



NOA Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



Applications and Entrance Requirements

4-5

A Level Programme

AQA A Level Art	8-9
AQA A Level Biology	10
OCR A Level Chemistry	11
Edexcel A Level Computer Science	12
AQA A Level English Language	13
AQA A Level English Literature	14
AQA A Level French	15
Edexcel Geography	16
OCR A Level History	17
Edexcel A Level Maths	18-19
Edexcel A Level Further Maths	20
OCR A Level Physics	21
AQA A Level Psychology	22-23
Edexcel A Level Politics	24-25
AQA A Level Sociology	26-27

Applied General

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport	30
OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business	31
Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Foundation Diploma in Engineering	32
OCR Cambridge Tech Level 3 in Health and Social Care	33
Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (QCF)	34

Life at Sixth Form	35
Application Process	35

Applications and Entrance Requirements

A Levels

Applications for September 2025 entry are open to both NOA students and external applicants. Forms will be available from Reception / Student Services at the school or online from November 9th. The deadline for applications is from October 24th to February 21st; applications received after this date will be considered depending on course numbers.

Courses offered at NOA Sixth Form require students to achieve a minimum of five 9-4 in their GCSEs including English and Maths. Students wishing to pursue courses from the Career Zone (BTEC and OCR) will also require a minimum of a Merit grade in that subject at level 2.

To study at A Level:

- 5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above including English and Maths
- Students will need to achieve a specific grade for some STEM and Hums courses (below)
- Those who do not achieve this may still be offered a place but their choice of courses may be limited

We will not offer places to students who fail to achieve a 4 grade in English and Maths at GCSE.

Specific A Level Entry Requirements

Some subjects do have additional entry criteria that students should bear in mind when making their applications and are summarised below:

Maths
Grade 7 in Maths GCSE

Further Maths
Grade 9 in Maths GCSE

Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Grade 7 in triple sciences OR Grade 7 in double science

Physics
Grade 7 in Physics or double science, and a Grade 7 in Maths

Spanish
Grade 6 in Spanish

English Literature
Grade 6 in English Literature

Psychology
Grade 6 in English Language or Literature and Grade 6 in Maths and 6-6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Biology

French
Grade 6 at GCSE

Vocational

Vocational, or 'applied general' pathways offer a mixed way of learning and assessment. Students can combine coursework with examination units, with exams possible to be taken in the first year. BTEC courses still allow for progression into university and all our courses provide UCAS points for higher education, so they are great options for students who are looking to enrol on a course that combines both practical and academic elements. Entry requirements are specific to the course, but as a guide, students need to obtain 4 GCSE's Grade 4 or above to access this pathway.

To study Applied General:

- Grade 5 in English, Maths and Science
- 5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above to study Applied General Subjects
- Business: L2M (if studied at Level 2) and 5 in Maths and 5 in English Language or Literature
- Engineering: L2M (if studied at Level 2) and 6 in Maths and 5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in Physics
- Health and Social Care: L2M (if studied at Level 2) and 5 in English Language or Literature and 5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in Biology
- Sport: L2M (if studied at Level 2) and 6-6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology
- Music: L2M (if studied at Level 2) or 6 in Music (if studied to GCSE) or alternative evidence of demonstrable ability

A Level Programme



Art

Course Details

The A Level course in Art and Design is structured over two years. In both years you will produce creative portfolios for a coursework and examination component. The exam is a practical exam and will last for 15 hours in which time you are expected to produce a high quality final outcome. In your second year you will also produce a significant contextual study of 1,000-3,000 words, this will be linked to your own work and look at the artists you have been inspired by within your coursework. Students who study this course develop their interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design. Students utilise their intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive approaches to produce innovative outcomes that are unique to them.

Students investigate, analyse, experiment using practical and technical skills to refine and develop their ideas in all aspects of their work. Students have a clear understanding of aesthetic, cultural, contextual meaning within art and are able to link this effectively to social contexts and perceptions. Students have a number of opportunities to be independent, to experience working with a broad range of media and to develop their own style and creativity to develop as an artist and practitioner in their own right.

Course Breakdown

60% of the course is coursework based, at least two projects will be dedicated to this. You will use sketchbooks to show your research, demonstrate your development, experimentation and refinement throughout the project. Your sketchbook will show your learning journey from your initial research to your final outcomes. Final outcomes are tailored specifically to you, they may include installation, photography, print, sculpture, mixed media, fine art or craft pieces.

40% of the course will be based on an externally set exam focus, this will be released in February. Your final outcome will be produced within a 15 hour exam, for this you will use your explorations and experimentation within your sketchbook to plan your final piece before the exam.

Course Assessment

Work is assessed throughout the course, with students receiving regular feedback from teachers. Students also take part in peer assessment, presenting and discussing the work of others. Formal assessment takes place in May at the end of the course with an external moderator from AQA.

Character Opportunities

The strength of this course is based within each student's area of interest. Visiting galleries, exhibitions and museums is expected and we also provide a group visit to a gallery. Students are expected to engage in social, political and philosophical discussion to contextualise their research; here students engage in vast range of topics that range from geopolitical rights, activism, identity and culture ensuring that students have an appreciation of the world around them. Drawing from these points of interest student discuss, debate and explore how artists use visual language to articulate meaning and more importantly how to develop their own artistic voice. Students work closely with each other to develop both their practical and theoretical work. Students also collaborate with staff to build a digital toolkit of art sources, including artworks, materials, techniques and concepts.

Where can this take me?

1. Higher Education:

Many students go on to pursue degrees in fine arts, graphic design, illustration, fashion design, photography, or architecture.

2. Art and Design Careers:

Artist: Create original works in various mediums.

Graphic Designer: Design visuals for print and digital media.

Illustrator: Produce illustrations for books, magazines, or advertising.

Fashion Designer: Create clothing and accessories.

Interior Designer: Design functional and aesthetic spaces.

3. Creative Industries:

Animator: Work in film, video games, or advertising.

Curator: Manage and organize art exhibitions in galleries or museums.

Art Director: Oversee the visual aspects of projects in advertising, film, or publishing.

4. Teaching:

With further qualifications, you could teach art at schools or colleges.

5. Therapeutic Roles:

Art therapy combines psychology and art to help individuals express themselves and heal.

6. Entrepreneurship:

Start your own business selling artwork, crafts, or offering creative services.

7. Art Management:

Work in galleries or arts organizations, managing events, marketing, and administration.

8. Freelancing:

Many artists work independently, taking on various projects or commissions.

Biology

Entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE

Course Details

AQA A Level Biology is a fascinating subject, allowing you to learn about the natural world and all the living things within it. A Level Biology is a 'facilitating' subject and can open up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options, many of which can take you around the world.

Alongside in-depth knowledge of the biological world, you will develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works. Across the eight units you will make links between units and to the real world around you which will allow you to develop an interest in further study and careers in the subject.

Course Breakdown

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms (A Level only)
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A Level only)
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A Level only)
8. The control of gene expression (A Level only)

Where can this take me?

Biology is a facilitating subject at A Level which means it is widely accepted by universities and employers. Those looking to work within medicine, will need Biology and Chemistry to study medicine at university. Biology is a course which can lead to a range of occupations including: Midwifery, Medicine, Biomedical sciences, Research, Academics, Natural sciences.

Course Assessment

Paper 1

Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills. Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks / 35% of A Level.

Paper 2

Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills. Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks / 35% of A Level.

Paper 3

Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills. Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks / 30% of A Level.

Character Opportunities

Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems.

- Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- Ecology field trip opportunity
- Student trips to Universities and university lectures
- Comprehensive study of practical work and lab and providing numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need

Chemistry

Entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE

Course Details

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? Well, A Level Chemistry will lead you to the answer! Chemistry is all around us and is absolutely fundamental to all we do. It will make you think, question and at times really challenge you, but then we love a challenge at NOA! A Level Chemistry is essential for certain career paths (such as forensic and veterinary science, medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and dentistry) but is also a valuable support subject for students studying Biology and can provide support for aspects of Physics and Geography.

Course Breakdown

Year 1 (4 units taught across year 12)

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
- Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
- Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Year 2 (2 units taught across year 13 after successful completion of year 12)

- Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Course Assessment

Paper 1

2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks.
Any content from topics 2, 3 & 5, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 2

2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks.
Any content from topics 2, 4 & 6, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 3

1 hr 30 mins, 70 marks.
Any content from topics 2–6, including relevant practical skills. Practical skills are not examined but are assessed in class.

Character Opportunities

- Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems
- Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- Potential trips to chemical industry settings & Universities

Where can this take me?

Chemistry is a subject which can lead to many careers, mostly those linked to the STEM field. Students often combine Chemistry with another science so that they can study medicine at university, but chemistry can also lead to routes into Engineering and environmental sciences. Some occupations include:

- Chemist
- Researcher
- Forensic Researcher
- Chemical Engineer
- Teaching
- Pharmacologist
- Clinical Biochemist
- Management Consultant
- Oceanographer

Computer Science

Course Details

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

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

Course Breakdown

Computer systems (01)

The internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

Algorithms and programming (02)

Using computational thinking to solve problems.

Programming project (03)

Non-exam assessment.

Students will be expected to analyse a problem (10 marks), and design (15 marks), develop and test (25 marks), and evaluate and document (20 marks) a program. The program must be to solve it written in a suitable programming language.

Course Assessment

Paper 1

140 marks, 2 hours and 30 mins (Computer Systems)

Paper 2

140 marks, 2 hours and 30 mins (Algorithms and Programming)

Programming Project

70 marks

Character Opportunities

Lots of opportunity to have classroom discussions. Students will have the opportunity to develop deep thinking skills to solve programming questions and challenge.

Where can this take me?

Computer Science is a great course which opens the pathway to studying computer science further at university, or linked courses which study systems and data. An A Level in Computer Science can also open pathways for degree apprenticeships and apprenticeships in a wide range of sectors and roles including:

Web Design

Coding

Lecturing

Games Developer

Software Engineer

Cyber Security Analyst

Applications Developer

English Language

Course Details

English Language A Level enables you to acquire knowledge and understanding of many aspects of language including how the English Language works.

You will learn how to convey meaning in different ways and how to analyse language in use. Topics include spoken and written language, how and why language has changed over time, how and why language varies according to the context in which it is used, the relationship between language and society and how children acquire language. Students will explore a range of texts from newspaper articles, magazine articles, leaflets and advertisements.

Course Breakdown

The AQA course explores: how language conveys representations and the ever changing dialects within communities language change over time and language diversity, child's language development.

The coursework tasks focus on linguistic research and creative writing. For this, students must complete:

A language investigation (a 2,000 word research project into an aspect of language use) 1,500 word creative writing piece with an explanatory commentary. These tasks allow students to work on areas of personal interest, whilst at the same time developing their skills of linguistic analysis and creativity.

Course Assessment

Students complete a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is a language investigation and a creative writing piece. Students will also take examinations – 2 papers – and will be expected to apply their analysis skills to unseen texts in the examination.

Character opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including seminars, symposiums, lectures and debates plus a trip to the British Library. In the past, the course has included talks from visiting speakers and trips to universities and other related institutions, including Warwick University. The English department also has an online blog which is written by sixth form students and all A Level students are encouraged to contribute.

Where can this take me?

English Language offers students to develop many skills including writing, analytical and critical writing skills. In studying this at A Level, students can move into an English or humanities degree, as English Language is a well respected A Level. Most students move into linguistics, media or marketing, due to the skills which are transferable. Combined with other courses, English can be studied alongside literature, MFL, creative arts or theatre studies, for example. Those looking at apprenticeships can access a wide range of these due to the analytical and critical skillset students will have. Some occupations students may wish to take if they study English Language:

Marketing Executive or Manager

Writer

Journalist

Teacher

Consultant

Advertising or Branding Manager

Linguist

Business Manager

English Literature

Course Details

We follow the AQA English Literature Specification B for Advanced Level, which is linear in structure with students sitting all examinations at the end of the Advance Level course. In addition, students are assessed via two pieces of Non Examination Assessment.

The course is designed around a distinct philosophy, which centres on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within the literary genres of Tragedy and Protest writing. In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways in order that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for exams, but also experience a rich, challenging, and coherent approach to English literature that provides an excellent basis for further study in the subject.

Course Breakdown

Paper 1

Aspects of Tragedy (40%)

Paper 2

Elements of Social and Political Protest Literature (40%);

NEA 1&2 (20%)

Course Assessment

For the first paper, 'Aspects of Tragedy' students study texts through the lens of tragedy. Currently these include:

- Othello by William Shakespeare
- Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
- Poetry of John Keats

The second paper, 'Elements of Social and Political Protests' is a study through the lens of social and political protest which currently include:

- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blaker

Character opportunities

Students who wish to study English Literature at university will need an English Literature A Level. Routes from here include: a scriptwriter, copywriter, journalist, playwright, English teacher, author, for example. English Literature is also considered for courses in Law as it is a facilitating subject.

Where can this take me?

English Literature is a facilitating subject which is highly respected by universities. English Literature can be studied further at university, combined with another degree course, or on its own. Literature provides a range of analytical skills, so these are transferable to a wide range of roles in the future. Those wishing to study literature at university can elect modules which interest them from Modern Literature to Victorian literature, for example. Some occupations which students have moved into after studying English Literature:

Teacher

Lecturer

Marketing Manager

Consultant

Advertising Executive

Social Media Manager

Web Designer

Arts Administrator

Journalist

Magazine Editor

Public Relations Officer

French

Course Details

AQA Languages at A Level offers you a fantastic opportunity to work towards becoming a linguist, but that's not all. French is a fantastic career asset: the ability to speak both French and English is an advantage for finding a job with the many multinational companies using French as their working language (in retailing, automotive, luxury goods, aeronautics, for example). France, as the world's fifth biggest economy, attracts entrepreneurs, researchers and thousands of foreign students.

Course Breakdown

The AQA French A Level course develops and builds skills which are acquired at GCSE and focuses on the four key skill areas: Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening.

This course aims to equip you to deal with everyday social and work situations in French-speaking countries. You will read a range of texts in French, drawn from contemporary fiction, the classics and transcripts of films and current affairs programmes.

Theme 1

Social Issues and Trends

Theme 2

Political and Artistic Culture

Theme 3

Grammar

Theme 4

Literature and Film

Course Assessment

Paper 1

Listening, Reading and Writing Exam (Themes 1, 2 and 3): 2 hours 30 minutes. 50% of A Level. 100 marks.

Paper 2

Writing Exam (Themes 3 and 4): 2 hours. 20% of A Level. 80 marks.

Paper 3

Speaking Exam (Themes 1,2,3 and 4): 21–23 minutes. 30% of A Level. 60 marks.

Where can this take me?

French is a facilitating subject at A Level and is highly respected at universities. Studying a language opens up many opportunities due to the nature of a global economy and a need for language skills across the world. In studying a language, students can move into a language degree, or move straight into employment where the language is used in a role. French can offer more than just translation positions and is a door to global opportunities including:

Translator

Journalist

Writer

Consultant

Politics

Public Relations

Marketing

Business and Management

Teaching

Museum or Gallery specialist

Geography

Course Details

During Geography A Level you will study a range of topics: Dynamic Landscapes, Dynamic Places, Physical Systems and Sustainability and Human Systems and Geopolitics. You will develop your analytical and critical thinking skills through answering questions such as 'How does water insecurity occur and why is it becoming such a global issue for the 21st century?'

Course Breakdown

You will be assessed through examinations and coursework. The coursework is a written report of 3–4,000 words and accounts for 20% of the A Level grade.

Dynamic Landscapes

Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards

Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of either 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change or 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change

Dynamic Places

Topic 3: Globalisation

Topic 4: Shaping Places – a choice of either 4A Regenerating Places or 4B Diverse Places

Physical Systems and Sustainability

Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity

Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Human Systems and Geopolitics

Topic 7: Superpowers

Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – a choice of either 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention or 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Course Assessment

Paper 1

105 marks available on this paper worth 30% of the overall grade.

Paper 2

105 marks available, also worth 30% of the final grade.

Paper 3

70 marks available, worth 20% of the final grade.

NEA on an investigation of your choosing, with 70 marks available and worth 20% of the final grade.

Character opportunities

Opportunities for students to lead investigations in geographical processes, and develop investigative skills. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with contemporary geographical issues, whilst being able to make holistic links between different themes across Geography.

Where can this take me?

Having an A Level in Geography can lead to being able to move into degrees in conservation, sustainability, climate science, tourism and meteorology whilst also opening doors to careers in cartography, architectural technology, data and business analysis.

History

Course Details

At A Level we follow the Edexcel Route B course, focusing on the Tudors and the German Reformation. At A Level we complete an NEA and investigate a series of witch-hunts that took place across Europe and America. By immersing yourself in the Early Modern period, students will get to grips with a transformative period of change that laid the foundations of our modern world. You'll witness the rise of powerful monarchies, the birth of new religious ideas, and shifts in science and culture. The study of History trains you to select relevant information, assess validity of an argument, think and write logically, make informed judgments about controversial issues and present a well ordered argument with supporting evidence. These skills will equip you for a wide variety of degree courses and careers.

Course Breakdown

Edexcel Route B: Religion and the State in Early Modern Europe.

1B: England 1509–1603

2B: Luther and the German Reformation

3B: The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America

Course Assessment

Three exams and NEA

Character Opportunities

Opportunities to take part in the Historical Association's 'Great Debate'.

Where can this take me?

History is a facilitating subject and is widely accepted by universities for a range of degree programmes and degree apprenticeships. Those who study History in the past have moved into roles within:

Law

Journalism

Media

Publishing and editing

Research

Political and civil service

Museum and heritage management

Maths

Entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE

Course Details

In the Maths A Level, students will develop their mathematical thinking and understanding. They will discover a range of skills and techniques that will enable them to cultivate their reasoning abilities in order to communicate their decisions with clarity. Maths is a powerful tool in problem solving and logic, and the main aim of the teaching is for students to be able to analyse a situation in context and use mathematical modelling to solve and interpret their solution. There are many options available to students of maths. You will develop skills that make you highly desirable to potential employers, including problem-solving skills, analytical skills, logic.

- The financial sector applies maths skills to real-life, particularly accounting, actuarial work, investment management, and banking
- Many engineering apprenticeships require a good level of mathematical understanding
- IT companies value maths, particularly in computer programming
- Defence and intelligence
- Mathematical research
- Teaching

Course Breakdown

Pure

- 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

Course Assessment

Students will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 2:

Pure

Two 2 hour exams, each worth 33% of the qualification, each worth 100 marks.

Statistics and Mechanics

2 hour exam, worth 33% of the qualification, worth 100 marks.

Character Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical skills that makes personal statements stand out. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A Level curriculum.

Where can this take me?

Maths is considered a science, so is accepted at universities as a science A Level. Mathematics is widely used across a multitude of sectors and roles and will open up doors to positions in the following areas:

- Medicine
- Research
- Software Engineering
- Engineering
- Civil Service
- Teaching
- Lecturing

Further Maths

Entry requirements: Grade 9 at GCSE

Course Details

The Further Maths A Level is designed to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding seen in the Maths A Level. Although a greater depth of mathematical ability is required to succeed in this A Level, students that choose it will be rewarded with a richer understanding of the subject, and will be able to draw links across different areas of Maths. Two modules have been chosen from a range of options in order for students to see the wider impact of Maths in the real world. Further Pure develops the skills seen in the only staple module (Core Pure), whilst Decision has many links to Computer Science and programming. Any student considering studying Maths at university is strongly recommended to take the Further Maths A Level.

There are many options available to students of maths. You will develop skills that make you highly desirable to potential employers, including problem-solving skills, analytical skills, logic.

- The financial sector applies maths skills to real-life, particularly accounting, actuarial work, investment management, and banking
- Many engineering apprenticeships require a good level of mathematical understanding
- IT companies value maths, particularly in computer programming
- Defence and intelligence
- Mathematical research
- Teaching

Course Breakdown

Core Pure

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus

- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

Further Pure

- Further trigonometry
- Further calculus
- Further differential equations
- Coordinate systems
- Further vectors
- Further numerical methods
- Inequalities

Decision

- Algorithms and graph theory
- Algorithms on graphs
- Critical path analysis
- Linear programming

Course Assessment

Students will sit 4 papers at the end of year 2:

Core Pure

Two 1 hour 30 min exams, each worth 25% of the qualification, each worth 80 marks

Options – Further Pure and Decision

Two 1 hour 30 min exams, each worth 25% of the qualification, each worth 80 marks

Character Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical skills that makes personal statements stand out. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A Level curriculum.

Physics

Entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE and Grade 6 in Maths

Course Details

A Level Physics builds on topics that will be familiar from GCSE studies – taking them to the next level by looking at more in-depth theoretical explanations. The course balances classical physics content, like mechanics and electricity, with more modern topics such as particle physics. One common aspect is the use of mathematical models to help explain phenomena seen in the real world, so a good level of maths is crucial for anybody considering physics at A Level. Time in class will be spent both studying the theoretical aspects of physics and investigating the practical aspects through experimentation.

Physics pairs well with maths, thanks to the large number of equations that we use and the amount of calculation involved. Engineering is another complimentary subject; there are links through our study of materials and their properties, and electrical circuits. This course is a good step towards university courses in physics, maths, various types of engineering (such as civil, electronic, mechanical or aeronautical) and economics or accountancy. A good physics A Level shows universities that you have great mathematical skills, can think logically and are able to solve complex problems.

Course Breakdown

Year 1

Module 1 – Practical Skills
 Module 2 – Foundations of Physics
 Module 3 – Motion, Forces, Energy, Materials & Newton's Laws
 Module 4 – Electricity, Waves & Quantum Physics

Year 2

Module 5 – Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations, Gravitational Fields, Astrophysics & Cosmology
 Module 6 – Capacitors, Electric Fields, Electromagnetism, Medical Imaging, Nuclear & Particle Physics

Practical work throughout the course

Course Assessment

Paper 1

2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks
 Any content from topics 2, 3 & 5, including relevant practical skills

Paper 2

2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks
 Any content from topics 2, 4 & 6, including relevant practical skills

Paper 3

1 hr 30 mins, 70 marks
 Any content from topics 2–6, including relevant practical skills
 Practical skills are not examined but are assessed in class

Character Opportunities

Plenty of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems. Sixth Form trip to Geneva in July including a guided tour of parts of CERN – a fantastic experience for all who are interested in physics.

Where can this take me?

Physics can lead to anything including:

Pure science

Engineering

Civil Engineering

Plus many, many more!

Psychology

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Science and Maths

Course Details

Psychology is concerned with answering questions about human behaviour. It focuses on the science of the mind, behaviour and experience. It looks at how individuals think, what they do and the way they are affected by their biological make up and their wider social group.

Studying psychology also involves analysing data and using research methods to explain reasons for behaviour. It requires students to have gained a Grade 6 in Maths so that students can access the course. The course will offer a range of discussion opportunities, essay writing skills and real-life case studies where we explore reasons for behaviour.

- Are criminals born or made?
- Is there a critical period in which we attach to our mother?
- How do genes contribute to our behaviour?
- How accurate is eyewitness accounts of an event?
- What causes OCD and depression?

Course Assessment

The course is split into three units. The first two papers are made up of compulsory topics while the third paper has options to choose from. The units are all externally assessed through exams, with two papers being sat at the end of the first year, although if you progress on to second year these scores do not carry forward.

- Approaches
- Research Methods
- Attachment
- Memory
- Forensic Science
- Psychopathology
- Schizophrenia
- Issues and Debates
- Relationships Course Breakdown

Each paper is weighted the same for the A Level. Students are assessed at the end of the 2 years and will have 100% examination – there is no coursework. Research Methods is worth 48 marks on one of the papers, and is an important part of the course. Students are expected to pass their Year 12 year to continue onto the Year 13 A Level pathway.

Character Opportunities

The course is taught in an interactive way in which pupils have the opportunity to carry out some experiments on each other in class. During class we have many debates over different topics within the course. In the past psychology trips have taken place which is something we would be looking at doing again in the future. Students will visit the Freud Museum in London.

Where can this take me?

Psychology can take you into a range of careers within the health care sector, but is also an A Level which is useful in a range of occupations such as:

Business and Management

PR

Advertising and Marketing

Teaching

Counselling

Lecturing

Anthropology

Charity work

You can also study Psychology further and look to become a certified psychologist or forensic psychologist, working with criminals.

Politics

Course Details

Government and Politics allows you to develop and deepen your understanding of the political systems in the UK and in the USA. Studying Politics helps you to understand the decisions made on your behalf by those in power and gives you the tools to recognise when decisions are not being made fairly or for the best interests of the people. Taking this course will allow you to develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context. It will also allow you to develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions, and processes. Importantly, this course will allow you to understand of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups. A key skill you will also develop, which is attractive to universities and future employers, is the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements.

Course Assessment

Paper 1

You will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. You will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media

Component 2: Core Political Ideas

1. Liberalism
2. Conservatism
3. Socialism

Paper 2

Politics is ultimately about people, but most political decisions are made by a branch of government whose roles and powers are determined by a set of rules: the constitution. This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, since it enables you to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made.

Component 1: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

1. The constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and executive
4. Relations between the branches

Component 2: Non-core Political Ideas

1. Feminism
- The assessment is 2 hours.
Component A 60 marks
Component B 24 marks

Enrichment Opportunities

Students will visit the Houses of Parliament to experience the hub of UK politics. Students will also meet with the local MP to have the opportunity to question their policies and voting record. Students will also be encouraged to become active members of the community by engaging in local issues.

Paper 3

The USA has been considered by some to be a 'beacon of democracy'. As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics.

Component 1: USA Government and Politics

1. US Constitution and Federalism
2. US Congress
3. US Presidency
4. US Supreme Courts
5. US Democracy and Participation
6. Comparative theories

Course Breakdown

Students will have 3 papers and will sit these exams in formal conditions. There will be no coursework element to this course.

Character Opportunities

Students will visit the Houses of Parliament to experience the hub of UK politics. Students will also meet with the local MP to have the opportunity to question their policies and voting record. Students will also be encouraged to become active members of the community by engaging in local issues.

Where can this take me?

Politics as an A Level can lead to university degrees and apprenticeships within humanities, social sciences and English. Students who have studied politics have moved into:

Law

Business and marketing

International Relations

Public Relations

Media and Broadcast Journalism

Writing

Copywriting

Sociology

Course Details

This course is a great A Level for those looking to understand society, its systems and institutions. Lots of the topics which are covered on the specification, students can relate to and are able to draw upon their own experiences as young people in society. There is academic theory which underpins the sociological arguments, such as functionalism, Marxism and feminism. The course offers students an opportunity to discuss and debate current affairs, through real case studies which can be applied to theory.

Course Breakdown

Students have 3 papers, which are assessing different elements of the course. The course is broken down into: Theory and Methods, Education and Methods in Context, Crime and Deviance, Work and Poverty.

Students will have research methods taught explicitly to support their understanding of social science research.

Course Assessment

Paper 1
Education within Theory and Methods

Paper 2
Topics in Sociology

Paper 3
Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

Students will be assessed on AO1, AO2 and AO3 across all papers and will be expected to write in prose for essay questions. There are a range of 10 mark and 20 mark questions which will require students to evaluate and discuss topics at a critical level.

Character Opportunities

Students will develop critical thinking skills and take part in a wide range of discussion in class. There are opportunities for students to take part in enrichment across the school and develop leadership opportunities.

Where can this take me?

Sociology is a social science which is accepted by all universities. Due to the nature of the topics, which allow for discussion and debate, this subject develops critical thinking skills and prepares student for university or an apprenticeship. Sociology can be studied alongside other subjects such as criminology, psychology, English and Business as a combined degree, or can be studied on its own. Sociology is the study of society, so this subject opens routes to many careers such as: Teaching, Civil Service, Social Work, Marketing, HR, for example.

Applied General



Sport

Course Details

This course is designed for those who wish to build on the learning and achievement of Key Stage 4 or Level 2 Sport. In order to take this subject, it would be beneficial if students had the following:

- CNAT Sport Studies at Merit or above, or GCSE PE at Grade 6 or above
- English Language Grade 5
- Science grade in Biology 5 or Double Science
- An interest in and regular participation in a sport is also recommended

Course Breakdown

Unit 1 & 2 are exam based, assessed externally and worth 67% of final grade.

Unit 3 & 4 coursework units are assessed internally worth 33% of final grade.

Course Assessment

Assessment will be examinations in January and then students will work on their coursework which will contribute to their final grade. In class assessments will be focused on core knowledge from the units.

Character Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to acquire a bespoke NOA designed sports kit for their practical days. There is also the opportunity to join an extra session of physical education once a week to support in physical and mental health wellbeing within students.

Where can this take me?

Sport provides a range of skills which can be transferred into a wide range of areas beyond Level 3. Universities accept Sport as it offers leadership skills and develops students' understanding of the human body and wellbeing. Those who have selected Sport have the opportunity to move onto university, apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship in the following areas:

Sport and Nutrition
Coaching
Teaching
Sport Psychology
Fitness
Elite sports
Social sciences
Journalism

Business

Course Details

Students will study the Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical in Business at an Extended Certificate level.

This course contains a wide variety of business themes, starting with an introduction to the Business Environment and Customers and Communication in the first year, and further topics such as Marketing and Business Decisions in the second year. The course involves both practical work assessed through coursework and witness statements, as well as externally assessed exams.

Course Breakdown

Business Studies is a vocational course, which also includes an examination component. The course will be broken down into units and will develop practical as well as academic writing skills.

Unit 1
The Business Environment (exam)

Unit 2
Working in Business (exam)

Unit 4
Customers and Communication (mandatory)

Unit 5
Marketing and Market Research

Unit 8
Introduction to Human Resources

Course Assessment

Students will complete 75% coursework and the remaining percentage will be examination.

Character Opportunities

There are opportunities throughout the year for Business students which allow them to apply their understanding to scenarios and mock interviews. Assessment centre days and apprenticeship interviews are offered on the course and local businesses take part in a range of enrichment opportunities led by our Career Leader.

Where can this take me?

Business can open doors to a range of pathways and sectors. Students who have studied Business have moved into Business and Marketing degrees at university, and finance apprenticeships. Due to the nature of the course, with students working independently and the research they complete, students develop skills in communication and are able to progress into other roles within HR and customer service.

Engineering

Course Details

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering is designed for learners who are interested in a career in the engineering sector and want to progress to further study in the sector. Learners will take a practical, applied engineering course as part of their Level 3 study programme, which gives them an introduction to the sector. They will be able to combine this with other qualifications, such as a GCSE A Level in Mathematics, Physics or other A Levels, which would allow them to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes.

Course Breakdown

Engineering covers a broad variety of roles and it involves the application of scientific principles and practical knowledge to transform ideas and materials into products and systems safely and support them during their lifetime. This qualification has a focus on a broad range of engineering specialist areas. Learners taking this qualification will study mandatory content covering:

- Engineering principles and mathematics
- Health and safety, team work and interpreting and creating computer-aided engineering drawings
- Design and manufacture of products

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the engineering sector.

Course Assessment

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are two forms for this qualification: Externally assessed via examination and Internally assessed producing reports as write up the findings of their own research, use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations, carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes and demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate processes, devices, components, equipment, materials, consumables.

Character Opportunities

3D Printing training and access
Solidworks personal student licence and training
Links with local businesses e.g. Banbury Bass performance, Mondelez & Lotus F1, Engineering Education Trust
Apprenticeships fair
Given access to metal and woodworking workshop in study periods to nurture their skills.

Where can this take me?

Engineering A Level opens the door to a variety of exciting opportunities in both higher education and the professional world. With a strong foundation in engineering principles, students can pursue further studies in mechanical, electrical, civil, or aerospace engineering at top universities. Alternatively, this qualification can lead directly to engineering apprenticeships or technical roles in industries such as manufacturing, automotive, renewable energy, and construction. Whether aiming for roles as a design engineer, project manager, or technical specialist, the practical skills and theoretical knowledge gained through the course lay the groundwork for a successful and dynamic engineering career. Additionally, it fosters problem-solving abilities, creativity, and a passion for innovation, which are highly valued in today's technology-driven world.

Health and Social Care

Course Details

The Cambridge Extended Certificate and Diploma in Health and Social Care Level 3. This course will provide you with the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the health and social care sector.

Course Breakdown

To complete the Extended Certificate, you will study six units, three of which will be assessed through an external examination. The other three will be internally marked and then externally moderated.

In year 12 you will study the following four units:

- Unit 1**
Building positive relationships in health and social care
- Unit 2**
Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- Unit 3**
Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care
- Unit 10**
Nutrition for health (after summer exams)

In year 13 you will study:

- Unit 10**
Nutrition for health (continued)
- Unit 4**
Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
- Unit 9**
Supporting people with disabilities

Course Assessment

- Unit 1**
Building positive relationships in health and Social Care – coursework
 - Unit 2**
Equality, diversity and rights in health and Social Care – exam
 - Unit 3**
Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care – exam
 - Unit 10**
Nutrition for health – coursework
 - Unit 4**
Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care – exam
 - Unit 9**
Supporting people with disabilities – coursework
- The units are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.
This qualification is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

Character Opportunities

Through this course there is the opportunity to improve communication skills through leadership opportunities such as lesson support and mentoring.

Where can this take me?

Health and Social Care opens up many routes into the social and health sector due to the transferable skills from the BTEC into the real world. Students who have studied this course have moved into many health care positions within the NHS and into degree apprenticeships. Those looking to go to university can move into social science courses such as Psychology and Sociology, for example, but also into sector specific degrees such as social work, occupational health, human sciences, police and teaching.

Music

Course Details

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate specification enables students to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills. Students will develop music performance and compositional skills, organisational and logistic skills relevant to the modern music industry and understanding of music reading and notation.

Course Breakdown

The course is split into four units, which are internally/externally assessed through coursework and exams over the two years.

Course Assessment

Unit 1

Practical Music Theory and Harmony (internally assessed)

Unit 2

Professional Practice in the Music Industry (externally assessed)

Unit 3

Ensemble Music Performance (externally assessed)

Optional unit

Choose from solo performance, group performance, composition or improvisation (internally assessed)

Character Opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including practical workshops, seminars, lectures and critical listening sessions. The course will include visits from speakers in the industry as well as trips to universities and other related institutions.

Where can this take me?

Students from NOA Music have gone on to be signed recording artists, international DJs, promoters, sound engineers, qualified music teachers and instrument and equipment manufacturers.

Life at Sixth Form

We offer a range of enrichment opportunities to provide inspiration to our students. The enrichment we offer is tailored to the needs of the students:

- South Africa Trip
- Oxbridge Mentoring
- Year 13 Leaver's Meal
- Head Team

Application process

Applications will be made available online through the sixth form website but can also be made via post or email. Once we have received your application, a member of the sixth form team will be in touch to arrange an interview. At the interview, we will discuss our courses and pathways available with some guidance given on subjects for university courses and apprenticeships. It is important that parents are part of this discussion, so we ask parents to attend all sixth form interviews.

Following the interview, we will make a personalised conditional offer and students will be required to attend a sixth form induction day in June.

Students will need to obtain the results outlined in their offer – students can accept their place on GCSE results day in August as long as they have met their conditional offer. Where a student may not have fully met their offer, we may still be able to offer them a place but there will need to be some adjustments made to the courses they wish to study. Once a student has accepted their place, they will start in September.

External Applications

We welcome applications from students who attend other schools and are delighted we are your first choice of sixth form for your next pathway. All external applications require a reference from a Head of Year or Pastoral Leader from their current school and their details will need to be given on the initial application.

Students who apply from another school will need to have a reference completed before they are invited to interview.



NOA Sixth Form

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Drayton Road
Banbury
OX16 0UD

Telephone: 01295 224300

Email: enquiries@northoxfordshire-academy.org

Website: northoxfordshire-academy.org

Aspiration Inspiration Destination

 @NorthOxAcademy