted.

Course Summary

Students will develop creative, practical, and technical skills through designing and making innovative products. They will explore materials, manufacturing processes, sustainability, digital design, and engineering principles while solving real-world design challenges.

Course details

- Develop creative design solutions through iterative design, modelling, testing and evaluation.
- Explore materials, manufacturing processes and emerging technologies, including CAD/CAM and digital design.
- Apply technical knowledge of engineering, sustainability and commercial design to real-world problems.
- Complete a substantial design-and-make coursework project alongside a written examination assessing design theory and practice.

Assessment

External assessment (150 minutes)	Technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge	Exam (120 marks, 30%)
External assessment (90 minutes)	Designing and making examination	Exam (80 marks, 20%)
Internal Assessment	Major design and make project including a portfolio and prototype	Internal assessment (200 marks, 50%)

Future Pathways

Product Design can open the door to a wide range of creative, technical and engineering pathways. Students can progress to degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Product Design, Industrial Design, Engineering, Architecture, Interior and Furniture Design, Automotive Design, Manufacturing and Sustainable Design. The skills developed can also lead to opportunities across the wider design, engineering and creative industries.

English

Course Title: A Level English Language and Literature

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel (9EL0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 6 in both English Literature and English Language GCSE

Course Summary

Pearson Edexcel A Level English Language and Literature combines the study of literary and non-literary texts, developing students' ability to analyse how writers and speakers use language to create meaning, voice and identity. Students explore a wide range of texts, including fiction, drama, non-fiction and digital texts, while developing their understanding of context and connections between texts. The course also encourages creativity through independent writing and gives students the opportunity to produce both fiction and creative non-fiction as part of their coursework.

Course details

- Develop and apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.
- Develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language.
- Use linguistic and literary approaches in their reading and interpretation of texts, showing how the two disciplines can relate to each other.
- Engage creatively and critically with a wide range of texts.
- Explore the ways in which texts relate to each other and the contexts in which they are produced and received.
- Develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.
- Undertake independent and sustained studies to develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Assessment

External Assessment (150 minutes)	**Component 1 - Voices in Speech and Writing** Section A - Voices in 20th- and 21st century Texts: one comparative essay question on one unseen extract selected from 20th- or 21st-century sources and one text from the anthology. Section B – Drama Texts: one extract-based essay question on the chosen drama text.	Exam (50 marks, 40%)
External Assessment (150 minutes)	**Component 2 - Varietied in Language and Literature** Section A – Unseen Prose Non-fiction Texts: one essay question on an unseen prose non-fiction extract. The unseen extract is linked to the studied theme. Section B – Prose Fiction and Other Genres: one comparative essay question on one prose fiction anchor text and one other text from a theme.	Exam (50 marks, 40%)
Internal Assessment	Investigating and creating texts	Internal Assessment (60 marks, 20%)

Future Pathways

This A level can open the door to degrees and careers in English, journalism, publishing, media, law, teaching, marketing and communications. Students develop highly transferable skills in analysing language, communicating ideas and crafting their own writing, which are valued across a wide range of further study and career pathways.

Food Science and Nutrition

Course Title: Level 3 in Food Science and Nutrition (Extended Certificate)

Exam Board: WJEC (4523QC)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 5 in GCSE Food and Nutrition, or grade 5 in GCSE Science.

Course Summary

Students will explore the applied science of nutrition, food safety, and production through practical, hands-on learning. They may investigate core areas and combinations of topics such as: nutritional needs across life stages, practical food preparation and culinary skills, food hygiene and safety, experimental food science, and current health or industry issues. Develop food skills, solve real-world problems and discover how science shapes the food we eat and its impact on our health.

Course details

- Study nutritional needs across different life stages, including the properties and functions of nutrients and their relationship with the human body.
- Develop practical food production skills and produce food products for specific needs and situations.
- Study principles of food hygeine and food safety, including microorganisms, food related ill health and food safety management.
- Develop scientific investigation, research, analytical and problem solving skills.
- Explore either food production problems through experimentation or a contemporary issue in food science and nutrition.
- Develop a practical, research and analytical skills that support progression to higher education and careers within food science, nutrition and related fields.

Assessment

External Assessment - Mandatory	Unit 1 - Nutritional needs across the life stages.	Exam (25%, 90 GLH)
Internal Assessment - Mandatory	Unit 2 - Developing practical food production skills	Internal assessment (25%, 90 GLH)
External Assessment - Mandatory	Unit 3 - Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production.	Exam (25%, 90 GLH)
Internal Assessment - Optional	Either Unit 4 Experimenting to solve food production problems, or Unit 5 Current issues in food science and nutrition.	Internal assessment (25%, 90 GLH)

Future Pathways

This qualification can lead to further study in Food Science, Food Technology, Nutrition, Dietetics and Public Health, as well as careers in food product development. This can also support relevant university, industry and apprenticeship pathways witin the food and health sectors.

History

Course Title: A Level History

Exam Board: Edexcel (9HI0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 and grade 5 in History GCSE (or English if not previously studied)

Course Summary

Students with an interest and passion for History will study to become independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers. Students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the nature of historical study and form judgements based on available evidence. History complements other A Level courses such as English, Politics and Sociology.

Course details

- Develop knowledge and understanding through independent research and study to enhance critical thinking skills.
- Prepare and communicate effective arguments on key issues.
- Analyse and evaluate the factors that influenced change over time.
- Scrutinising evidence in order to present supported and substantiated judgements.

Assessment

External Assessment (135 minutes)	Britain 1625-1701 - Paper 1 Focuses on the issue of revolution during the Stuart reign.	Exam (60 marks, 30%)
External Assessment (90 minutes)	Russia in Revolution (1894-1924) - Paper 2 Focuses on the fall of Tsardom and how revolution created new systems of government.	Exam (40 marks, 20%)
External Assessment (135 minutes)	Germany (1871-1991) - Paper 3 - United, divided and reunited. Focuses on the unification of Germany, issues during the Weimar and Nazi years in power and the division of Germany during the Cold War period.	Exam (60 marks, 30%)
Internal Assessment	Internal Assessment through completion of assignment on an element of the Cold War.	Internal Assessment (20%)

Future Pathways

History can lead to careers including law, teaching, journalism, politics, archaeology and business. Skills developed include analysis assessment and evaluation. Students will use critical thinking to communicate their views and ideas of the key issues studied effectively.

Health and Social Care

Course Title: Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

Exam Board: Pearson (610/3964/0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9

Course Summary

Explore the fascinating world of health and social care, gaining an understanding of human development, health and wellbeing, and the principles of effective care. Develop practical, research and communication skills while applying your knowledge to real-life health and social care settings and preparing for further study or a career in the sector.

Course details

- Explore human development across the different stages of life and the factors that influence growth and wellbeing.
- Develop an understanding of health, wellbeing and effective care practices within health and social care settings.
- Investigate how health and social care services are delivered and the roles and responsibilities of professionals.
- Apply knowledge to real-life scenarios, developing research, problem-solving, communication and practical skills.
- Plan and carry out investigations, interpreting information and using evidence to make informed conclusions.
- Develop skills and knowledge to support progression to university, apprenticeships or a career in health and social care.

Assessment

External Assessment	Human Lifespan and Development	Exam (80 marks, 90 GLH)
External Assessment	Human Biology and Health	Exam (80 marks, 90 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Principles of Health and Social Care Practise	Pearson Set Assignment (PSA, 90 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Promoting Health Education	Pearson Set Assignment (PSA, 90 GLH)

Future Pathways

On successful completion of the Level 3 Health and Social Care qualification, students can progress to higher education, higher-level apprenticeships or employment within the health and social care sector. Possible degree pathways include Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Psychology, Health and Social Care, Public Health and other allied health professions.

Information Technology

Course Title: Pearson Level 3 BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate)

Exam Board: Pearson 610/3960/3

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9

Course Summary

Information Technology is an exciting and practical qualification designed for students who are interested in the digital world and how technology supports modern business, communication and society. The course develops a strong understanding of IT systems, cyber security, website development and database design, alongside problem-solving, analytical and project management skills.

Course details

During the two-year course, students will study a range of contemporary IT topics, including:

- Information Technology Systems: Understanding hardware, software, networks, cloud computing, emerging technologies and the impact of IT on organisations and society.
- Cyber Security and Incident Management: Exploring cyber threats, vulnerabilities, data protection, security measures and strategies for responding to security incidents.
- Website Development: Designing, creating and testing professional websites using industry-standard development techniques.
- Relational Database Development: Creating and testing database solutions to meet business requirements, including data modelling and query design.

Assessment

External Assessment	Information Technology Systems	Exam (120 GLH)
External Assessment	Cyber security and Incident Management	Exam (120 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Website Development	Pearson Set Assignment (60 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Relational Database Development	Pearson Set Assignment (60 GLH)

Future Pathways

This qualification provides an excellent foundation for progression to Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment within the digital sector. Students may choose to study degree courses such as: Information Technology; Computer Science; Cyber Security and Data Analytics.

Mathematics

Course Title: A Level Mathematics

Exam Board: Pearson (9MA0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 6 GCSE Mathematics

Course Summary

The content for A level Mathematics covers Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. There are overarching themes of mathematical argument, language and proof, problem solving and mathematical modelling. A level Mathematics enables students to:

- understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.
- understanding, coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected.
- apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general.
- use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly.
- use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems that require them to decide on the solution strategy.
- use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and recognise when their use may be inappropriate.

Course details

Pure Maths contains coverage of the following content: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, Sequences and series , Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods, Vectors Statistics: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing Mechanics: Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws, Moments.

Assessment

External Assessment (120 minutes)	Pure Mathematics - Paper 1	Exam (100 marks, 33.3%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Pure Mathematics - Paper 2	Exam (100 marks, 33.3%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Statistics and Mechanics - Paper 3	Exam (100 marks, 33.3%)

Future Pathways

Mathematics is an essential basis for all further education in physics and engineering and is useful in many other subjects. This qualification can lead to many interesting careers in economics, statistics, computing, accountancy, actuarial work, operational research, education, administration, banking, insurance and sociology.

Media Studies

Course Title: A Level in Media Studies

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas (A680QS)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9

Course Summary

Media Studies offers you the opportunity to explore how the media shapes our understanding of the world around us. You will analyse a wide range of media products, including television, film marketing, newspapers, magazines, advertising, music videos, video games, radio and online media, exploring how media language, representation, audiences and industries influence the meanings we take from them. You will also investigate the social, cultural, political, historical and economic contexts in which media products are created and consumed, applying a range of media theories to develop your critical thinking and analytical skills. Alongside this theoretical study, you will develop your own creative and practical media production skills, producing a cross-media project for a specific audience and purpose. The course is ideal for students who are curious about contemporary culture and enjoy analysing, discussing and creating media, while developing valuable skills in research, communication, creativity and independent thinking.

Course details

- Analyse media products – explore how films, television, newspapers, magazines, advertising, music videos, video games and online media communicate ideas and engage audiences.
- Understand media language – learn how images, sound, editing, layout, colour and other media techniques are used to create meaning and influence how audiences respond.
- Explore representation – investigate how people, groups, places, events and issues are represented in the media, and consider how these representations can shape attitudes and perceptions.
- Understand audiences and media industries – examine how media organisations create, distribute and market products, and explore how different audiences consume and respond to media.
- Apply media theories and contexts – use key theories to analyse media products while considering their social, cultural, political, historical and economic contexts.
- Create your own media – develop practical skills by planning and producing your own media product for a specific audience and purpose, allowing you to combine creativity with the analytical skills developed throughout the course

Assessment

External Assessment (135 minutes)	Component 1 - Media products, industries and audiences	Exam (90 marks, 35%)
External Assessment (150 minutes)	Component 2 - Media forms and products in depth	Exam (90 marks, 35%)
Internal Assessment	Component 3 - Cross media production	Coursework (60 marks, 30%)

Future Pathways

A Level Media Studies can lead to university, apprenticeships and careers across the media and creative industries, including journalism, film and TV, advertising, marketing, publishing, digital media and public relations. It also develops valuable skills in creative production, communication, research and critical analysis.

Performing Arts

Course Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Exam Board: Pearson (601/7233/2)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 5 in either GCSE Music, Dance or Drama

Course Summary

Get creative, build confidence, and develop your performance skills on this exciting course. Through practical workshops, rehearsals, and performances, you'll explore acting, theatre, dance, or musical theatre while developing your voice, movement, creativity, communication, and teamwork. You'll learn from influential practitioners, collaborate on group performances, and specialise in an area you're passionate about.

Course details

- Explore your creativity and build your confidence through a practical and exciting Performing Arts course.
- Develop skills in acting, dance, theatre, and musical theatre while learning from influential practitioners.
- Through workshops and rehearsals, strengthen your physical, vocal, communication, and teamwork skills.
- Collaborate with others to create and perform your own group productions.
- With a specialist unit in acting, dance, or musical theatre, you can focus on the area you enjoy most.
- Whether you dream of performing on stage or simply want to develop skills for the future, this course offers an exciting and hands-on experience.

Assessment

Mandatory	Investigating practitioners work	90 GLH
Mandatory	Developing skills and techniques for live performance	90 GLH
Mandatory	Group performance workshop	120 GLH
Optional	Completion of a unit that plays into your strengths of performance	60 GLH

Future Pathways

The course provides a strong foundation for progression to university, drama school or specialist training, leading to careers in acting, musical theatre, dance, theatre performance, directing, choreography and theatre production. Students can also develop transferable creative and professional skills that support careers across the wider performing arts and creative industries, including arts management, events, television, film, entertainment and live production.

Photography

Course Title: A Level Art and Design (Photography)

Exam Board: AQA (7206)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including grade 6 in a GCSE Art&Design or photography

Course Summary

AQA A Level Photography is a creative and challenging course that encourages students to explore ideas through lens-based and digital media. Students develop technical skills, personal creativity, and critical thinking while building a portfolio of practical work inspired by artists, photographers, and their own interests. The course culminates in a Personal Investigation and an Externally Set Assignment, preparing students for further study and careers within the creative industries.

Course details

- AQA A Level Photography develops students' creative, technical, and analytical skills through a range of photographic practices and processes.
- Students produce a Personal Investigation (60%), combining practical photography work with a written related study.
- The course concludes with an Externally Set Assignment (40%), where students respond to a theme and create a final portfolio and outcome.
- Learners explore photographic techniques, image editing, visual communication, and the work of historical and contemporary photographers.
- The qualification supports progression to higher education courses and careers in photography, media, design, advertising, and the creative industries.

Assessment

Internal Assessment	Personal Investigation Students complete a sustained, self-directed practical investigation based on a personal idea, issue or theme, supported by written and contextual research	Internal Assessment (96 marks with score scaled x3, 60%)
External Assessment	External Assignment Students respond to an AQA-set starting point, developing preparatory work before producing a final outcome during a 15-hour supervised assessment.	External assessment (96 marks with score scaled x2, 40%)

Future Pathways

A Level Photography provides an excellent foundation for progression to higher education courses in photography, graphic design, digital media, fine art, fashion, film, advertising, and other creative disciplines. The course develops creativity, visual communication, project management, and technical skills that are highly valued by universities and employers. Students may progress into careers such as photographer, graphic designer, content creator, art director, filmmaker, curator, or other roles within the creative and digital industries.

Politics

Course Title: Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics

Exam Board: Pearson (9PL0)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 and grade 5 in English or grade 6 in a Humanities subject

Course Summary

Students are required to study 3 areas of modern politics. This will include the political views, parties and structure of UK and American politics and core political ideologies such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Course details

- Develops critical thinking by examining political ideas, arguments and current issues from different perspectives.
- Improves analytical skills through the study of political institutions, events and debates.
- Strengthens evaluation skills, helping students make balanced judgements supported by evidence.
- Builds the ability to construct persuasive arguments and reach reasoned conclusions.
- Enhances essay-writing skills, including clear communication, structure and academic writing.
- Learn how decisions are made that affect everyday life.
- Understand elections, political parties and government.
- Explore major political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism and socialism.
- Gain skills that universities and employers value highly: analysis, communication, evaluation and argument.

Assessment

External Assessment 120 minutes	Paper 1 - UK Politics	Exam (84 marks, 33%)
External Assessment 120 minutes	Paper 2 - UK Government	Exam (84 marks, 33%)
External Assessment 120 minutes	Paper 3 - Comparative Politics	Exam (84 marks, 33%)

Future Pathways

Successful completion of A Level Politics can lead to careers in government for example the Civil Service, Law, Journalism, Public Relations, and Charities due to the development of valuable skills in research, analysis, communication and evaluation. Students can also progress to degree courses in areas such as Politics, International Relations, Law, History, Economics, Sociology, Journalism and Criminology, as well as other non-related subjects such as Business Studies, Geography and Psychology.

Psychology

Course Title: A Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA (7182)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including a minimum grade 5 in English, Maths and Science

Course Summary

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, human behaviour and the factors that influence it. Psychology will be of interest to anyone who wants a better understanding of their own behaviour and that of others. Psychology uses scientific methods to understand a wide range of human phenomena. Students will need to think critically and develop their comprehension, application, and evaluation skills through a range of topics, including; social influence, memory, attachment, biopsychology and clinical psychology.

Course details

Compulsory content includes; Social influence, Memory, Attachment , Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods, Issues and debates in Psychology.
Optional units in Year 2 include: Schizophrenia, Forensic psychology, Cognition & development, Aggression, Stress, Gender, Eating behaviour and Addiction. Three options will be covered throughout the two year course.

Assessment

External Assessment (120 minutes)	Introductory Topics	Exam (96 marks, 33.3%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Psychology in Context	Exam (96 marks, 33.3%)
External Assessment (120 minutes)	Issues and Options in Psychology	Exam (96 marks, 33.3%)

The questions in each paper range from multiple choice through short answers up to full essays. Knowledge and understanding of research methods and scientific procedures can be tested in any paper, and up to 10% of marks may be linked to questions involving numeracy.

Future Pathways

Social science degrees such as psychology, sociology, criminology, counselling, social policy. It can facilitate with other subjects entry onto a wide range of other degrees as many of the skills developed are transferable to other subject areas. Careers that have explicit links to psychology are within medicine and nursing, the criminal justice system, the education system and teaching, local authorities, social services, HR, business and marketing. There are many transferable skills from psychology into a wide variety of different sectors.

Sociology

Course Title: A Level Sociology

Exam Board: AQA (7192)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9 including a minimum grade 5 in English and Maths

Course Summary

Sociology investigates how human society operates, exploring how major institutions shape behavior and why deep-rooted social inequalities exist. Over two years, students deeply analyse core topics like Education, Crime and Deviance, and Research Methods, alongside optional modules such as Families and Households or Beliefs in Society.

Course details

- Understand key sociological theories and perspectives, including functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism and postmodernism.
- Explore different explanations of society and social behaviour, evaluating how sociologists understand social order, inequality, power, identity and social change.
- Understand and apply sociological research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches, sampling, data collection and analysis.
- Evaluate the strengths, limitations and suitability of different research methods for investigating sociological questions.
- Develop critical awareness of contemporary social processes and social change, considering how society is shaped by economic, political and cultural factors.
- Engage with key theoretical debates in sociology, including structure and agency, consensus and conflict, objectivity and value freedom, and the role of sociology as a science.

Assessment

Exam (120 minutes)	Paper 1 - Education with Theory and Methods	Exam (80 marks, 33.3%)
Exam (120 minutes)	Paper 2 - Topics of Sociology	Exam (80 marks, 33.3%)
Exam (120 minutes)	Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with theory and methods assessed	Exam (80 marks, 33.3%)

Future Pathways

Sociology provides a strong foundation for careers in the criminal justice system, social work, teaching, human resources, and local government policy. Furthermore, the analytical and essay-writing skills gained from the course are highly valued for university degrees in Criminology, Law, Politics, and Psychology.

Sport

Course Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Exam Board: Pearson (601/7218/6)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9, Science grade 4 or above, BTEC Sport Level 2 grade Merit or above.

Course Summary

Explore the world of sport through a combination of practical performance, fitness, coaching and sports industry knowledge. Develop the skills and confidence needed to progress into careers in sport, physical activity, coaching, fitness and sports development, or continue your studies at university.

Course details

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the sport and physical activity industry, including careers, participation and sports development
- Explore fitness, training and performance, developing the ability to plan, deliver and evaluate effective training programmes
- Develop practical skills through participating in sport, coaching and officiating, while applying theoretical knowledge to real sporting situations
- Build communication, leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills through practical and vocational activities
- Develop the ability to analyse sporting performance, use data and make informed recommendations to improve performance and participation
- Prepare for progression into employment, apprenticeships or higher education in areas such as sport, coaching, fitness, teaching, sports development and physical activity

Assessment

External Assessment	Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology	Exam (80 marks, 120 GLH)
External Assessment	Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health Sport and Well-being	Exam (60 marks, 120 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry	Internal Assessment (60 GLH)
Internal Assessment	Unit 7 - Practical Sports Performance	Practical and Written Assignments (60 GLH)

Future Pathways

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport provides a strong foundation for students wishing to progress to higher education or employment within the sports industry. The qualification can support progression to university courses and careers such as PE teaching, sports therapy, physiotherapy, sports analysis and sports development.

Travel and Tourism

Course Title: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism

Exam Board: Pearson (601/9023/1)

Entry Requirement: Five GCSEs grades 4-9

Course Summary

Discover one of the world's largest and most exciting industries. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism gives you the opportunity to explore global destinations, visitor attractions, events, marketing and customer service while developing the practical, research and communication skills needed for life beyond Sixth Form. You will investigate real-world issues affecting the industry and apply your knowledge through practical assignments based on realistic workplace scenarios. Whether you aspire to work in aviation, hospitality, events, tourism management or continue your studies at university, this course provides an excellent foundation for your future.

Course details

- Explore the structure, purpose and importance of the UK and global travel and tourism industry, including the factors that influence its growth and development.
- Investigate visitor attractions, customer service and the experiences that create successful destinations, using real-life case studies and industry examples.
- Develop research, analytical, communication and problem-solving skills through practical assignments and industry-based scenarios.
- Plan, organise and evaluate travel and tourism products, events and marketing activities, demonstrating an understanding of current industry trends and sustainable tourism.

Assessment

Internal Assessment	Visitor attractions	Internal Assessment (60 GLH)
External Assessment	The world of Travel and Tourism	Exam (90 GLH)
External Assessment	Global Destinations	External Assessment (120 GLH)
Internal Assessment	The Principals of marketing in Travel and Tourism (Synoptic)	Internal Assessment (60 GLH)

Future Pathways

Taking this course can lead you to working for airlines, travel agents, tour operators and cruise operators as well as working in marketing, sales, and customer service roles. You could go on to degree courses at university in areas such as International Tourism Management, Destination Management, Events Management, Eco-tourism, Adventure Tourism, Tourism Development, Geography and Tourism with Languages. Students could also enter other non-related degree programmes such as Law, and Business Studies.