

Eighth Form Courses

From September
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St Paul's School

FOUNDED 1509

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INTRODUCTION

A Levels

At St Paul's, all A Levels are taught as two-year courses which are examined at the end of the Upper Eighth year. The advantages of this approach are

- they allow our pupils to have an enriching experience both in studying their chosen subjects and having the opportunity to achieve the depth of understanding without being interrupted by early examinations;
- they allow our Heads of Department to determine the order in which the syllabus is taught to support our pupils in the aforementioned point.

When the government reformed A Levels in 2015, they introduced a new AS Level (Advanced Subsidiary) qualification which is a stand-alone qualification with a smaller syllabus than the A Level syllabus. At St Paul's, in common with many similar schools, we have decided that pupils will not take these AS Level examinations, either in the Lower Eighth or Upper Eighth. So the only course which is examined in the Lower Eighth is the Extended Project Qualification.

A Level is graded A*, A, B, C, D and E.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ allows you to select and research a topic which interests you. The project has four possible outcomes: a dissertation; a field study or investigation; a performance (e.g., musical/theatrical); an artefact (e.g., a short film/portfolio of photography/creative writing). Each project is produced independently, but you are supported by a short introductory course of taught lessons and weekly one-to-one supervisions with a tutor-assessor. You will cover and be trained in the necessary skills for research which will also be beneficial to any future university study. Universities welcome the EPQ because it develops your skills of planning, research, critical thinking and creativity, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation. It will also give you something substantial to talk about at interview and when writing your applications. It is completed in the Lower Eighth.

Lower Eighth subject choices

You must choose either

- three subjects and an EPQ, or
- four subjects, or
- four subjects and an EPQ.

If you choose further mathematics, you must also choose mathematics. Mathematics and further mathematics together count as two subjects.

Upper Eighth subject choices

In the Upper Eighth, you will continue either three or four subjects.

Guidelines for Lower Eighth choices

1. How will universities distinguish between strong candidates?

- Universities are increasingly making use of additional aptitude tests to identify the strongest candidates during their final year at school. These are required for many courses at Cambridge and Oxford and sometimes required for entry to some courses including law,

mathematics and medicine at other universities. There is further guidance at: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/admissions-tests>. We offer preparation for whatever tests pupils need.

2. Should I choose four subjects or three subjects and an EPQ?

- Our philosophy is to offer you flexibility and choice in your post-GCSE subject choices, which is why (unlike most schools) we attempt to timetable your chosen combination rather than require you to pick from set option blocks. Our advice is therefore to explore and discuss all the options, and choose a combination that is right for you. So, what is the 'standard' option? A majority of pupils choose four subjects in the Lower Eighth; many will continue with all four to the end of their time in the Eighth Form and some will drop to three subjects during the Lower Eighth. This keeps options open for longer and delivers curriculum breadth.
- Three subjects and an EPQ is still a strong basis for university admission, which will be based on grades in three A Level subjects. An important consequence of this choice is that you will be committing to your three Upper Eighth subjects from the outset, with no option to change after the first few weeks in the Lower Eighth. If your choices included a subject which is new to you (such as economics or politics), you would have no option but to continue it to the end of the Upper Eighth even if you did not enjoy it or were not good at it.

3. What about four subjects plus an EPQ?

- Universities want quality rather than quantity. You will need time to work beyond the syllabuses and to develop the extensive super-curricular experience that admissions tutors are looking for.
- This option is very demanding and there is a real danger of diluting performance in all subjects – you should only undertake this option if you are confident that you can cope with the load without your grades suffering. The EPQ requires high levels of independent organisation and self-motivation, because it is mentored and supervised rather than directly taught.

4. Does an EPQ grade give any advantage in university application?

- We do not believe that taking an EPQ will increase (or decrease) your chance of an offer. Some universities may include the EPQ in their offers – check individual university guidance for information – and a few will slightly reduce their A Level requirements if you have an EPQ grade A (e.g. Southampton might give you *either* an offer of AAA at A Level *or* AAB at A Level and A in the EPQ). If you wish to do an EPQ, we recommend that you choose it for positive reasons, not strategic. EPQs can provide an excellent foundation in university-style independent research and a good basis for academic discussion at university interviews.

5. A Level predictions are very important for my university application. How will you make these predictions?

- Our predictions for university application use evidence from tests taken across the year, the internal summer exams, progress through the year, and evidence of independent work and scholarship. Different departments will weigh up these with reference to their relevance to their individual subjects and this is communicated to pupils during their Lower Eighth year.

6. What other options are there for academic enrichment?

- In addition to the EPQ and enrichment which takes place during normal lessons, there are opportunities for academic enrichment through subject-specific national competitions, such as Olympiads, prize essays, and lunchtime societies. The High Master's Prize offers an

opportunity to undertake an extended piece of work based on research and independent study; this activity takes place in the summer of the Lower Eighth, and leads to an essay internal and joint symposium each September and the award of prizes at Apposition.

Timing of choices

You will choose your Lower Eighth subjects just before Remedy in February. On the basis of these choices, we shall construct a timetable for the Lower Eighth year. It may be possible to change your choices at the start of the Lower Eighth year provided that your new choices fit the timetable.

Practical considerations: staffing and timetabling

1. A course will only run if enough pupils wish to take it and staff are available to teach it. It may not be possible to run subjects for which there are insufficient numbers to make a viable set.
2. We shall endeavour to ensure that as many pupils as possible can take their chosen combination; it may not always be possible, however, to timetable some combinations of subjects.

Other points to consider when making your choices

- Consider your academic strengths and weaknesses, and choose courses that you will enjoy and in which you think you will do well.
- Consider your long-term aims: read the sections on Higher Education and University Course requirements at the end of this booklet.
- The *quality* of your results is more important than the *quantity*.
- Even if, at this stage in your career, you are undecided about your eventual choice of university course, try to ensure as far as you possibly can that at least two of your Eighth Form subjects are related and provide a coherent foundation for higher education.

ANCIENT HISTORY (GREEK AND ROMAN)

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

The Ancient History course covers some of the most pivotal and fascinating periods in world history. What would have happened if Persia had overwhelmed the Greeks at Salamis and Plataea? What if the Roman Republic had not fallen? These key moments in the Greek and Roman world shaped the course of western history, and have ongoing effects in our politics, society, and culture.

The course requires no previous familiarity with Ancient History, and it is equally suitable for those who have studied GCSE and those who come to the subject new. Special emphasis is placed on looking at original sources in translation – historical narrative, biography, letters, philosophy, political oratory, comedy, inscriptions, archaeology, and so on.

The course is divided into two halves, Greek and Roman, each accounting for half of the marks. Within each half, you will study both a broad sweep of classical history and a shorter period in depth.

Greek

Period Study: *relations between the Greek and non-Greek states in the years 492-402 BC*

This course covers the Persian Wars, a David and Goliath moment in which the tiny Greek states faced off against the massive Persian Empire... and won! The rest of the period looks at the wars waged between Athens and Sparta in the fifth century, a time when both states were at their height in terms of power and culture.

Depth Study. The choice between options depends heavily on the interests of those taking the subject.

- *The Society and Politics of Sparta, 478-404 BC.* This looks at the education, social structures, politics, and military of Sparta in the 5th century.
- *The Culture and Politics of Athens, 460-399 BC.* This looks at the high point in Greek civilisation: democratic rule, the new thinking which emerged at this time, as well as Athenian art and architecture at what was arguably its peak.
- *The Rise of Macedon, 359-323 BC.* This looks at how Macedon transformed politics in Greece during the 4th c., as well as the major events in the careers of both Philip and Alexander, and their respective characters.

Roman

Period Study: *the Julio-Claudian emperors, 31 BC–AD 31*

The period covers the exciting transition between Republic and Principate. A close look is taken at the career of Augustus, and then the next four emperors: the paranoid Tiberius, the mad Caligula, the sickly Claudius, and the murderous Nero.

Depth Study: The choice between options again depends heavily on the interests of those taking the subject.

- *The Breakdown of the Late Republic, 88-31 BC.* This investigates one of the most tumultuous periods in Roman history: the gradual collapse of the Republic into monarchy. Starting with Sulla, the first Roman to march on Rome, it works through the careers of Pompey, Caesar, Antony, and Octavian, the future emperor Augustus.
- *The Flavian emperors, AD 68-96.* This depth study continues on from the history covered in the Period Study, looking at the careers of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian. There is particular focus on the development of the Principate, particularly in its art, coins, inscriptions, literature, entertainment, and religion.
- *Ruling Roman Britain, AD 43-128.* This depth study covers the conquest of Britain as well as the expansion of Roman rule on the island. Resistance to, and the effects of, Roman rule are also covered.

At the end of the course, two papers are sat, one on Greek history, the other on Roman. On the Period Study there is an essay question, followed by a question requiring you to respond to the views of a modern historian. On the Depth Study one question asks about the usefulness of a source studied during the course; the second question is an essay on one of the broad topics within the period.

ART

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

A Level art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world through visual language, and an involved process of research and exploration. As an A Level subject it is recognised for demanding high levels of independence and creative problem solving. Although it is especially suitable for those considering a creative future in areas such as design, engineering and architecture, it provides a valuable complementary subject. Grades achieved in A Level art will contribute to course offers from universities both in the UK and USA.

Fine Art is the general umbrella for all work submitted, offering specialisms including photography, film, 3D studies, painting, drawing and printmaking. The first two terms of the Lower Eighth are given over to a foundation course where pupils work in a range of disciplines; painting and mixed media, print, three-dimensional work and lens-based media. Projects are designed to introduce new ways of working and to challenge and stretch pupils in developing work that meets the expectations of the qualification. This part of the course is largely teacher led with taught programs offering clear opportunities for independent creative thinking and visual decision making. During these terms the weekly twilight session is used for life class, which we consider to be essential in developing analytical drawing skills.

In the Summer Term pupils select the area they wish to work in for their independent project. This project is given a thematic focus which offers pupils a point of departure and replicates the starting point set by the board in the Externally Set Assignment. Independent projects developed in the Personal Investigation and the Externally Set Task follow the same creative methodology which asks pupils to consider their work in relation to other artists, explore media in response to subject matter, record ideas and resolve work in line with expressed intentions.

Each pupil will be assigned an 'art tutor' who will oversee that individual's teaching. Group critiques encourage discussion and help build a critical approach to the subject. Visits to museums and galleries will be encouraged for both practical coursework and contextual studies.

Unit 1 Coursework	60%	Component 1: Personal Investigation
Unit 2 Externally Set Task	40%	Component 2: Externally Set Task

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

Component 1 incorporates two linked elements – Part 1: practical work and Part 2: personal study.

For Part 1, from a personal starting point you will submit a fully researched and technically developed practical project. You will have the opportunity to generate practical work, ideas and research from primary, secondary and contextual sources. You will experiment with a variety of media For Part 2, you will submit a piece of continuous prose of a minimum of 2,000 words. This essay will be an opportunity to explore theory and critical thinking related to your chosen area of work.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

Component 2 represents the culmination of the course. It is an externally set, broad-based theme which is released on February 1st of the final year. You will have allocated time to produce preparatory studies, followed by a personal outcome in 15 hours of controlled assessment.

BIOLOGY

Board: CAIE

Qualification: A Level

Our understanding of the biology of living organisms has seen rapid progress in recent years, due in no small part to advances in molecular biology and genetics. The Cambridge International A Level biology course combines familiar topics, such as mammalian physiology, with recent developments in genetics and molecular biology to provide an understanding of the function, diversity and evolution of organisms.

You will study the fundamental principles that underpin the way in which molecules, cells, organisms, and ecosystems interact and function. Wherever possible, we incorporate the most recent biological advances into the course, for instance studying the origin and spread of infectious diseases, or the way in which newly discovered genes coordinate the development of a complex multicellular organism from a single cell, and we make use of the latest scientific research papers in our teaching. There is a particular emphasis on cell and molecular biology, biochemistry and genomics since these disciplines underpin our understanding of much of biology and these topics highlight the difference in approach between IGCSE biology and A Level.

Practical work is central to the course and ranges from dissections of a wide range of organisms to using the latest molecular biology techniques such as gel electrophoresis and PCR to amplify DNA fragments. In the Summer Term there is an extended practical investigation based on a Cambridge Natural Sciences undergraduate practical course in which you will study the molecular biology of the cell nucleus using a range of advanced laboratory techniques.

The department has offered the Cambridge International A Level course for the past nine years. The final examinations comprise four written papers, which make up 88% of the total marks, and a single practical examination worth 12% of the total marks. Question styles in the written papers range from multiple choice, short and longer-answer questions, and data analysis and experimental design. There are no practical assessments during the course.

There are opportunities to take part in Biology Olympiads in both the Lower and Upper Eighth. The latter competition may lead to competing for the UK in the International Biology Olympiad in which Paulines have enjoyed much success in recent years. Lunchtime biology project clubs are offered such as Pask Soc, which introduces you to a range of molecular biology techniques normally encountered at university, and Journal Discussion Club in which primary research articles are studied.

A Level chemistry is not required to take biology at A Level, although we would normally expect anyone planning on studying the biological sciences or medicine at university to take chemistry A Level.

The major topics covered in the course are:

Molecules, Membranes and Cells

Cell structure and function is covered in much greater detail than at IGCSE and sets the scene for much of what follows. It includes an introduction to biochemistry, particularly focusing on the structure and function of proteins and enzymes and includes computer modelling of protein structure. Cell ultrastructure is introduced, using the school's scanning electron microscope. Particular emphasis is placed on the modern techniques that have been used to elucidate cell structure and function, such as fluorescence microscopy, the use of reporter genes, and X-ray crystallography.

Transport, Disease and Immunology

The challenges faced by large multicellular organisms in providing a regular supply of materials to cells are investigated, and the structure of the mammalian respiratory and cardiovascular systems are covered, including the electrical activity of the heart using ECGs and how a heartbeat is initiated. The biology of infectious diseases such as malaria, TB, HIV-AIDS, and cholera is studied which forms the basis for investigating the way in which the immune system works at a molecular level.

Homeostasis and Bioenergetics

The structure and function of the nervous system, hormonal regulation, and osmoregulation in multicellular organisms are studied in the context of maintaining constant internal conditions. The structure and function of muscle is studied and also various aspects of animal behaviour and their links with the nervous system. The fundamental biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis (bioenergetics) are covered in detail, explaining how ATP is formed and how it is used by cells, which builds on the biochemistry that was covered earlier in the course.

Genes, Genomics and Evolution

Various aspects of genetics are studied, from exactly what a gene is and how they work, to a mathematical treatment of their behaviour in populations. Modern techniques of molecular biology are explored to investigate the structure of genes and genomes, such as gene sequencing, genetic modification and the new technique of gene editing. Evolution, a central theme of biology, is studied, including the generation and conservation of biological diversity.

CHEMISTRY

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

PRACTICAL SKILLS		Practical endorsement – assessed internally over both years of the course, reported separately to grade and does not count towards A Level grade
EXAMINATION	100%	3 units, including one synoptic paper

To a good approximation, everything is chemistry: it is central to all our lives and touches nearly all of the frontiers of science. The chemistry A Level course extends key topics that you met at IGCSE such as bonding, energetics, the periodic table and organic chemistry, though none of these areas is exactly what it may have seemed until now.

The Lower Eighth course develops two themes: firstly, the uses of chemistry in all their diverse, elegant, productive, destructive, exotic and innovative guises; and secondly, the molecular mechanisms that underlie such uses – this is where the A Level course digs deeper into nature, and so provides a much more satisfying explanation than you will have encountered before.

During the Upper Eighth, the core areas of physical and inorganic chemistry are developed in a more quantitative way than during the Lower Eighth and you will get to investigate the colourful chemistry of the transition metals, catching a glimpse of the quantum world along the way. Organic chemistry also takes on new significance as synthetic pathways to medicines and materials are explored. You will encounter some of the fundamental biochemistry of life and find out why thalidomide failed as a drug and how morphine, codeine and heroin are all interrelated.

During both years the syllabus is followed carefully, but there is plenty of time to go into the fundamental ideas of chemistry in more detail. In addition, as part of the course, the department gives lectures on areas of chemistry that you would never get to meet in the ordinary A Level such as drug design, poisons and the origins of colour. There is also a large quantity of problem solving, and almost all of the cohort will put their skills to the test by entering both the Chemistry Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge – and in doing so, most earn awards. Lower Eighth pupils can also join the Chemistry Problem Solving Club, which will help them to prepare for the Olympiads and also occasional team competitions like Chemistry Races and the RSC Analyst competition.

Practical work is integrated into the course and you will get to use sophisticated apparatus and instrumentation that you will not have been able to touch before. A wide range of experiments is carried out in class and, though no practical work is done under exam conditions, exam questions will draw on knowledge of experiments carried out during the course. You will assemble a record of practical work over the two years that will lead to a practical endorsement – formal recognition of your competence in practical chemistry – which will be reported on your exam certificate alongside your final A Level grade.

If you enjoy practical chemistry, the Chemistry Projects Club offers the opportunity to undertake a series of organic syntheses during lunchtimes – the sorts of syntheses that usually go on only at universities and which have the power to transform your practical skills. Those who join the club will also have the opportunity to contribute to the department's outreach programme in the Spring Term as pupil demonstrators.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

Computing is a problem-solving subject, in many ways an art as well as a science. Throughout the course you will develop a thorough understanding of the nature of defining and approaching problems, how to design solutions and then program them on a computer. As Vint Cerf, one of the founding fathers of the Internet said:

"There was something amazingly enticing about programming. You created your own universe and you were master of it - the computer would do anything you programmed it to do. It was this unbelievable sandbox in which every grain of sand was under your control."

Many pupils for this course will have done the GCSE but you do not need any previous experience or prior knowledge – however please talk to Dr Harrison if you are in this position. You will need to have an interest in using computers to solve problems (be they your own coding projects or competition-based challenges). You will need to be prepared to be persistent – initial solutions will almost certainly need adjusting before they function effectively. You can expect to spend at least half your lesson time actually on the computer coding and some of your prep time as well. We expect many pupils on this course to do well in the Olympiad and other competitions.

The skills learnt within a computing course will be valuable within many other disciplines, both as a power user but also with the many applications of data science; an understanding of how machines can be controlled by instructions you have issued will make any pupil a more effective user of the technology. Many students who choose computing also do Further Maths but it is not required, although there is some correlation between students who are strong in maths and those who are successful in Computing.

COURSEWORK	20%	The Non-Examined Assessment (a.k.a. "The Project" completed during the U8)
EXAMINATION	80%	Two 2.5-hour papers: one at a computer, one written

Paper 1 and Paper 2 are both two and a half hour exams, each worth 40% of the final mark.

You will learn a programming language: we will teach C#, a modern strongly typed compiled professional language which allows all modern concepts (including graphical user interfaces) to be used. Other languages (e.g., Python, Haskell, SQL) are also referenced.

Paper 1 is on screen and is about programming, data structures, developing algorithms (outline program instructions) and the theory of computation. A large part of the exam consists of understanding and then amending or enhancing a piece of code you will have studied for a period of time before the exam. It will also contain some short answer questions covering the theoretical aspects of the specification.

Paper 2 is a written exam, it includes how to represent data in computers, how computers work (this links with digital electronic theory), communications and networks, databases, big data, functional programming, consequences of computer use and systematic problem solving.

The coursework is a project where you design and program a solution to a problem which you have investigated yourself – you will be guided on how to do this. Your work is evaluated from the written report that you produce.

ECONOMICS

Board: Pearson Edexcel

(Economics A)

Qualification: A Level

Economics provides a fascinating insight into some of the most important forces that shape the modern world. It is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions when trying to allocate limited resources. An understanding of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of the world around us, and the reasons and consequences of decisions taken by governments and firms for consumers, and the national and global economy. However, it is not the same as business studies; you will not learn how to run a business in practice or become a financier.

On this course, you will learn to:

- Understand economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues that affect everyday life;
- Understand economic concepts and theories come from a range of perspectives in order to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena;
- How to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of firms and government within it;
- To use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to improve information processing and problem-solving skills;
- Develop your logic, analytical and quantitative skills, and the ability to communicate ideas through extended writing.

Lower Eighth year

The course in the Lower Eighth (and Upper Eighth) involves the study of micro and macroeconomics.

In microeconomics, the functions of markets are examined before moving onto business behaviour and how the number, structure, strategy and size of businesses can affect outcomes for consumers and firms. Monopoly, perfect competition, oligopoly, and game theory are all covered.

In macroeconomics, the model of aggregate demand and supply, and the main objectives and instruments of government policy, are explored in the context of the UK economy. Market versus government interventionist approaches to running the economy are compared. In the summer term, the economics of international trade and exchange rates are also covered.

Upper Eighth year

The Upper Eighth course is also separated into micro and macroeconomics but also considers the synoptic links between them to aid preparation for Paper 3 (synoptic paper).

In microeconomics, business economics is continued, followed by the economics of the labour market, such as wage setting, monopsony and inequality, alongside broader reasons why markets might fail. This allows consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of different types of government intervention and regulation, for example policy responses to climate change, or how regulators could address concerns over Big Tech firms.

In macroeconomics, the course becomes more global and explores the causes of growth and development in a wide range of countries, such as the US, China, Germany and developing African

nations. The economics of globalisation, trade, FDI, competitiveness, and the balance of payments are key topics. We also consider the function and regulation of financial markets and their links to the real economy.

Economics is an intellectually demanding subject that requires – and develops – a wide range of skills. Mathematics at A Level is helpful but not essential (though strongly advised for those hoping to read economics at university, whilst further mathematics can benefit an application to a top university). Analytical and evaluative skills are important, as is the ability to write clearly and logically, with both structured essays and extended answers required in A Level exams and in higher education.

Examination format

We study Economics A, Pearson Edexcel, which has three 2 hour papers, each worth 100 marks.

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 have the same format. Students answer all questions from Section A and Section B, and one from Section C.

- Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.
- Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.

Paper 1 (Microeconomics) Markets and business behaviour

Paper 2 (Macroeconomics) The national and global economy

Paper 3 Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

The paper comprises two sections. Each section comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.

ENGINEERING

Board: Edexcel

Qualification: Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Lower Eighth year only

In this course you will have an introduction to engineering and engineering design. You will also learn the skills required to select and complete an appropriate project (including project planning, research, analysis, decision making, evaluation and presentation). All engineering EPQs will be focused on the design of an artefact; some will take this through to a manufactured product, prototype or model while others will produce an entirely 'virtual' artefact. All will require the application of sound engineering principles with links to mathematics and physics.

An engineering EPQ will be particularly suitable for those pupils intending to study engineering, physics, physical natural sciences or architecture; completion will give real substance to their answers to questions like "Why do you want to study engineering/physics/architecture?"

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Board: Eduqas (WJEC)

Qualification: A Level

Overview:

As is evident from its motto, the study of literature was central to the founding ethos of our school. Whilst current pupils face a world that would appear largely unrecognisable to the scholars *'from all nations and countries'* who entered St Paul's in 1509, the underlying principles of a broadly humanist programme of study are as relevant today as then. Our school's founder sought to counter an educational system bound in his day by narrow-minded scholasticism and unquestioned dogma. Though today's Paulines may face different challenges, the study of literature remains a catalyst for broader social and cultural understanding, and encourages an appreciation for perspectives that differ from, query and challenge the status quo.

When he attended St Paul's a century after its founding, the programme of study John Milton followed formed the basis for a career that drew together an extraordinary range of specialisms and subjects. Literature was prerequisite to this interdisciplinary approach, and so it remains today.

An advanced education in literature provides a natural companion to the study of Humanities, Languages, and the Arts, whilst offering a balance and breadth to complement study of the Sciences. It also provides a strong foundation for university courses and professional careers that rely on nuanced appreciation for language, sophistication and flair in speech and writing, and a subtle understanding of human psychology, action and motivation.

The Course:

Whilst drawing on the skills developed over the past two years, A Level English Literature will introduce a much more comprehensive and exciting array of texts than those studied at GCSE, and it will explore these in considerably greater depth and detail. There is freedom to approach writing and ideas from a wide variety of perspectives, and the course will draw on and develop a disparate range of cultural, social and aesthetic experience. Unlike GCSE, there is no formal or examined language element, as the focus is entirely on literary texts. However, fluency and sophistication of expression is an essential skill that will be refined throughout the course.

We believe the Eduqas A Level is the most exciting and stimulating course available. It will provide pupils with a detailed knowledge of great literary works across the ages, from Chaucer to the present day, helping to develop a love of literature and build vital skills for life beyond school. In addition, the coursework element of the qualification allows pupils to explore texts beyond the confines of the set syllabus, engaging with contemporary writing that aligns with their own areas of interest and enthusiasm.

Syllabus Structure:

The course is neatly structured, with individual components being devoted each to a particular literary form. The set texts are thought-provoking and well-chosen, allowing for in-depth study of individual works and meaningful comparison between texts. Independent study is encouraged and rewarded throughout, and is given particular focus in the non-examined assessment where candidates are able to take ownership of their own exploration of prose texts in a full-length essay.

Component 1: Poetry

2-hour examination 30% of qualification

3 poetry texts are studied in total

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

- One two-part question on one set text;
- The set text for Section A in 2026-7 will be John Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

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

- One question from a choice of two asking candidates to compare two further set texts;
- The set text pairing for section B in 2026-27 will be a comparative study of the poetry of Thomas Hardy and T. S. Eliot.

Component 2: Drama

2-hour examination 30% of qualification

3 plays are studied in total

Section A: Shakespeare (closed book)

- One two-part question on one Shakespeare play;
- The set text for Section A in 2026-7 will be *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Section B: Drama pre-1900 and post-1900

- One question from a choice of two, asking candidates to compare two plays, one written pre-1900 and one written post-1900;
- The set text pairing for section B in 2026-27 will be a comparative study of Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*.

Component 3: Unseen

2-hour examination 20% of qualification

Section A: Unseen Prose

- One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods of study (1880-1910 & 1918-1939).

Section B: Unseen Poetry

- One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetic extract.

Component 4: Prose

Non-exam assessment 20 % of qualification

2 prose texts are studied in total

One 2,500–3,500-word comparative assignment based on the reading of two prose texts, one pre-2000 and one post-2000. This is internally assessed and externally moderated.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Board: Edexcel

Qualification: EPQ

Overview

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers you the chance to develop your own scholarship and creativity beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus. It gives you complete academic and creative freedom to produce a project on a subject of your own choice, and allows you to pursue your interest in a field that you might not otherwise be able to study in depth.

There are four different types of EPQ. Two of them take a traditional academic format - the dissertation and the investigation/field study; and there are also two creative options - the performance and the creative artefact.

Dissertation

A dissertation EPQ is an academic essay of c.7,000 words. You can focus on any question that interests you: this year's pupils are covering topics from a huge range of subjects, including politics, economics, philosophy, environmental studies, literature, history, geography, linguistics, medicine, and zoology. Recent dissertations have included:

- Should large tech firms adopt the ESG framework to promote sustainability or should they avoid it completely?
- To what extent does lack of autonomy in economic institutions contribute to economic instability, in particular income equality and poverty in Pakistan?
- Should the effects of type 2 diabetes be reversed solely with diet and exercise instead of the additional use of weight loss medication and surgery?
- To what extent can architecture influence patient recovery?
- Should the UK repatriate the Rosetta Stone to Egypt?
- What was the most significant factor that led to the Sri Lankan debt default in 2022?
- Are non-nutritive sweeteners a beneficial substitute for sugar in aiding weight management?
- What are the biggest challenges facing the adoption of machine learning/AI in sports injury prediction?
- Should the US Electoral College be reformed?
- Is OPEC's dominance of the 21st century oil market fading and is American shale taking its place?
- To what extent will the future O2 Centre redevelopment be successful?
- To what extent can data analysis models from other sports be effectively adapted or used in Rugby Fives?
- What is the best method of football club ownership in Europe's top five leagues?
- Are psychopaths made primarily by nature or nurture?
- To what extent does the efficient market hypothesis hold with the potential influence of social media on investor behaviour?
- To what extent is the Degrowth movement justified in calling for a reduction in world GDP to solve our climate crisis?
- To what extent has the WTO strengthened Hong Kong's role as a global trade hub (2001-2025)?
- To what extent did the Holy Roman Empire experience decay during the 18th century, before 1792?
- Should Ayurvedic herbs be used in the treatment of cancer?
- To what extent have third-party candidates played a significant role in US Presidential elections since

1968?

- To what extent was the UK's sharp rise in income inequality (1979-1990) predominantly a result of Margaret Thatcher's income tax reforms?
- To what extent was Napoleon the decisive influence in shaping France's success in the First Italian Campaign of 1796-7?
- Why did the Malayan model of counterinsurgency succeed? - a comparison with US failures in Vietnam
- To what extent has the management of the Cartoneros in Buenos Aires been successful in improving their welfare?
- Discerning and evaluating the potential causes of the Permian Triassic extinction
- Between speed and cardiovascular endurance, which is the more important physical attribute for professional modern day wingers in men's football?
- Are we living inside a simulation?
- Combating fast fashion: can the manipulation of additives and fabrics be implemented as a reasonable method to reduce the effects of toxic textile waste?
- Should we practise heritable human genome editing using CRISPR-Cas9?
- Will LLMs cause more harm or good for Gen Z in the next 10 years?
- Is the use of synthetic biology a viable method of reducing pollution via biofuel production and bioremediation?
- To what extent was Athens a democracy?
- Can we psychologically defend dangerous sports?

Investigation/Field Study

An investigation/field study EPQ gives you the opportunity to devise an experiment to test a question or hypothesis, which can be scientific, but doesn't necessarily have to be. Past projects have included:

- To what extent can persuasion occur within 3 to 5 minute conversations among Year 9 and 10 students in a school setting, and which of Cialdini's levers of influence is most effective at facilitating it?
- Can single period asset pricing models effectively explain the performance of a stock portfolio? Can ex vivo imaging of the heart by magnetic resonance imaging be compared across scales to inform assessment of cardiac microstructure?
- What kind of paper is best for photographic printing?
- To what extent does one's ideal leader reflect one's own personality?
- Does personality impact performance in cricket?
- Using SEM Microscope to measure the effect of ionizing radiation on everyday objects

Creative: Performance/Artefact

The Creative EPQ offers you the chance to produce your own creative project in any style, genre or medium within the following categories:

- Creative Writing;
- Producing a musical composition or performance;
- Music production (creating your own tracks using software DAWs, e.g., Logic, Ableton, Cubase);
- Fine Art;
- Craft;
- Film-Making [NB for this option, you would be expected to have some existing knowledge and experience].

This year's pupils are working on a broad range of projects that include painting, print-making, play-writing and poetry. Previous Creative EPQs have included:

Creative Writing

- **Lutra: A Seed World** - exploring the evolution of sea otters on an uninhabited planet over 10 million years
- **Chrysa** - world-building for a modern fantasy novel, inspired by authors such as Brandon Sanderson
- **The Red Room** - a play set during the era of 1950s McCarthyism, using the methods of 20th and early 21st century American playwrights
- **Gaffer** - a pilot for a television comedy about a football club, in the style of a sports documentary and based on the mockumentary format
- **His Note** - a play inspired by political theatre of the 20th century which explores social attitudes of cold-war-era Britain
- **Through Fields of Gold** - a novella in the style of Cormac McCarthy
- Short story collections inspired by Stephen King, H P Lovecraft, Agatha Christie, Roald Dahl, Patrick Rothfuss, Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman
- **Scorched Grass** - a historical novel set in 12th century Britain, influenced by Hilary Mantel and Umberto Eco

Music and Theatre Performance

- A symbolist musical piece in the style of Alexander Scriabin
- Writing, performing and recording an EP inspired by Ed Sheeran, Otis Redding, Baraka and Frank Ocean
- Flipping a sample into multiple genres of music to create an album
- **Avenue Road** - a concept album, based on the theme of Canadian summertime culture
- Free jazz performances, inspired by Miles Davis
- Writing an opera based on Shakespeare's **Macbeth**
- Producing a concept album in the style of Pink Floyd's **Dark Side of the Moon**
- Writing a piano composition in the style of Chopin's **Nocturnes**
- Producing a piece of music in the instrumental hip-hop style of DJ Shadow
- Writing a fugue for four voices in the style of J S Bach
- Directing a production of Sarah Kane's **4.48 Psychosis**.

Art

- Designing and producing vibrant iterative prints that combine natural and industrial forms
- The production of an architectural city plan with a strong focus on aesthetic over utility on a specified piece of land
- Designing and making workwear apparel pieces from multiple cultures which incorporate traditional and modern techniques, forms and textiles
- Creating a single life-size leg sculpture that models a variety of medical conditions
- Paintings that shift between figuration and abstraction, and investigate the relationship between two or three figures, using biblical Renaissance paintings as a reference
- Designing a garment that both illustrates and embodies environmental issues within the fashion world
- PORTICO: the study, design and print of a portico
- A series of prints with the theme of looking at different interpretations of the moon in poetry, taking influence from traditional Japanese printmaking and relief printing
- Creating a character illustration depicting the pop culture of contemporary Tokyo, inspired by the art of anime and manga

- A portfolio of photographs showing the effect of light, history and architecture on London
- A painting that reflects the theme of deconstruction
- Designing a Megacity
- Designing and marketing a collection of jewellery.

Film-Making

- ***Drifting with Purpose*** - a short movie in the aesthetic, thematic, and narrative style of Wong Kar-wai
- Writing, editing, filming and directing a film inspired by the work of Andrei Tarkovsky and drawing elements from the Japanese horror sub-culture
- ***The Look*** - a short film in the style of Wes Anderson
- ***Nothing Personal*** - a short action film with a comedic tone, with some of the hallmarks of Jackie Chan
- ***Daily Battles*** - a collection of non-sequential short films that produces a visually lasting impression of the music on its viewers
- ***The Job*** - a short film in the gangster genre in the style of Tarantino's crime dramas, focusing on his camera movement, choice of song and character development
- ***Second Nature*** - a coming-of-age short film that explores childhood through the use of sci-fi elements
- A two-minute animation reel using Disney's 12 principles of animation
- A progressive video guide to the mage class in hordes.io in the style of a tutorial
- ***Blood Box*** - a short horror film that uses experimental film-making techniques and conveys a moral message
- ***For a Reason*** - writing, producing and directing a revenge film inspired by the cinema of Martin Scorsese
- ***Bullied*** - a psychological short film that uses colour, framing and camera movement to convey the emotional experiences of a single character
- ***Isolation*** - writing, producing and directing a short film that shows the impact of lockdown on young people's mental health.

The Course

Teaching for the EPQ starts at the end of the Sixth Form, with an initial introduction, so that you can begin working on your project over the summer. In the Autumn and Spring Terms you have two supervised lessons each week, which include a short course focussing on the skills you need for your project. You also have weekly meetings with your project supervisor, and work on the project in your own time. You complete your project by the end of the Spring Term, and submit it to the exam board in May. There is no exam: the EPQ is assessed entirely as coursework, and graded from A* to E.

The EPQ is challenging, but immensely rewarding. It offers a chance to work at an under-graduate level in a school setting, and many universities welcome and value it highly as it offers superb evidence not only of a prospective pupil's individuality and originality, expressed through their choice of project, but also of their critical thinking skills and personal and intellectual maturity. If you'd like to find out more about the EPQ, or discuss whether what you're interested in would make a good EPQ topic, please feel free to come and talk to the EPQ Coordinator, Miss McLaren. You can find examples of past year's projects in the Kayton Library and in the EPQ Digital Archive [here](#).

GEOGRAPHY

Board: CAIE

Qualification: A Level

The A Level course follows the Cambridge Assessment International A Level (CAIE) specification and allows Paulines to delve deeply into the human and physical processes that shape our contemporary physical and cultural landscapes. A Level geographers are uniquely well placed to draw complex interdisciplinary linkages between the natural world and contemporary societies, a perspective which provides the foundations of a deep and rich understanding of our dynamic world.

The A Level course allows opportunity to study topic areas that most Paulines will only have briefly touched upon in the past. The human element focuses on key components and skills particularly relevant to the evolving themes within governance, trade systems, finance, management, law and politics. The course challenges pupils to grapple with the complexities posed by concepts such as sweeping demographic change across the developing world, the unfolding climate crises, rapid urbanisation and resource security.

Within the physical component, the topics reflect the global agendas of governments, corporations and the wider scientific community. Careful consideration is given to the implications of the expansion and intensification of harsh arid environments, especially in regions already facing acute population pressure. Natural hazards of all types are examined with particular reference to the changing dynamics of vulnerability and the changing spatial distribution of risk.

There is no coursework or non examined investigation. In the Lower Eighth we do though spend a day exploring the City of London & Docklands to investigate the spatialities of urban inequalities and recent urban regeneration and we also visit the picturesque River Tillingbourne to conduct hydrological research alongside regular optional trips to lectures at the Royal Geographical Society.

Topics

	HUMAN	PHYSICAL
Lower Eighth	Population and Migration	Hydrology, river processes and hazards
	Water Resources and Management	Atmospheric processes and global climate change
	Urban areas and management	Earth processes and mass movement
Upper Eighth	Trade, Aid and Tourism	Arid environments
	Climate Change Impacts and Governance	Hazardous environments

GREEK

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

A Level Greek enables you to read original Greek fluently, giving you access to a wealth of literature, history, oratory, and philosophy. In a broader sense, the course allows you to develop an understanding of the civilisation in which this literature blossomed and the impact it has made on European life and thought to the present day.

Half the course works on improving your language skills. This is primarily done through prose composition (translation from English to Greek). This is an exciting intellectual challenge, which simultaneously builds your knowledge and understanding of Greek grammar and vocabulary to A Level far beyond GCSE. Don't worry if you have not done much of this before - we start from scratch!

The other half of the course looks at an array of Greek literature. You will spend some of your time in the Lower Eighth reading around the subject to gain a greater appreciation of the Classical world.

There are four papers at Greek A Level: unseen translation, prose composition (which together make up 50% of the marks), prose literature and verse literature (which make up the remaining 50%).

In both prose and verse, two texts are offered, which, in 2026, are likely to be:

Prose

Herodotus *Histories* Book 7: The Father of History or the Father of Lies? Herodotus' landmark history reaches its epic climax in this book. Ten years after Marathon, Greece faces a new threat in his son, Xerxes. This section covers the famous battle of Thermopylae, where a small band of Greeks, led by Leonidas and 300 Spartans, faced off against nearly 3 million Persian soldiers (at least, according to Herodotus!).

Lucian *Charon*: Most famous for his *True Histories* (the world's first sci-fi novel?), Lucian blends the surreal and absurd with satirical parody in his *Dialogues*. This work on the ferryman of the dead portrays Charon's opinions on the nature of life (from the man who sees how it all ends!). In a mock-philosophical style, this is a fascinating look at the ancient world from an extraordinary perspective.

Verse

Sophocles' *Electra*: years after the Trojan war and the tragic murder of Agamemnon by his wife Clytemnestra, Electra, their daughter has been left alone under the cruel tyranny of the new regime. When her brother, Orestes, returns, there is hope for a brighter future. This play has such power that it is one of the most produced in modern times (there is a production on the West End in 2025).

Homer's *Odyssey* book 21 and 22: after 10 years of travelling, meeting a cyclops, Circe, journeying to the underworld and being stranded on Calypso's island, Odysseus finally returns to Ithaca. These books deal with him reclaiming his home, infiltrating the suitors that have taken over and exacting his revenge.

These texts are examined with short questions and commentaries on selections from the texts, as well as a discursive essay on the whole prescription.

HISTORY

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

The OCR course exposes you to what we consider is the best available history curriculum. It emphasises breadth as well as depth of learning, demands that you learn how to work effectively with a range of source materials, and insists that you undertake a serious piece of independent research. The course has four components, all of which (except for the coursework) are examined at the end of the two-year course.

1. **British Outlines:** From Pitt to Peel 1783-1853. Examined by a response to primary sources and an essay question. 1 hour 30 minutes (25%).
2. **Non-British Outlines:** Candidates will study the Crusades and the Crusader States 1095-1192. Examined by two short essays in 1 hr. (15%).
3. **Thematic and historical Interpretations:** Candidates will study Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992. The course will focus on the struggles for civil rights considering women, African Americans, Native Americans and trade unions. Examined by a response to two interpretations and writing two essays. 2 Hours (40%).
4. **Coursework:** An independent essay of 3,500-4,000 words. (20%)

LATIN

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

A Level Latin enables you to read original Latin fluently, giving you access to a wealth of literature, history, oratory, and philosophy. In a broader sense, the course allows you to develop an understanding of the civilisation in which this literature blossomed and the impact it has made on European life and thought to the present day.

Half the course works on improving your language skills. This is primarily done through prose composition (translation from English to Latin). This is an exciting intellectual challenge, which simultaneously builds your knowledge and understanding of Latin grammar and vocabulary to A Level far beyond GCSE. Don't worry if you have not done much of this before - we start from scratch!

The other half of the course looks at an array of Latin literature. You will spend some of your time in the Lower Eighth reading around the subject to gain a greater appreciation of the Classical world.

There are four papers at Latin A Level: unseen translation, prose composition (which together make up 50% of the marks), prose literature and verse literature (which make up the remaining 50%).

In both prose and verse, two texts are usually offered. In 2026, these are likely to be:

Prose

Cicero *pro Roscio Amerino*: one of the greatest orators of all time and most important politicians of the 1st Century BC, this is Cicero's first major legal case. Cicero is defending Sextus Roscius on the charge of murdering his father. In 80 B.C., with Rome shaken by Sulla's recent march on Rome and reforms, Cicero uses all his rhetorical skills to successfully defend his client.

Tacitus *Annals* book 14: towards the end of the reign of the Julio-Claudians, there was discontent in the Roman Empire under Nero. Several areas of the world rebelled against Roman rule, most notably Britain. This section of Tacitus' work focuses on Boudicca's uprising, her initial success and her eventual defeat.

Verse

Virgil *Aeneid* book 4: Virgil's epic masterpiece on the trials and tribulations of the Trojan (or Roman?) hero Aeneas reaches its emotional peak in this book. The power of the Tragedy of Dido inspired many later works of art and Purcell's famous opera. We explore the depths of Dido's love and anguish resulting in a tale that echoes in eternity.

These texts are examined with short questions and commentaries on selections from the texts, as well as a discursive essay on the whole prescription.

MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Board: OCR

Qualification: A Level

Mathematics is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and problem-solving skills. Aptitude is essential as well as an enjoyment of the subject. It is a significant step up from GCSE, so you need to feel comfortable with the more challenging work. If you fit these criteria, then you can confidently choose A Level mathematics. You will already have studied some topics well beyond the GCSE specification in preparation for a solid start to the A Level course. Topics such as linear graphs, differentiation, quadratic equations and trigonometry are extended further. If you have coped with and enjoyed these topics then mathematics would be a good choice. If you are finding any of the material difficult, you should seek the advice of your mathematics teacher and the Head of Department, Mr Ashworth Jones, about your suitability before opting for A Level mathematics.

The Algebra Test and other Aptitude papers taken in class are of crucial importance in telling you whether mathematics is a sensible choice. Those without the necessary aptitude, and in particular the necessary level of algebraic skills, will struggle to obtain a high grade.

The course includes pure mathematics and applications of mathematics through mechanics and statistics.

The scientific calculator (CASIO fx-991 CW) is essential for the single mathematics course and the graphics calculator (CASIO fx-CG100) is required for the further mathematics course.

Further mathematics

Further mathematics is available as an extra subject on top of mathematics A Level. The course is taught concurrently with A Level mathematics over two years. It is a challenging qualification, which extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A Level mathematics. Therefore, serious consideration must be given before committing to the course.

If you are likely to read mathematics, computer science, sciences, engineering or economics at university, you will benefit enormously from taking further mathematics. You will be introduced to new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Pupils who have studied further mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward as more of the first-year course content will be familiar.

Further mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities. Pupils who take further mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree.

Aptitude is even more important in further mathematics and you should take the results of the internal tests very seriously.

However, be warned that a poor result in further mathematics can rapidly lead to a rejection by a top university. As a rough guide, those who are not in the top 60% or so of the year group's mathematicians will find it difficult to get an A* or an A in further mathematics.

If you are interested in A Level further mathematics, you should choose both mathematics and further mathematics when making your Lower Eighth choices. If you are unsure whether you are a suitable candidate for further mathematics then talk with your teacher or the Head of Mathematics, Mr Ashworth Jones. The choice of further mathematics is a two-year commitment and you do not complete either mathematics A Level or further mathematics until the end of the Upper Eighth.

The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications says: "A Level mathematics is tremendously important. It provides a firm foundation for all scientific, technical, engineering and mathematical careers and a flying start for many other types of careers, such as those in finance, medicine, agriculture ... etc. The list is endless! "

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Board: Various – see below

Qualification: A Level

French, German, Italian, and Spanish

As a successful GCSE linguist, you will already have experienced the buzz of being able to communicate in a foreign language, and will, perhaps, have begun to see the world through different eyes. Anyone with an interest in international communication, film, literature, economics, politics and history will find the Eighth Form courses exciting and engaging, and you can be certain that by the end of the Upper Eighth year you will have reached a degree of independent fluency which will surprise you. That is richly satisfying in its own right, but more than that, high-level modern linguists are currently among the most employable of all graduates in a huge variety of professions. Those pupils likely to pursue scientific careers often value (as do their eventual employers) the balance and different perspective offered by a language qualification. While one modern language is often chosen as a complement to other A Levels, able linguists might well consider the value of taking two languages.

The courses

In the Lower Eighth year, we focus on language acquisition and proficiency, acquiring a depth of knowledge, not just of the language itself, but of the culture of the country whose language we are learning. Our emphasis is on the acquisition of skills, essential to the linguist but also transferable to a range of environments such as critical thinking, independent learning and effective, appropriate and accurate written and spoken expression. In addition to the topic areas (which differ slightly from language to language), you will spend additional time focusing on current affairs, sourcing materials of interest to enhance your comprehension and summary skills as well as to prompt discussion and debate.

We use a variety of media, both in print and online, and almost all of our audio and video resources can be accessed from home, giving more time in class for debate and discussion. In all the themes, we try to include some literature or short film clips to stimulate discussion and give a cultural context, and pupils enjoy this synthesis of journalistic and literary language.

Each language will take you through an exciting introduction to literature, which will build up to the study of either two texts or a text and a film, which are studied in stages across the two years and often ends up being a highlight of the course.

In the Upper Eighth year, you can explore your own interests through the study of a cultural research topic for the oral exam. This could be a film or literary text which provides the stimulus for discussion on wider issues such as immigration, racism or socio-economic issues.

There are three units which contribute to the overall grade: Paper 1 is a combined listening and reading comprehension paper with a translation task; paper 2 enables pupils to demonstrate their engagement with the literary text and/or film we have studied with essays on each in the target language, whilst paper 3 is an oral exam, comprising of a discussion of your independent research project as well as of a stimulus you receive on the day.

Studying a Modern Language

- All languages follow an A Level course.
- Language classes in the Eighth Form are fun and motivating as well as intellectually

engaging. Working with like-minded pupils, teachers and language assistants, progress is fast and satisfying.

- In class, the ‘target language’ is used predominantly and confidence in speaking is reinforced by a compulsory weekly session in small groups with one of the foreign language assistants. Discussion in a foreign language is also practised in class and in debating competitions with other schools.
- There is a very active Eighth Form Language Society, Eurosoc, which invites eminent University academics to talk about all the countries we study, and to which you’re warmly welcome.
- You will have the chance to lead our modern languages magazine Eurosoc as editor or sub-editor for your language. All A-Level linguists are encouraged to write for the magazine to support their A-Level studies.
- We run regular trips abroad (Paris, Munich, Siena, and Granada) and frequently into London for exhibitions, talks, film screenings and plays.
- There is the option of taking part in (inter)national essay, linguistics and translation competitions, where Paulines frequently distinguish themselves.

All modern foreign languages are continuation courses.

French

Board: Edexcel

More countries use French as a national language than any other apart from English, and along with English, French is the only language spoken on all continents. The incredible variety of landscapes, monuments, influences and cuisine also makes France itself the most visited country in the world. It is, perhaps, no wonder then that French remains the most studied modern language in this country. The A Level course seeks to build on the strong foundations which have been laid during the junior years with the aim of giving you the skills to communicate with confidence with French-speakers for work or for leisure. To this end you will have a weekly lesson with one of our native-speaker language assistants, and it is hoped that all pupils studying French in the Lower and Upper Eighth will arrange an individual visit to a French-speaking country during the course. It goes without saying that any time spent in a French-speaking country will be beneficial, not only to improve oral competence, but also for the cultural experience such time affords. We run a day trip to Paris to give pupils a clearer and more meaningful insight into the Occupation, a unique and highly complex period of French history, which we study in the Upper Eighth. We also arrange film and theatre trips in London and enter teams for the *Joutes Oratoires*, a debating competition hosted by SPGS. There is a strong emphasis on social and cultural issues throughout the course, involving the study not only of up-to-date journalistic texts and resources but also of contemporary literature and cinema.

German

Board: AQA

German: the most widely spoken native language in Europe, the language of Europe’s largest economy and the native language of some of the most influential figures in history. The value of speaking German – once described by John le Carré as a “language of the gods”- cannot be underestimated. Being equipped to communicate with those in Europe’s most populous country is not only an immensely practical and useful skill, it is a challenging and enriching one.

At GCSE, you will have had a grounding in the basic constructions of the language; at A Level we push this much further to take pupils to a point of fluency and confidence in both spoken and written German. It affords the opportunity to examine and discuss a whole range of topic areas in the language: questions of art and culture, science and ethics, politics, and history. The course also allows

you to explore the works of German-language authors like Kafka, Schlink, Dürrenmatt and Brecht, as well as Oscar-winning film directors, such as Link and Henckel von Donnersmarck.

As an integral part of the course, pupils will have a timetabled lesson with our German assistant every week, which rapidly accelerates proficiency in spoken German, as well as the opportunity to participate in our long-standing and successful exchange with a *Gymnasium* in Munich. There are regular and very popular film showings and theatre trips to broaden pupils' awareness and appreciation of German stage and film.

Italian

Board: Edexcel

Italy has the third largest economy in Europe and the eighth largest in the world. It is a world-leading force in industry, boasting Europe's second biggest manufacturing sector. Yet because it is studied in so few British schools, the demand for quality graduates with Italian language skills is not being met. In the future, knowing how to communicate and deal with Italians might just give you the edge. In your three years studying Italian to GCSE, you will have made rapid progress in gaining fluency in and understanding the key grammatical structures. The A Level course builds on this, offering a fast-paced course that will quickly provide you with the tools to communicate confidently and fluently for business, undergraduate study or pleasure.

But studying Italian at this level is far more than just learning the language: you will also experience its fascinating culture. A Level Italian allows you to immerse yourself in the language of literature, and to explore in the original, not just some of the great works of the past (of Dante or Machiavelli), but also famous recent writers (of Pirandello, Calvino, Sciascia, or Ungaretti), as well as renowned exponents of the visual arts and cinema. In your Lower Eighth year, you will examine the theme of Italian Fascism which will lead to an in-depth study of Benigni's 1997 Holocaust film *La vita è bella* in the Upper Eighth. During your Upper Eighth studies you will examine Leonardo Sciascia's novel *Il giorno della civetta*, a novel examining the effects of the Sicilian mafia, and published at a time before their existence was widely acknowledged.

Contemporary Italy still has much to teach us. Italian A Level pupils enjoy a weekly conversation class with our native Italian assistant where discussion will typically centre on Italian society, politics or current affairs. We offer frequent film screening, theatre trips and other lectures in London to broaden pupils' understanding and appreciation of Italian culture. The Italian department also offers the opportunity to study at the famous Università per Stranieri in the inspiring surroundings of medieval Siena as part of our biennial homestay study trip at Easter.

Spanish

Board: AQA

Spanish is the official language of over 20 countries on four continents, the third most widely spoken language worldwide (with an estimated half a billion speakers), an official language of the United Nations and an increasingly important language of global trade. To study Spanish introduces you to a world of incredible geographical, political and cultural diversity: apart from the magnets that are Madrid and Barcelona, consider the wealth of other historical locations in Spain, the Andes and Iguazú Falls in South America, salsa & Che Guevara in Cuba, the legacy of the Aztec, Mayan and Inca empires in Mexico and Peru, as well as football everywhere. However, despite this diversity, the language you study (predominantly peninsular Spanish) is usable across the Hispanophone world. If you add to the vigour and colour of the language a rich and complex cultural heritage that ranges from the prototype of the modern novel, *Don Quixote*, to films by celebrated contemporary directors like Almodóvar, del Toro and Iñárritu, and you have something of the flavour of what the A Level Spanish course offers.

You will engage with stimulating, contemporary material in class, have a weekly timetabled lesson with the assistant, and develop useful independent research and learning skills. The cultural element

will comprise a general introduction to Spanish & Latin American literature, as well as a detailed study of one or two literary texts and/or a film. In addition, you are offered the opportunity to see Spanish language films and plays in London and to take part in both the annual London-wide Spanish debating competition and the inter-schools' Spanish drama competition. After two more years of study, post-GCSE, in which to perfect your already sound knowledge of the language, your A Level studies should equip you very well indeed to read Spanish at university level or enable you to use your skills with confidence in a working or leisure environment.

MUSIC

Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

The A Level course follows on comfortably from IGCSE music and, as before, combines the practical, the creative and the academic. The difference is that the demands in all areas are greater, so you will find that this course supports your developing musicianship: as a performer, as a listener and as a thinking musician. If you are considering studying music at A Level, you should arrange to talk to a member of the full-time music staff to confirm your suitability.

COURSEWORK	Performance: 35% Composition: 25%	Recordings and Compositions as for IGCSE
EXAMINATION	40%	One paper comprising sections on Listening, Analysis and Essay

Examination

You will study the Western Classical Tradition (1650-1910) plus **two** of the following optional areas of study:

- Pop music
- Music for media (film, TV, video games)
- Music for theatre
- Jazz
- Contemporary traditional music
- Art music since 1910

The current topics are **Music for media** and **Art Music since 1910**.

The paper is divided into three sections:

1. Core **unprepared listening** exercises on the Western Classical Tradition and the optional areas. All files are accessed digitally and personally in the exam so that you can play the extracts as many times as required. This will also include some **melodic dictation** (in both treble and bass clefs).
2. **Analysis** questions, again supported by audio extracts, will be answered on selected strands of the Western Classical Tradition, with specific cited works. Questions will relate to specific features of given score material and will relate to technical areas of study (chords, keys, cadences, etc), as well as more discursive writing putting the given extract in wider context.
3. A choice of **essay** questions, related to the **optional** areas of study listed above.

Performing

Recordings will be compiled between (March and May of the Upper Eighth) to the duration of between **10** and **12 minutes** of performances. These may be made up of solo (including piano accompaniment), ensemble or technology-based performances, in consultation with the teacher.

Composition

Two compositions (lasting **at least 4.5 minutes'** duration) are submitted in the Upper Eighth:

1. **Composition to a brief.** Seven externally set briefs are released in the September of the Upper Eighth. These will include different stimuli relating to the optional Areas of study, including:
 - I. **Written words, poem or a piece of text**
 - II. **Photographs, images or film**
 - III. **Notation (such as the completion of a chorale melody)**

The **chorales** option is the one currently undertaken by the department.

2. **Free Composition.** A project chosen by the candidate that may reference a brief if desired. The composition has no obligation to follow any of the set areas of study.

PHILOSOPHY

Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

This course challenges pupils to explore the profound questions of the human condition in a rigorous way: What is the nature of reality? How do we live a life worth living? What can we know for sure?

Through the works of great thinkers, pupils engage with ideas that have shaped western thought and history. By the end, pupils will have come to their own conclusions on fundamental issues such as how the brain produces consciousness, whether we have free will, whether God exists.

Philosophy A Level lessons give pupils an inspiring, exciting, and constructive space in which to think through and question their views about the reality they live in and their role within it.

The syllabus focuses on developing skills that are key indicators of intellectual ability:

- critically examining and evaluating evidence
- constructing and defending logical arguments
- speaking and writing precisely, clearly, and persuasively.

The course complements both humanities and science subjects and provides outstanding preparation for university disciplines that demand clear, rigorous thinking and analysis—such as medicine, law, natural sciences, mathematics, history, and PPE.

There are no pre-required GCSE subjects.

The course consists of four components:

Moral Philosophy:

Does anything ultimately matter? Is there a right way to live? Do you have to create your own purpose in life? Are there objective moral facts or is morality all just a matter of personal preference? Do moral terms even mean anything at all? We study ethical theories such as utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, Aristotelian virtue ethics as well as metaethical theories such as emotivism and naturalism. We then apply these to issues such as simulated killing and video gaming, eating animals, stealing, and lying.

Epistemology:

How do you know you are not trapped in the matrix? What is knowledge, and how do we get it? Do our minds generate our reality? We study the nature of perception, empiricism and rationalism, the logic of deduction and induction, scepticism and the limits of human knowledge.

Philosophy of mind:

How does consciousness fit into the physical world? Are our minds identical to our brains? Or are they separable from our bodies? We study the so-called 'hard problem of consciousness'—which is right at the frontier of modern science—, the nature of sentience, the arguments for physicalism and dualism, and consider the implications of these views for whether we can hope for life after death.

Metaphysics of God:

Does God exist? If so, what is God like? Is God a thing, or is God being as such? Can God create a stone too heavy for God to lift? Is the existence of evil compatible with a good, all-powerful God? If God knows the future, do we have free will? We study arguments for and against the existence of God, and whether the properties commonly ascribed to God are coherent or paradoxical. We examine whether talking about God can be meaningful in the first place.

Super-curriculars:

The department makes the most of the exceptionally rich co-curricular opportunities for philosophy available in London—conferences, lectures, seminars, philosophy competitions, the Ethics Cup, the Freud Museum, Bethlem Museum of the Mind, art exhibitions, films, and theatre productions, etc.—and offers annual trips, joint with SPGS, for those studying philosophy to the amazing How the Light Gets In philosophy and music festival.

We have been very successful in national essay competitions in philosophy. A Pauline had their work published in the highest circulation philosophy periodical in the UK, *Philosophy Now*, and another published a paper in the international philosophy pupil journal *Dialexicon*. We had Paulines publish and present their work at a major international gathering of philosophers: The Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society. Last year, Paulines gained bronze in the national philosophy olympiad.

PHYSICS

Board: CAIE

Qualification: International A-Level

Physics seeks and has been inexplicably successful in finding answers to the most fundamental questions we have: from “how does the sun shine?” to “how did the universe begin and how might it end?”

Physics lessons at St Paul’s are thus about inspiring you to find out about the world in which you live. As one pupil in the Upper Eighth recently said (paraphrasing Richard Feynman), “When playing any game, it's good to know the rules, and physics is about deciphering the most basic rules of the game that is our reality.”

Nobel prize winner Eugene Wigner said: “The miracle of the appropriateness of the language of mathematics for the formulation of the laws of physics is a wonderful gift that we neither deserve nor understand” and it should be noted that this course has a considerable mathematical content. Thus, while it is not necessary to take mathematics with A Level physics, it should be noted that this would rule out many related subjects at university.

As highlighted in the universities section of this booklet, an A Level in physics is key to applications in natural sciences, engineering, and materials science, as well as being a recommended subject for medicine. There are plenty of opportunities to plan and carry out experiments, communicate complex ideas, create simulations, think critically, and solve problems – all of which are skills highly valued by universities and employers. The ability to construct and work with mathematical models is vital to many careers outside of academia. It is for this reason that physicists can be found in such a wide range of work environments, from engineering companies and scientific spin-offs (e.g., developing artificial intelligence and computer reasoning), to banks, trading floors and financial technology companies.

At St Paul’s we follow the Cambridge International A-Level syllabus, which consists of a balance of learning about the classical and the modern understanding of the world - taking you from Newton to Einstein and beyond. In both years, the syllabus extends in a way suitable for an inquisitive mind, offering many extra-curricular opportunities. The course is structured throughout to allow you to have more opportunity to undertake work of a rigorous, scholarly nature and to better explore the links between the different areas of this vast academic discipline.

Many familiar areas from IGCSE physics are given a proper treatment, tailored to your mathematical ability, quickly leading to the introduction of new concepts like superposition and quantum theory. Throughout, there is a tension between the old (pre-1900) ways of thinking, and the more “uncertain” quantum world of wave-particle duality.

The Physics Department is proud to house St Paul’s state of the art Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), which is integrated into lessons whilst further acting as a hub of a growing SPS research culture for example the Halley Society.

Recent trips and competitions include visits to CERN and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, the British Physics Olympiad, the Weizmann Safecracking Competition and the International Young Physicists Tournament (IYPT). There are also a host of other competitions that are hosted between physics and engineering.

POLITICS

Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A Level

Politics as a subject seeks to answer three related questions:

- Where does power lie in the political systems in which we live?
- Where should power lie in the political systems we design?
- What is the relationship between people and the institutions that rule them?

Politics at A Level blends the practical knowledge of UK and US or global political systems with the theoretical understanding of political ideas and ideologies. During your two years you will examine institutions, ranging from Parliament to Congress to the UN, IMF or G20, to political parties and voting systems, whilst at the same time gaining a broad understanding of how these interact with current affairs. A portion of the A Level is devoted to political thought, and you will develop a detailed understanding of arguments in political philosophy, by studying liberalism, socialism, conservatism and nationalism in the ideas of people like Karl Marx or John Stuart Mill.

No previous knowledge or experience is required, but an interest in current affairs is crucial. You will participate in debate and learn how to construct arguments, both written and verbal. Alongside this, you will develop excellent analytical abilities.

UK Politics

The course covers Politics and Government in the UK, considering such questions as: the role and function of Parliament; the nature, role and ideologies of political parties; the role of pressure groups; whether the UK has become more or less democratic in recent years; and how effectively rights and liberties are protected in the UK. While historical aspects – such as the Magna Carta and the history of elections – are studied, the focus is predominately on the present-day issues.

Political ideas

We study the ideas, concepts and major controversies in modern political thought through the ideologies of socialism, liberalism, conservatism and nationalism. These are addressed through a combination of key texts and modern-day applications, and lend themselves to a seminar-style environment with plenty of discussion and argument. Political philosophy seeks to answer the moral, normative questions of how we ought to arrange political institutions: where should power lie in the political systems we design?

You will have the opportunity to give a preference between US Politics and Global Politics in the Upper Eighth:

US Politics

The course addresses the political systems in the United States. How far has the role of the presidency been changed by its occupants? Is the US Supreme Court primarily a political institution? Have the rights of racial minorities been advanced in the 21st century? Again, the focus is on contemporary developments in the US system.

Global Politics

This course focuses on the impact of globalisation on international relations, looks at the rise of regional organisations and how global issues are tackled today. We also focus on the extent to which China and the EU have successfully challenged US hegemony and the crucial issue of whether the rules-based international order can survive the re-emergence of authoritarian nationalism from Russia and China in their challenges to Ukraine and Taiwan.

THEATRE STUDIES

Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

Theatre Studies is a creative subject that is also recognised by universities as a rigorous and well-established academic discipline. Through lessons, workshops with professional practitioners and trips to the West End, Theatre Studies students explore the social, historical, political and philosophical through a creative lens whilst honing their voice as a theatre maker.

The Theatre Studies course provides an excellent opportunity for students to combine passions and express an individual opinion through work. Students are challenged to push the boundaries of what theatre can be by standing on the shoulders of giants and drawing upon the world around them.

In the ever-changing vocational landscape, the combined skills of creativity, critical-thinking and self-expression taught in Theatre Studies cannot be undervalued.

COMPONENT 1	40%	Written paper – Drama and Theatre (Set Texts and Live Theatre Criticism) Externally examined
COMPONENT 2	30%	Practical coursework – Creating Original Drama (Devised Theatre) Internally examined, externally moderated
COMPONENT 3	30%	Practical coursework – Making Theatre (Scripted Theatre) Externally examined

Although GCSE Drama is not a prerequisite, a fair amount of performance or technical theatre experience is recommended for anyone considering the course who has not done the GCSE. Anyone in this position and interested in taking the A Level should contact the Head of Academic Drama, Ms Mazur

Foundation Course

Practical work represents a major feature of the A Level. This begins in the Lower Eighth with a foundation course exploring the work of a number of international theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Punchdrunk, Complicité and Max Stafford-Clark. For each practitioner, rehearsal techniques, performance styles, dramatic forms and design methodologies are explored practically through application to a range of plays and other material, broadening candidates' knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, and developing their skills as performers and theatre-makers.

The A Level consists of three Components.

Component 1 is the written paper and includes three sections.

The first section involves the study of a play from the perspective of director, designer and performer. In the exam, you are permitted an unmarked copy of the text and you will answer on one of a choice of two questions. This question is worth 12.5% of the A Level.

The second section involves the study of a second play from a different period or genre. Three questions will be set on an extract: one will be from a director's perspective, the second from a performer's and the third from a designer's. These questions together are worth 15%.

The third section requires you to write a critical review of an aspect of a live theatre production we have seen together, such as the design, direction or performances. We make a point of seeing a wide range of current productions at venues such as the National Theatre, the Royal Court or the Donmar Warehouse, as well as watching recordings of classic productions online. This question is worth 12.5%

Component 2 is a practical unit resulting in the production of an original piece of theatre.

The focus is on devising your own short piece of original theatre in a small group, drawing on the work of an influential practitioner. It will be completed just after Christmas in the Upper Eighth year, and will consist of a performance (10%) and a working notebook documenting your process (20%). This will be internally marked and moderated by the exam board.

Component 3 is a practical unit resulting in the staging of extracts from published plays.

The focus is on text-based theatrical performance through the practical exploration of three key extracts from three different plays. Recent texts used for this component have included *The Island*, *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* and *Another Country*. This component will be examined at the beginning of the Summer Term of the Upper Eighth by a visiting examiner and will consist of a performance (20%) and a reflective report (10%).

It is possible to concentrate on a design skill, such as lighting, sound, set, costume or puppet design, or on directing, in either or both practical Components.

L8th FRIDAY PROGRAMME AND OTHER NON-EXAMINED COURSES

General Studies, Wellbeing, Voluntary Service and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

The Friday Afternoon Programme is a carousel of activities for all pupils in the Lower Eighth. It runs in collaboration with St Paul's Girls' School and focuses around General Studies, leadership skills, and volunteering.

General Studies

All Lower Eighth pupils choose a General Studies course from an eclectic range which reflects the specialist interests of teachers from both schools. The courses are non-examined and are not necessarily academic in nature; they are designed to stimulate new interests and provide further depth to the curriculum. Courses run for five consecutive weeks and are offered with St Paul's Girls' School, delivered at both schools with mixed classes, providing an excellent opportunity for collaboration. Most courses will not involve homework, but there may be reading or preparation involved in some cases.

Courses on offer in the current academic year include Special Relativity, An Introduction to Chinese Medicine, Business for Dummies, Philosophy of Sport, Portuguese Taster Course and American New Wave Cinema.

SPS Leadership Course

We often ask our Eighth Form pupils to lead: be it taking leadership roles in societies, leading sports' teams, supporting younger pupils with informal or more organised mentoring or simply taking more responsibility for their own way of working. What is more, in the Summer Term we will appoint our prefects, house leads and the Captain and Vice-Captain of School. The SPS Leadership course is designed to create opportunities for education about styles of leadership, the challenges of leadership and what good leadership can offer as well as creating a space for pupils to reflect on their own qualities and what authentic leadership might look like from them.

Volunteering

For the volunteering rotation on Friday afternoons, each member of the Lower Eighth is allocated a placement doing one of a range of activities. Off-site placements include helping in classrooms or coaching sport in our local partner schools, or spending time in a local care home for the elderly. Some pupils remain on-site, to help as classroom assistants in SPS classes - for example, if they are doing A Level maths, they can opt to help in Fourth Form maths lessons. Pupils are asked to fill in a volunteering questionnaire in the Sixth Form and, where possible, they are allocated placements in the Lower Eighth based on their stated preferences.

PSHE

PSHE is taught as a weekly, timetabled, lesson to all Eighth Form pupils. The Lower Eighth course is focussed on what is happening now in their lives and covers the transition to A-levels (including study skills), Mental Health and Wellbeing (focussing on supporting Positive Mental Health), First Aid and Healthy Relationships (including romantic relationships, consent and pregnancy). The U8th course runs until study leave and considers Life After St Paul's, equipping pupils with some of the life skills they may need as they leave school and become adults. It includes 4 units: Travel, University, Work

and Adulting. It focuses on specific knowledge and skills they will need to live independently and how to communicate effectively and interact with others at university/work and beyond.

Additional Opportunities

We encourage our Eighth Formers to engage in a rich school life which includes making the most of the many extra and super-curricular opportunities. There are a huge number of societies, clubs and events for pupils to get involved with. Everything from debating, drama productions, Duke of Edinburgh Award, European Youth Parliament, Model United Nations, music, sport, pupil voice/School Council, work experience, Young Enterprise and numerous other clubs and societies- and we continue to develop the provision inspired by pupils' interests and ideas.

In addition to the PSHE lessons and talks, pupils can access information via year group classrooms and on platforms such as Unifrog.

Throughout the year, pupils can access a great number of lectures and talks. Many of these are run by societies and there are some which run for the whole cohort and cover key issues and topics. As part of the Harry Parsons Lecture series, all Eighth Formers will receive a talk which seeks to promote their social and emotional wellbeing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

All Eighth Form Pupils are encouraged to undertake work experience (either in-person or remote). Gaining work experience can be valuable in any area: helping you to better understand prospective careers, develop workplace skills and character traits, build relevant experience, and grow as a person.

A placement normally lasts around a week and takes place in the holidays. The start of the summer holidays after the Lower Eighth year is the ideal time, as it will not interfere with Lower Eighth studies or revision. It should be noted that the School does not permit absence during term-time except in absolutely exceptional circumstances. If a case did arise, pupils would need to seek special permission from their Undermaster at least three weeks in advance.

Most pupils find their own placement through family contacts but there are also placements available and advertised through the School via the regular Careers and Universities Bulletin, Year Group Google Classrooms, and St Paul's Connect (our internal professional networking platform). You can also use Unifrog to search for work experience opportunities. Information and guidance on work experience placements and how to find them can be found in our Work Experience Support Pack, which you can find on the Careers Intranet pages. The careers department will be able to advise you on successful previous Pauline work experience placements if you have a specific area of interest.

In addition to physical placements, firms are increasingly offering online opportunities. Springpod.com provides an extensive selection of virtual work experience opportunities. Additionally, completing online courses in an area of interest and attending events through our Professional Networks Programme would be valuable. Undertaking career research using Unifrog, or completing a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) may also be a useful activity to extend understanding of a particular career area. Such courses can be found via the Unifrog MOOC tool.

All Lower Eighth pupils will have the opportunity to complete an employability workshop during the summer term, looking at things such as CV building and professionalism, followed by a mock job interview. Pupils should also know that they can contact their careers adviser from the Sixth Form interview and reports process should they like additional guidance.

Quality work experience meets the following minimum requirements:

- Learning outcomes are defined, based on the age and needs of pupils
- The pupil meets a range of people from the workplace
- There is extensive two-way interaction between the pupil and employees
- The pupil must perform a task or produce a piece of work relevant to that workplace and receive feedback on it from the employer.

Please note that St Paul's School does not operate or endorse any of the jobs or internships listed on our work experience pages, and has no control over their terms and conditions. Therefore, the School accepts no responsibility for pupils engaged in any work experience or internships listed on any of its intranet pages or in the C&U Bulletin. Please also note that we do not verify the validity or authenticity of the jobs or internships that are posted, but simply provide them for your convenience. Parents and pupils are responsible for checking the credentials and integrity of an employer or posting before embarking on a work experience or internship placement. Pupils and parents should be aware that the School has not carried out vetting checks or due diligence on the services provided by work experience providers listed on the intranet pages. No references have been sought or provided for the placement nor can any guarantees be provided in relation to the quality or safety of placements. Pupils and Parents wishing to apply for a placement do so at their own risk.

Pupils seeking advice on how to find work experience placements or further guidance on applications should speak to the Head of Careers, Dr Brigham (djb@stpaulsschool.org.uk).

EIGHTH FORM COURSES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

1. The quality of your academic achievement is a major factor in university selection. This includes your achieved GCSE grades and predicted A Level grades (normally announced at the end of the Summer Term of the Lower Eighth).
2. In trying to decide which subjects to study, a useful starting point is to consider which subjects you enjoy most and which are of greatest interest to you. These are also likely to be the subjects in which you will do best.
3. As part of your one-to-one careers interview you will have discussed possible university choices that interest you. If you have a particular course in mind at university, you should talk to the relevant Heads of Department and the staff responsible for university advice. They will be able to tell you which subjects are recommended for your course. Our university staff are below.
4. All Lower Eighth pupils will complete a course of university lessons in the Spring Term. These are led by our University Advisers and will help you understand the admissions process whilst giving you an opportunity to research possible courses and institutions.
5. UK university places for most courses are usually conditional on the grades obtained in three of four A Level subjects.

UK Universities

Mr F J Allen	Economics, Finance, PPE and Management
Dr J R Bennett	Biosciences, Biomedical Sciences and Human Sciences
Dr D J Brigham	English, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies, Social Sciences and Theology
Mr T H P Carter	Law
Dr L Cereceda	Computing and Maths
Mr T A S Chase	History
Dr M O Fitzpatrick	Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
Mr G F W Garnett	History and Politics

Dr A D Hemery	Computing and Maths
Miss A E Ison	Economics, Finance, Land Economy, PPE and Management
Ms A Jeffery	Chemistry, Engineering and Materials Science
Mr G C Larlham	Architecture, Geography, Geology, Liberal Arts and Modern Languages
Mr B C B Martin	Engineering, Music and Physics
Mr T J Passmore	Economics, Finance, PPE and Management
Miss N Sandars	Economics, Finance, PPE and Management
Mr J P B Swartzentruber	Engineering and Physics
Mr R J Taylor	Ancient History and Classics

US Universities - Dr Niki McInteer (Head of US Universities)

Note that pupils applying to the US do not apply to a specific department within the university therefore US counsellors advise all pupils regardless of subject interest.

Mr S G A Allon
Mr T H P Carter
Mr G C Larlham
Mr T A Lowes
Miss J McLaren
Ms S I Milanova

Colet Fellows - The Colet Fellows are appointed each year and specialise in assisting pupils with US university essays.

If you are thinking of applying to a university in the United States, you should contact the Head of US Universities.

All other overseas universities - Dr Iva Franjic (Head of non-US International Universities)

The entry requirements for international universities vary greatly from country to country and university to university. Admission criteria are always detailed on university websites, and more support is available from the Careers and Universities Department if you are unsure about requirements for a particular course at a university abroad. Many universities have their own

admissions tests that must be completed separately to A Levels or GCSEs. If you are interested in applying to a European university, especially those in Switzerland or Germany, please note that some universities or courses may require, as a condition of entry, a foreign language or English A Level. Proficiency in German or French may also need to be proven through a recognised test. You should check the exact requirements for the universities or courses you are considering. If you are thinking about applying to an overseas (non-American university), you should contact Dr Iva Franjic, Head of non-US International Universities.

Dr D J Brigham - Head of Careers - Degree Apprenticeships, Gap Years, Work Experience, Careers
Mrs J C Richards - Careers & Universities Administrator - General advice

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS TESTS

UK Universities

There is a range of admissions tests which need to be completed for Oxbridge, Medicine, Law, and some courses at Warwick, Durham, Imperial, UCL and LSE. The UCAS website and individual course pages on university websites will have further information. If you are in any doubt, contact your university adviser. Please note that some of these may need to be completed during the October Remedy of your Upper Eighth year, depending on the exam dates. These tests are not taken in school but at Pearson VUE test centres.

These are important tests and will be used by the universities to judge your applications and decide who to invite to interview. Those preparing for entrance to universities which require special entrance tests will be offered enrichment sessions where appropriate.

US Universities and A Levels

US universities have no subject preferences with the exception of engineering programs which expect to see maths and physics. Pupils considering US universities should select A Level/EPQ subjects just as if they were applying to a UK university. US universities will prefer top scores in three A Level subjects to inferior scores in four A Level subjects.

US Testing

US testing refers to the SAT or ACT. While most universities adopted a test-optional policy from 2020-2024, there are many universities who have returned to pre-pandemic policies of requiring applicants to submit either an SAT or ACT score. We strongly recommend that students take the SAT over the ACT, but both are equally accepted by universities.

Because testing continues to be an ever-changing landscape, we advise that all pupils considering applying to American universities take the SAT or ACT in the Lower Eighth year. While it might be a requirement, it is important to note that US testing is much less important than GCSE results and A level predictions as an indicator of academic fit. American standardised testing and A Levels are only a part of the holistic assessment of candidates for US universities.

Pupils requiring accommodations for tests should first register for the test and then contact Mr Warren Turner to arrange for the school to send in the request for concessions. For more information on US applications, please get in touch with the US Universities Department.

UNIVERSITY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All universities will accept candidates holding three A Levels and the typical offer will be for three A Level grades. If you are doing four subjects, you could be asked for four grades.

You are advised to take A Levels in the subjects that you enjoy and are most interested in. You should also consider the subjects required to pursue a specific career path if you already have one in mind. You will have already discussed this with your one-to-one careers interview with your careers adviser in the Sixth Form. For example, if you are most interested in being a doctor, applying for medicine would require Chemistry and Biology. If you choose not to study a recommended subject which is available at school, you may need to be able to defend your decision at a university interview.

For many subjects, especially those which are not studied at school, you may be able to learn more about it and show a real interest by doing an Extended Project.

The following table is a broad guide and should be treated as such. Some universities may prefer quite specific subject combinations and you should check university websites for specific course information. You can also find information about specific entry requirements on the UCAS website. The St Paul's team of subject-specific UCAS advisers (listed above) may also be able to advise you on subject choices for particular courses or universities.

University course	Subjects that may be required or recommended
Accountancy	Mathematics.
Ancient History	No subjects specified although history is recommended.
Architecture	Mathematics, physics, art.
Art	Art followed by Foundation course.
Biochemistry	Chemistry & mathematics. Biology strongly recommended as required by many courses.
Biological Sciences	Biology and chemistry.
Business Studies	Mathematics.
Chemical Engineering	Maths needed. Most courses require chemistry and many require physics; appropriate Extended Project and/or Further Maths recommended.
Chemistry	Chemistry and mathematics.
Classical Civilisation	No subjects specified.
Classics	No subjects specified, though from a school such as SPS at least one of Latin, Greek, or Ancient History should have been taken to A Level.
Computer Science	Mathematics; further mathematics recommended.

Drama	No subjects specified. Theatre studies and English recommended plus extensive experience.
Economics	Mathematics and economics. For some courses further mathematics is an advantage - speak to the Head of Mathematics or Head of Economics to discuss further.
Engineering (apart from Chemical)	Mathematics and physics. Appropriate Extended Project and/or further mathematics recommended.
English	English literature.
French	French.
Geography	Geography.
German	German.
History	History.
History of Art	History and art recommended.
Human Sciences	Biology and mathematics.
Human, Social, and Political Sciences	No specific subjects required.
Italian	Italian.
Land Economy/Management	No subjects normally specified but economics, geography and mathematics are useful.
Law	A foreign language required for International Law, plus an essay subject.
Materials Science	The recommended subjects are maths, physics and/or chemistry. Some universities require all three.
Mathematics	Mathematics and further mathematics.
Medicine & Dentistry	Chemistry, biology. The third subject can be anything except for Oxbridge where mathematics/physics is helpful. We have no evidence that taking four subjects as opposed to three, will offer any particular advantage in the admissions process for almost all medical schools.
Combined Modern Languages	Typically, only one of the languages needs to have been studied to A Level.
Modern Languages not taught at School	Arabic, Mandarin, Portuguese and Japanese and other foreign languages can be started ab initio; you need a modern language plus evidence of commitment.
Music	Music and Grade 5 Keyboard skills.
Natural Sciences (Physical)	Chemistry, physics, mathematics and further mathematics.
Natural Sciences (Biological)	Biology, chemistry and mathematics/physics.

Oriental Studies	A modern language plus evidence of commitment.
Philosophy	No subject specified, but at least one essay-based subject such as philosophy, religious studies, history, or English recommended.
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)	No subjects specified but mathematics along with an essay based analytical subject such as philosophy / religious studies / politics / economics / history / English recommended.
Physics	Physics and mathematics. Further mathematics recommended.
Physics and Philosophy	Physics and mathematics. Further mathematics recommended.
Politics or Politics, Psychology, and Sociology (PPS)	No subjects specified but politics recommended.
Psychology (Arts)	No subjects specified; not many courses offer this route.
Psychology (Science)	At least one or two A Levels in sciences or mathematics.
Spanish	Spanish.
Theology or Religious Studies	No subjects specified but philosophy or religious studies recommended.
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and biology, plus physics/mathematics.