

Preparing for Sixth Form at DHSG

2023-24



Art

A Level Fine Art is a unique opportunity that offers a wide range of skills and an opportunity to broaden your knowledge of Art and Artists. You will be required to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding undertaken in Fine Art:

- Concepts such as figuration, representation and abstraction
- How the formal elements evoke response in the viewer
- Various forms of presentation in Fine Art and the ways that audiences may respond or interact with them
- Sustainable materials and production processes in the construction of work
- The potential of collaborative working methodologies in the creative process
- Developing skills and techniques, understanding paint qualities, experimenting with materials, ideas and techniques
- Gaining confidence in ability in creative thinking and problem solving.



Suggested Tasks

Look into the art movement Abstract Expressionism, this is to help you loosen up your art style and to get you thinking about what art is. [Tate Link](#)



Summer Trips



Visit exhibitions and galleries, look at the art, try and find art / artist / art movements that you like. Keep a note of their names. Enjoy the experience of just looking and thinking.

The Tate logo, consisting of the word "TATE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font on a white background.



Useful video's:

[Abstract Expressionism in 8 minutes](#)

[Arts District: Women of Abstract Expressionism](#)

[Exam Board Specification](#)

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA



A stimulating and enjoyable course that includes opportunities for practical activities, both in the laboratory and on fieldwork. The syllabus includes consideration of examples from the development of biological principles through to the most modern gene technologies. The OCR Specification follows on from GCSE Biology or Combined Science and will build on knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare you for scientific careers.



Suggested Tasks

For book, movie, website and pre topic task guidance, [Click here.](#)



Useful TED Talks:



A New Superweapon in the Fight Against Cancer Cancer is a very clever, adaptable disease. To defeat it, says medical researcher and educator Paula Hammond, we need a new and powerful mode of attack.

Why Bees are Disappearing Honeybees have thrived for 50 million years, each colony 40 to 50,000 individuals coordinated in amazing harmony. So why, seven years ago, did colonies start dying en-masse?

Why Doctors Don't Know About the Drugs They Prescribe When a new drug gets tested, the results of the trials should be published for the rest of the medical world — except much of the time, negative or inconclusive findings go unreported, leaving doctors and researchers in the dark.

Growing New Organs Anthony Atalla's state-of-the-art lab grows human organs — from muscles to blood vessels to bladders, and more.

TED

Business

A-Level Business students will develop a critical understanding of organisations, the context in which they operate, the markets they serve and the process of adding value through a problem solving approach to study. You will also develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse and evaluate data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions- all skills that are needed for further study and employment. Throughout the course you will have opportunities to communicate and explain ideas, explore and present alternative courses of action, work with quantitative data to solve business problems and keep up to date with national and international business news.



Useful Podcasts:

Listening to a podcast can give you fresh insight. Business is a broad topic, and one which is hit daily by fluctuations in the stock market, political unrest and entrepreneurial breakthroughs. Keeping up to date with what's happening in the news will give you a better handle on the subject.

Click on the image to find out more!



Additional Reading



- Anyone can do it- Duncan Bannatyne
- The rise and fall of Marks and Spencer:...And how it rose again- Judi Bevan
- Management ten words- Terry Leahy
- What you get is what you see: My autobiography- Alan Sugar

Useful to Watch



- The Founder (Amazon Prime)
- The Social Network (Netflix)
- The Big Short (Netflix)
- The Great Hack (Netflix)



Suggested Tasks

[Click Here](#) to access the suggested tasks list for Business.



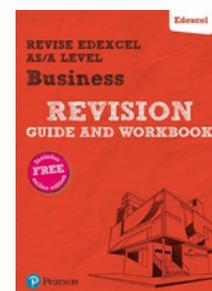
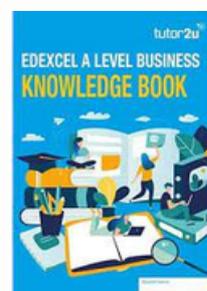
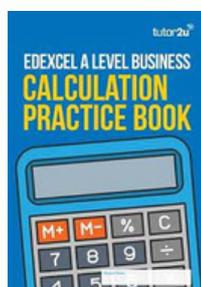
Textbooks used:

These books can be bought online – ensure it is Edexcel you are buying!

[Tutor2u Knowledge Book](#)

[Tutor2u Calculation Book](#)

[Pearson revision book](#)



[Exam Board Specification](#)



To ensure that the learning is enjoyable and enhances your enthusiasm for Chemistry, the A-Level specification has been tailored to follow on from Chemistry or Combined Sciences at GCSE and will build on knowledge, understanding and skills to provide a pathway to further study.



Suggested Tasks

If you have access to Kerboodle please familiarize yourself with the textbook and read Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.

Click on the logo below to access the log in page.

Download the OCR Chemistry A (H432) specification from the OCR website and have a look through pages 1 to 20



Useful advice:

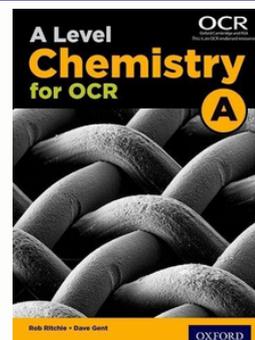


The first few topics in Module 2 largely recap on some of the more difficult aspects of GCSE Chemistry. There will also be a transition exercise, issued in September, to help consolidate your GCSE knowledge.



Textbooks used:

A Level Chemistry A for OCR
by Rob Ritchie and David Gent
(Electronic version available
on Kerboodle)



Drama and Theatre

The aim of the Drama and Theatre course is to develop your interest and enjoyment in drama and theatre both as active participants and as informed members of an audience, fostering an enthusiasm for, and critical appreciation of, the subject. The social, cultural and historical influences on the development of drama and theatre are also explored in each component, along with the study of key theatre practitioners.



Suggested Tasks

1) Watch a live Theatre performance in real life at the theatre or via the National Theatre Collection.

NATIONAL THEATRE COLLECTION (Username and passwords are valid)

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/national-theatre-collection>

Username: 0Xz!8YmWq*

Password: 2Db)9Sj-v+

2) Review the chosen live theatre production in a 750 to 1000 word essay, using analysis and evaluation to cover ACTING and DESIGNING aspects of the performance.



Writing a Play Review:



Writing a play review involves both analytical and creative skills. You need to communicate your assessment of the production in a way that engages your readers and provides them with a holistic understanding of the theatrical performance. It is important to structure your review to include an introduction, a plot summary, an analysis of the production, a critique of the performances, a commentary on the staging, and a conclusion.

Remember, a good play review doesn't just offer a personal opinion. Instead, it provides an objective analysis that can enlighten other spectators, help them make informed decisions, and contribute to the wider conversation about theatre and drama



The Introduction- give the basic information about the play – the title, the playwright, the director, the place and time of the performance.

Plot Summary- be concise, avoiding too many spoilers.

Production Analysis- a critique of the director's interpretation, the set design, the lighting, the sound, the costumes, and other technical aspects.

Performance Evaluation- focus on the acting – the actors' interpretation of their roles, their stage presence, and their interaction with each other.

Commentary on the staging- considers the scenic arrangement, the use of space, and the overall visual aesthetics.

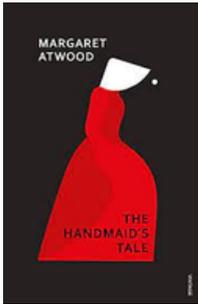
Conclusion- sums up your overall impression of the play, its strengths and weaknesses, and whether or not you would recommend it to others.

English Literature

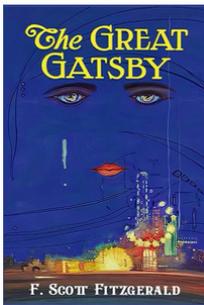
The AQA A Level course approaches the study of literature through the lens of historicism, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context. This unifying approach facilitates the inclusion of a range of wider reading, thus extending your experience and appreciation of literature.



Suggested Pre Course Reading.



The Handmaid's Tale,
Margaret Atwood



The Great Gatsby,
F. Scott Fitzgerald

Useful Podcast



The acclaimed author of The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood has an excellent podcast that is available on Spotify.



Independent Research.

Prior to the start of the A-Level course find out about the following:

- Reagan's presidency (when/values/controversy)
- The Far Right
- Meaning of Birth Death
- Purpose and origins of #metoo
- Trumps views in terms of women's rights/race/values
- Roe v Wade



Geography

This engaging, relevant and dynamic course gives students the opportunity to discuss big questions such as:

What will be the impacts of climate change?

How many people can our planet support?

How is the world governed?

You will study the relationship between human populations and our physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global. You will consider your own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision makers. You will design your own individual investigation and carry out fieldwork.



Suggested Tasks

Keep a geography journal this summer. Can you make links with any parts of the [AQA A-Level Specification](#)?

Make flash cards for the [subject specific vocabulary](#) and [command words](#) you will be using over the next two years.

Conduct research and compile a case study of:

- Change overtime in Devonport, Plymouth.
- A natural disaster that has occurred during the summer holiday- any location on any scale.



Useful Documentaries and Podcasts- click on the images.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS



Textbooks used:

Skinner, M, Abbiss, P, Banks, P, Fyfe, H & Whittaker, I 2021, *AQA A-Level Geography*, Hodder Education, London

Ross, KL (ed.) 2016, *AQA A Level and AS Physical Geography*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Ross, KL (ed.) 2016, *AQA A Level and AS Human Geography*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Useful links:



<https://substack.com/@dredfern>

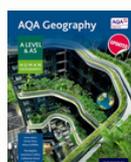
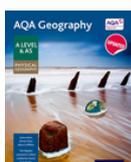
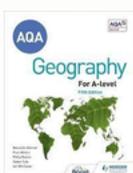
<https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>

<https://geographyeducationonline.org/>

<https://www.gapminder.org/>

<https://www.alevelgeography.com/>

<https://www.geographyportal.co.uk/alevel-resources> <https://www.tutor2u.net/geography>



[Exam Board Specification](#)

History

The course is designed to offer you the opportunity to study at least 200 years of History. The British unit focuses on economic, social and political democratic developments in the period c1780-1885, which transformed Britain as a nation. This provides a contrast with the depth study which explores the failure of democracy during a period of economic, social and political crisis and the rise of Nazism. The Historical Investigation provides students with a chance to investigate a period of 100 years of their choice.



Suggested Tasks

The Tudors 1485-1603 Familiarise yourself with the events and main people involved in the Wars of the Roses. Recommended reading includes: Phillipa Gregory's works – The Lady of the Rivers, The White Queen, The Red Queen, The Kingmaker's Daughter, The White Princess. Alison Weir's work – Elizabeth of York: The Last White Rose, Dan Jones: The Hollow Crown

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1945 Recommending pre-course reading:

The Shortest History of Germany – James Hawes

Blood and Iron: The Rise and Fall of the German Empire 1871-1918 – Katja Hoyer



Useful Documentaries and Podcasts.



Tudors 1485-1603

TV shows: The White Princess, The White Queen, The Spanish Princess



Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1945

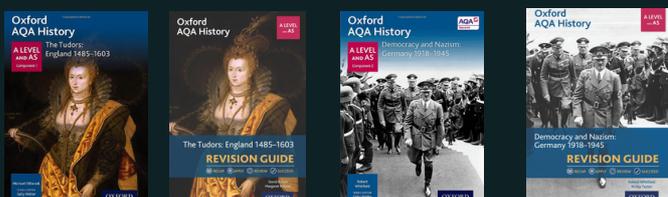


German Unification and Empire

Otto Van Bismarck

Otto Van Bismarck- A man of great ideas

Kaiser Wilhelm II



Textbooks used:

Oxford AQA History for A Level: The Tudors: England 1485-1603 (Oxford A Level History for AQA) Textbook and optional revision

Oxford AQA History for A Level: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945 (Oxford A Level History for AQA) – textbook and optional revision guide

Exam Board
Specification



Maths and Further Maths

In the A-Level, you will build on your Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry skills in addition to discovering calculus. You will apply your mathematical skills when studying the areas of Statistics and Mechanics. Mathematical reasoning and problem solving will also be a prominent feature of the course.

Further Maths is studied in conjunction with the A-Level. You will have the opportunity to discover new areas of Maths whilst developing a more in depth understanding of concepts covered in the standard Mathematics A-Level. You will study Further Pure Maths ideas and modules covering Further Mechanics, Statistics, modelling of algorithms and numerical methods. Problem solving and Mathematical reasoning will feature prominently throughout this course.



Suggested Tasks

Click on the envelope to access the Math's pre-course material.



Useful links:

Dr Frost Maths- www.dr frostmaths.com/login.php

TLMaths video reminders of GCSE material- <https://sites.google.com/view/tlmaths/home/gcse-maths>



What to bring in September:



You should start the course with all of the usual mathematics equipment.

You will also need a lever arch file, file dividers and loose-leaf file paper to write on.

[Exam Board Specification](#)

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Physics

A-Level Physics enables students to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Physics, gain hands-on practical skills, data analysis skills and an appreciation of how science works and its relevance beyond the laboratory.



Suggested Tasks

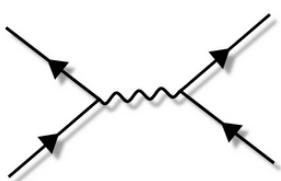
[Click here](#) to access the Physics pre-course preparation tasks.



Useful links:



The Institute of Physics- Explore Physics



A-Level Physics Online



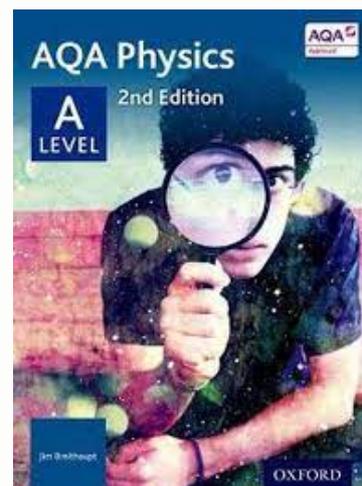
isaac Physics. You work it out

Isaac Physics



Textbooks used:

AQA Physics A-Level 2nd Edition OUP Jim Breithaupt



[Exam Board Specification](#)



Psychology

Psychology is the 'scientific study of the mind and behaviour.' A-Level Psychology will provide you with the skills required of an undergraduate – an inquiring mind and the ability to use scientific research findings to support and challenge various claims about why people behave the way that they do. It focuses on knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and studies from a wide range of topics such as internal mental processes involved in perception and intelligence, to the causes of mental disorders.



Suggested Tasks

- 1) Read over the AQA A Level (not AS Level) specification on the AQA website, click on all of the links to read the details.
- 2) Complete the online course – transition to AQA A Level Psychology.
- 3) Watch 'how to get an A* in A Level Psychology'.
- 4) Pick one topic which particularly interests you and research this further using resources 1,2 and 3. Prepare a short summary (no more than two sides of A4) and be prepared to answer the following questions:
 - Who are the key psychologists in this area?
 - What are the key theories/research studies in this area?
 - What are the main strengths and weaknesses of this area of psychology?
 - Did you come across anything you already knew?
 - Did you come across anything which surprised you?
 - What questions do you have?



Useful links:

You will need some of the following links to complete the suggested tasks.

[Transition to A Level AQA Psychology - 6-hour online course](#)

[How to get an A* in A Level Psychology - 10-minute video](#)

[Resource 1- A Level Revision by topic](#)

[Resource 2- Psychboost Revision](#)

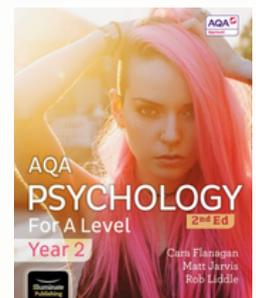
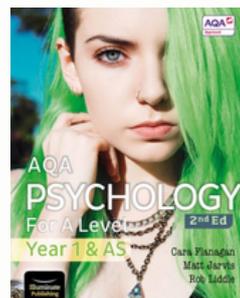
[Resource 3- Psychologyalevel.com](#)



Textbooks used:

Illuminate publishing AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS

Illuminate publishing AQA Psychology for a Level Year 2



AQA

[Exam Board Specification](#)

Religious Studies

This course seeks to develop knowledge and understanding of philosophy, religion and ethics alongside the skills of enquiry, reflection and critical analysis; it is a subject that provides excellent preparation for most subjects at university. You will enjoy the opportunity to develop your own opinions and ideas during the course.



Suggested Summer Reading

Our three units are very distinct from each other. We start with Buddhism, so restrict your reading to that over the summer. If you are thinking about RS – which you should be as it's a rigorously academic, hard currency subject (people get into Oxbridge every year with this as an A Level), email me (Mr Abbotts, AAbbotts@dhsg.co.uk) with your interest and I will send you my own background to the life of the Buddha (which is better than anything you'll find anywhere else (ahem...))

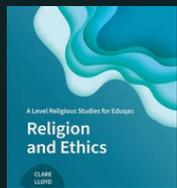
A good next step book is **Siddhartha, by Herman Hesse**. It's also a terrific introduction to Hesse, he's a great writer! The book is fictional, but inspired by the life of the Buddha. You can also read it in 3-4 hours. Look for the version with a **foreword by the excellent John Peacock** (£8.99 new) – avoid the one by Paulo Coelho.

Also excellent is **The Life of the Buddha by H. Saddhatissa**. It's out of print but going second hand from £3.61 on Amazon. I generally recommend not going too far into the teachings beyond the limits of this book at this stage.

An exception to what I just said may be the wonderful **Buddhism by Denise Cush**. Written with A Level in mind she writes SO clearly and is easily digestible – though you may not want to stray too far into the teachings at this stage.



Top Tip...this is an essay-based subject. As soon as A Level begins you will be producing 1,000+-word essays. Be ready to work hard and do lots of background reading, especially in those books I will (in September) ask to you read in tandem with the course.



Useful advice:

Do NOT attempt to learn about Buddhism from the internet. There are so many different kinds of Buddhism out there – some of which are very dubious, plus people have set themselves up as authorities who have no right to do so. At the end of the course you will be able to tell the difference, but not yet.



Textbooks used

WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies for A Level Year 1 Buddhism.
Richard Gray. Pub. Illuminate

A Level Religious Studies for Eduqas. Philosophy of Religion.
Libby Ahluwalia. Pub. OUP

A Level Religious Studies for Eduqas. Religion and Ethics.
Clare Lloyd. Pub. OUP



[Exam Board](#)
[Specification](#)

Spanish

This course aims to give you an excellent grounding in all aspects of the Spanish language with the opportunity to develop ability and confidence in the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Furthermore, the specification aims to stimulate the greater cultural awareness of Spain and Latin America.

Spanish is a valuable asset in a variety of degree and career areas including Law, Accountancy, Business, Media and Teaching. Most Spanish degrees involve a year abroad.

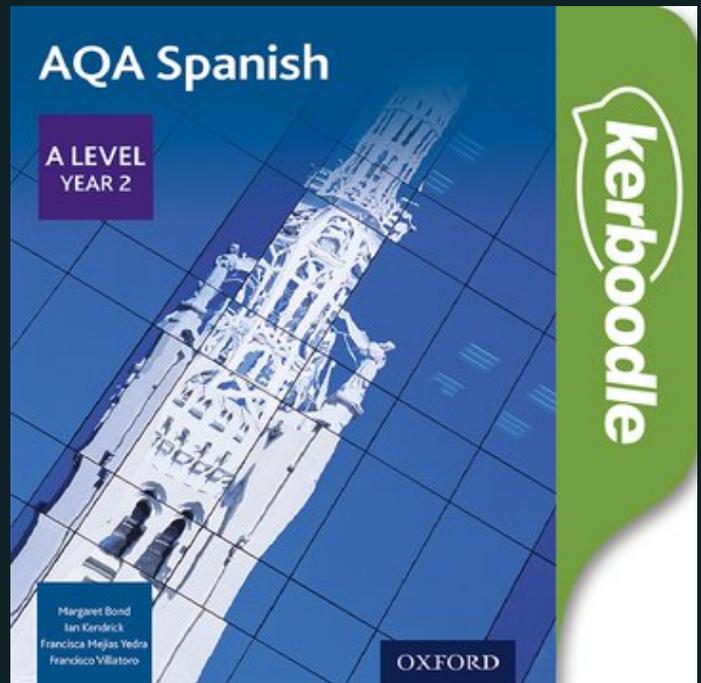
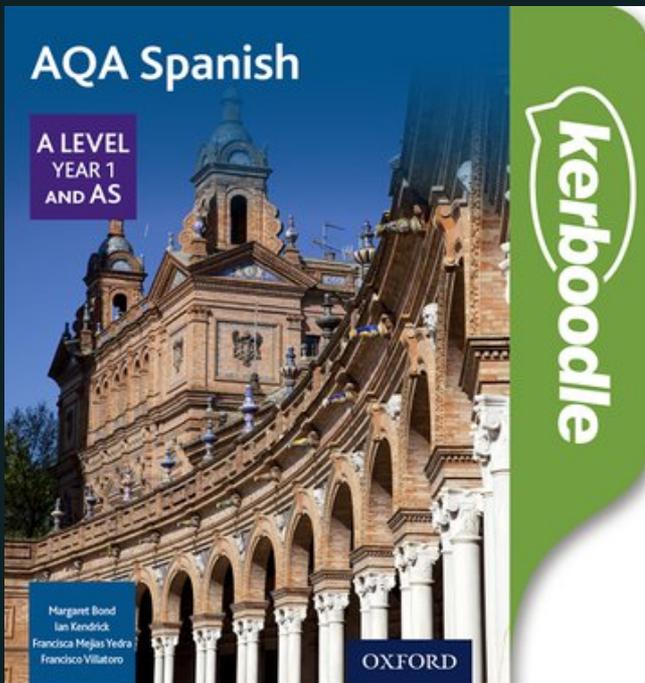


Suggested Tasks

The Spanish Department have created the following document with all the information you will need to prepare for A-Level Spanish. [Click here](#) to access the document.



Textbooks used:



[Exam Board](#)
[Specification](#)

