



HARRODIAN

LOWER SIXTH (YEAR 12)
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK
2025 - 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents with concise information about the A Level subjects taken by the Lower Sixth students at Harrodian.

In the Lower Sixth, students choose a total of four subjects from the option groups below:

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Chemistry	Biology	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics
Business	English Language	English Literature	Art	Geography
Economics	Spanish	Graphic Design	Business	Art
History of Art	Economics	Philosophy	Psychology	Economics
History (Russia)	Geography	Film studies	English Literature	Philosophy
Music	Politics	Politics	Media Studies	Italian
History (China)	English Literature	Psychology	Photography	French
Latin	3D Design	Classical Civilisation		Physical Education
Drama	Drama			Psychology
				History (China)
				Religious Studies

The table overleaf gives the examination board and specification number of each subject offered at A Level.

Each department is responsible for implementing marking, assessment and recording within their department, which conforms to school policy. At the beginning of the academic year all subject teachers will explain to students how their work will be marked and assessed.

Students can be expected to receive approximately one hour of homework each night for every A Level subject studied that day.

Students will be formally assessed by end of unit or module tests and internal school examinations towards the end of the Summer Term. Written reports will be uploaded onto the Parent Portal during the academic year. Parents will also be invited to attend two Parents' Evenings where student progress can be discussed with subject teachers and there will be a chance to meet Form Teachers and the Head of Sixth Form.

Should you require any further information, please contact the relevant Head of Department, the Head of Sixth Form or me for assistance.

Mr D Sanders
Head of Curriculum, Assessment and Monitoring (Upper)

A LEVEL SUBJECTS AND EXAMINING BOARDS

Art and Design	9AD0	Edexcel
Biology	7402	AQA
Business	9BS0	Edexcel
Chemistry	7405	AQA
Classical Civilisation	H408	OCR
Drama and Theatre Studies	9DR0	Edexcel
Economics	7136	AQA
English Language	9EN0	Edexcel
English Literature	9ET0	Edexcel
Fim Studies	A670QS	Eduqas
French	9FR0	Edexcel
Further Mathematics	9FM0	Edexcel
Geography	H481	OCR
Graphic Design & Communication	H602	OCR
History	7042	AQA
History of Art	9HT0	Edexcel
Italian	9IN0	Edexcel
Latin	H443	OCR
Mathematics	9MA0	Edexcel
Media Studies	1680QS	WJEC
Music	1660QS	WJEC
PE	7582	AQA
Philosophy	7172	AQA
Photography	H603	OCR
Physics	7408	AQA
Politics	7152	AQA
Psychology	7182	AQA
Religious Studies	H573	OCR
Spanish	9SP0	Edexcel
3D Design	H605	OCR

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

Lower Sixth (Year 12) Art, Craft and Design A Level - Edexcel (9AD0) Two year course.

Art, Craft and Design A Level will develop the student's ability to appreciate the visual world and to respond in a personal and creative way. It will also develop the student as a creative thinker, fostering the ability to conceptualise and the skills developed will be varied. Among them, students will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology in one or more of the disciplines within Art, Craft and Design. Students will analyse and use sources to inspire their own work. They will use learnt skills to interpret, convey and synthesise their ideas and feelings through Art, Craft and Design.

Disciplines within Art and Design

Art, Craft and Design A Level will enable students to explore a range of two-dimensional, three-dimensional or time-based approaches to their studies. Students will be encouraged to work and develop skills in a multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary way, exploring the connections between areas of Art, Craft and Design and gaining knowledge and understanding of the scope and variety of disciplines and approaches.

Students undertaking Art, Craft and Design will develop skills in: *painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based image making, advertising, illustration, branding, information design, textiles for interiors, fine art textiles, fashion textiles, spatial design, product design, design crafts, film-based photography, digital photography, film and video.*

Component 1: Personal Investigation (Coursework), 60% of A Level

In this component there are two elements; practical work and the personal study.

The **personal study** will require students to research, evaluate, analyse and establish links between their own practical work and the broader art world, both historical and contemporary. The study will conclude in a written and illustrated thesis (min 2,000 words).

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (Examination), 40% of A Level

Edexcel examination board will set the externally set assignment on 1st February in the second year of studying Art, Craft and Design.

A Level Assessment: Assessment Objectives

- **A01** Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding = 20%
- **A02** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as work develops = 20%
- **A03** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress = 20%
- **A04** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements = 20%
- **Personal Study** = 20%

Trips

Students are taken on gallery visits to support the projects and are also expected to attend shows in their own time as part of independent study. Also, once a week, students will be expected to attend Life Art lessons run by the Art Department after school.

Assessment and Marking

Assessment is completed in line with the Edexcel guidelines and is marked by the teachers in the Art Department throughout the year. An internal practical summer examination will be set for 10 hours at the end of the Summer Term to assess Component 1, Coursework.

BIOLOGY

Topics to be covered this year:

1. Biological molecules: The biochemistry of water, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins and nucleic acids and the study of how the common chemistry of all living organisms provides indirect evidence for evolution.
2. Cells: The features of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells and the biochemistry and importance of the cell membrane. The role of the membrane in immunological responses.
3. Exchange of substances: The importance of exchange mechanisms and mass transport systems in providing the necessary nutrients to cells.
4. Genetics, variation and relationships: DNA, genes and the role of gene mutation in providing genetic variation between species. The use of DNA and protein analysis in determining species' closeness.

By the end of the year students should be able to:

- develop practical and analytical skills needed to answer a range of examination questions
- develop an understanding of the relationship between biology and the modern world and have an understanding of the uses of biological techniques
- recognise and describe physiological responses of the body
- have an understanding of basic biochemistry as relevant to the topics covered

Assessment and Marking

We follow the AQA Biology specification (course code 7402). Written homework will be marked according to department and examination board guidelines and accompanied by a comment or explanation to help students understand how to improve their work.

Folders will also be checked regularly to ensure the work is in order.

Textbooks

AQA A Level Biology Year 1 – Hodder Education

AQA Biology – OUP

BUSINESS

Aims of the course

The key focus is on how businesses grow and compete in both the domestic and international markets. The course investigates how entrepreneurs set up a new business and how established businesses improve their effectiveness by making tactical decisions at a functional level.

Outline

Students study current businesses and how they respond to changes in the economic, political and social environment in which they operate. Study is embedded in current UK and inter-national businesses and, as such, the course equips students with a thorough understanding of the commercial world. During the two years they develop a range of useful skills that lead to a variety of business related degrees and careers.

Study during the first year of the A Level includes:

Term one – Marketing and People

The market; mass versus niche, market research and positioning

Economics; demand and supply and microeconomics

Price and income elasticity of demand

Product design; branding and promotion, pricing and distribution strategies

HR planning; including recruitment and motivation and training

Leadership; role of the entrepreneur and business objectives

Term two - Managing Business activities

Sources of finance

Sales forecasting, break-even and budgets

Production, stock control and capacity utilisation

Economic influences and legislation

Macroeconomics

Term three - Business decision making and strategies

Corporate objectives

Reasons for staying small

Reasons for growth, including:

Internal growth - organic

External growth - takeovers and mergers

By the end of the year students should:

- be confident in understanding the issues facing an entrepreneur in setting up a business and understand the strategies businesses use to remain competitive while they grow

Examples of companies studied: Apple, Zara, Burberry, Google, Facebook, Adidas, TV, film, music, food, motor, aviation, pharmaceutical, energy.

Exam board – Pearson Edexcel

Assessment and Marking: Internal school examination

Textbook: *Edexcel A Level Business*, Marcouse

CHEMISTRY

Topics to be covered this year:

Physical Chemistry – building on key basic concepts from GCSE:

- Atomic Structure
- Amount of Substance (moles)
- Bonding types
- Reaction Energetics
- Chemical Kinetics and Equilibria
- Redox Reactions and Equations

Inorganic Chemistry – building on understanding from GCSE:

- Periodicity and the Group 2 elements
- Group 17 Elements

Organic Chemistry – studying the reactions of familiar and unfamiliar functional groups:

- Alkanes and Halogenoalkanes
- Alkenes and Alcohols
- Techniques for Organic Analysis

By the end of the year students should have:

- deepened their knowledge and understanding of the key concepts of Chemistry and developed the skills needed for new and changing situations
- developed an understanding of the link between theory and experiment
- an appreciation of how advancements in ICT and instrumentation are used in Chemistry
- an appreciation of the contributions of Chemistry to society
- deepened their enjoyment of, and interest in, Chemistry

Assessment and Marking

The course follows the AQA Specification (7405). Three externally assessed examinations will take place at the end of the two year course:

Paper 1 (Physical and Inorganic) - 35% of A-Level - 2 hours

Paper 2 (Physical and Organic) - 35% of A-Level - 2 hours

Paper 3 (All content, any practical skills) - 30% of A-Level - 2 hours

A practical endorsement is a requirement of the course and is assessed on a Pass/Not-classified basis. Students are expected to demonstrate progress in key skill areas over a course of investigations carried out throughout the two years.

Formative homework will be marked according to department guidelines. Student learning will be assessed at the end of each topic area and synoptically, at the end of each term using examination board guidelines.

Textbooks

1. *AQA A Level Chemistry by Alyn G. Mc Farland, Teresa Quigg and Nora Henry; pub. Hodder Education (ISBN:978-1-5104-6983-9).*
2. *Calculations in AS / A Level Chemistry by Jim Clark; pub Longman (ISBN:978-0582411272)*

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- The world of the hero: introduction to the epic genre and the Iliad and in-depth study of Homer's Iliad books 1,3,4,6,9,10,16,17,18,19,22,23,24
- Greek theatre (culture and the arts): theatre space and ancient Greek society; nature of tragedy; nature of (old) comedy; literary techniques; structure and dramatic conventions; social, political and religious themes in tragedy and comedy. Texts to be studied: Sophocles' Oedipus the King; Euripides' Bacchae; Aristophanes' Frogs.

Term Two

- The world of the hero: in-depth study of Homer's Iliad books 1,3,4,6,9,10,16,17,18,19,22,23,24
- Greek theatre (culture and the arts): theatre space and ancient Greek society; nature of tragedy; nature of (old) comedy; literary techniques; structure and dramatic conventions; social, political and religious themes in tragedy and comedy. Texts to be studied: Sophocles' Oedipus the King; Euripides' Bacchae; Aristophanes' Frogs.

Term Three

- The world of the hero: in-depth study of Homer's Iliad books 1,3,4,6,9,10,16,17,18,19,22,23,24 and introduction to and study of Virgil's Aeneid books 1,2,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
- Greek theatre (culture and the arts): theatre space and ancient Greek society; nature of tragedy; nature of (old) comedy; literary techniques; structure and dramatic conventions; social, political and religious themes in tragedy and comedy. Texts to be studied: Sophocles' Oedipus the King; Euripides' Bacchae; Aristophanes' Frogs.

By the end of the year students should:

- be familiar with the genre of Classical Epic through The Iliad and The Aeneid
- be familiar with Greek theatre and both the genre of Comedy and the genre of Tragedy

Trips

There will be a conference held at the School.

Assessment and Marking

Students' work will be given a percentage mark which will correspond to a grade, according to OCR guidelines. Students will also receive a comment appraising their work, setting targets to aim for and strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons, at break times and at the end of the day.

Textbooks

Homer's Iliad; Virgil's Aeneid; Sophocles' Oedipus the King; Euripides' Bacchae; Aristophanes' Frogs; Plato; Seneca; Sappho (extant works); Ovid (Ars Amatoria book 3); Classics department resources

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Introduction to A Level Drama
- Group dynamics
- Practitioner study: Stanislavski, Brecht and Artaud
- Practitioner study: Physical Theatre, Complicite and Punchdrunk

Term Two

- Devising techniques
- Study of live theatre
- Set text practical exploration, *Machinal*
- Begin Component One examination rehearsals (Devising), 40% of qualification
- Designing and directing theatre

Term Three

- Scripted performances
- Practitioner and style recap
- Examination preparation
- Perform Component One examination (Devising), 40% of qualification

By the end of the year students should:

- have developed and consolidated their understanding of the terms and ideas of drama
- have developed their understanding of theatrical styles and practitioner methods
- have rehearsed and performed a scripted piece of drama
- have had the opportunity to research, develop, devise and perform a piece of drama
- be able to compare and contrast different directors', designers' and performers' interpretations
- be aware of the different social, cultural, political and historical contexts surrounding different plays
- have developed the skills required to analyse and evaluate a live piece of theatre

Trips

At least one trip per term will be organised, as a component of the course is writing about live theatre and the influence it has on practical skills. Students also attend a residential weekend at Rookesbury House in Hampshire undertaking intensive rehearsals and practitioner led workshops.

Assessment and Marking

A Level Drama is marked both as a practical and analytical course and this is reflected in Edexcel's assessment criteria. Practical work consists 60% of the final mark and 40% is from the final written examination. Students are assessed on their understanding of practical skills and practitioner methods, their ability to work cohesively within a group and their ability to understand how a set text could be directed, designed and performed.

ECONOMICS

Aims of the course

The study of Economics enables students to understand how the material resources of an individual, a community, a country or the world are managed. The course contributes to that understanding by enabling students to develop an appreciation of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life.

Modules covered in the Lower Sixth include:

Microeconomics: Markets and market failure

Students will study economic methodology and how the economic problem relates to the lives around them. They will analyse how prices are determined in competitive and non-competitive markets and then discuss the most suitable government intervention for each one. Finally they will investigate the costs and revenues associated with different market structures including Perfect Competition.

Macroeconomics: National and international economy

Students will learn how economists measure economic performance and how the macroeconomy functions through the circular flow of Income and AD/AS analysis. By studying current affairs they will also investigate how well the world economy is currently performing and how governments should manage potential problems.

Examinations

A Level (and AS Level) public examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year. At the end of the Lower Sixth year, students will sit two 90 minute internal examinations comprising both multiple choice and essay based questions.

Textbooks and Resources

AQA recommended textbook

Tutor2u online resources

Economics, Alain Anderton, Thirteenth Edition

Economist magazine

A daily selection of broadsheet newspapers

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Aims of the course:

English Language at A Level enables students to explore the way language shapes and is shaped by individuals and the societies of which they are a part. Covering issues around historical language change, diversity and acquisition, students will develop sharp analytic skills while building a sound knowledge of contemporary approaches to psycho- and sociolinguistics.

Building on skills learnt at GCSE, students will learn how to explore historical and contemporary spoken and written texts using analytic frameworks that draw on the latest scientific and linguistic theory, as well as an awareness of evolving social attitudes to language change.

English Language in the Lower Sixth:

Topics studied in the first year include a component which introduces students to the ways in which language varies across social class, geography, age or gender, and how language choices can create personal identities. Another component explores how the English language has changed over time, since its Anglo-Saxon roots. In a third component, students will explore and critically evaluate the development of both speech and writing in children between the ages of 0 and 8, enabling them to examine the social and scientific processes behind human language acquisition.

At the end of the Lower Sixth year students will also begin their investigations into the Creative Writing coursework component.

Modules covered in the Lower Sixth include:

Component 1A: Language Variation

Component 1B: Historical Language Change

Component 2: Child Language Acquisition

Component 4: Introduction to Creative Writing coursework

By the end of the year students should be able to:

- apply concepts relating to language variation to data drawn from written, spoken and multimodal discourses and from different time periods
- use and apply linguistic terminology accurately
- show their understanding of historical, geographical, social and individual varieties of English
- apply and evaluate relevant theories associated with the development of spoken and written language
- analyse and evaluate examples of children's language using a descriptive approach
- draw on their knowledge of the forms and structures of spoken or written English to craft texts for different audiences and purposes

Examinations

A Level public examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year. At the end of the Lower Sixth year, students will sit internal examinations.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Aims of the course:

Through the study of English Literature at A Level we encourage students to be capable and confident in their approach to English, developing their ideas, arguments and written expression so they are ready for whatever route they decide to take after leaving school. We build on skills learnt at GCSE, but offer a wider breadth of texts and genres, stretching our students' horizons historically, culturally and creatively.

Each examined component focuses on one of three main forms: poetry, prose or drama. Students therefore have the time and space to develop their knowledge and confidence through the breadth and depth of the course they study. The literary text is at the heart of the A Level English Literature qualification and we have selected literature we know works well with students, as well as offering fresh new options recommended by teachers and academics.

Modules covered in the Lower Sixth include:

A study of Shakespearean tragedy, focusing on one particular play and a study of a Victorian comedy.

A comparison of two prose texts on a given theme.

A selection of modern poetry and a study of a specific poet.

By the end of the year students should be able to:

- read with insight and engagement, making appropriate references to texts and developing and sustaining interpretations of them
- understand and evaluate how writers use linguistic, structural and presentational devices to achieve their effects; comment on how language varies and changes
- use appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression
- relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions
- explore and comment on the relationships and comparisons between texts
- participate in discussion by both speaking and listening, judging the nature and purpose of contributions and the roles of the participants

Examinations

A Level public examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year. At the end of the Lower Sixth year, students will sit internal examinations.

FILM STUDIES

Aims of the course:

This course is designed to introduce A level learners to a wide variety of films from different countries, decades and genres, in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Throughout the first year of this course, students will be given a range of practical tasks designed to increase their technical and creative skills ahead of the non-examinable assessment (NEA) in the second year.

Modules covered in the Lower Sixth include:

Introduction to film form

This is an introductory unit that covers the foundation of film analysis, serving as an introduction to new students and a refresher to those continuing from GCSE.

Component 2A: Global film

This section further extends the range and diversity of narrative film, requiring the study of two films, each representing a distinct geographical, social, cultural world and a particular expressive use of film form. Two 21st century films will be studied, one from Europe and one from elsewhere in the world. There is a focus on context and how it shapes film form, narrative and representation.

Component 2B: Documentary film

One documentary film will be studied. We will look at the evolution of the form and how modern documentaries use cinematic techniques to tell "factual" stories while problematising the divide between fact and fiction.

Component 1A: Hollywood 1930-1990

Two Hollywood films will be studied for comparison, one from Classical Hollywood (1930-1960) and one from New Hollywood (1961-1990). There is a focus on institutional and production contexts in the two eras, and students will apply a critical approach to films based on auteur theory.

Component 1B: American film since 2012

Two films will be studied, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film. This unit explores the range of spectatorship and ideological interests of American film this century.

By the end of the year students should know:

- a diverse range of film, including documentary
- the significance of film and film practice in national, global and historical contexts
- film and its key contexts (including social, cultural, political, historical and technological contexts)
- how films generate meanings and responses
- film as an aesthetic medium
- the different ways in which spectators respond to film
- critical approaches to film

Assessment and Marking

A Level public examinations are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth year and account for 70% of the final grade. The other 30% is the NEA, a practical component that students complete in the second year of the course. At the end of the Lower Sixth year students will sit an internal examination. Throughout the year there will be end of unit assessments and graded essays.

FRENCH

Topics to be covered over the two-year course:

- Change in French society (Year 1)
- Political and artistic culture in Francophone countries (Year 1)
- Immigration and multicultural society (Year 2)
- Occupied France and the resistance (Year 2)

Students will also study two French works: either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural knowledge that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment
- develop as independent researchers through the language of study

Trips

Students will be given the opportunity to attend plays and view films in the language studied. Whenever possible, the department aims to arrange for students to attend conferences related to their studies. There may be opportunities to visit a country where the language studied is spoken.

Assessment and Marking

Students' progress will be assessed regularly with small tests focusing on specific grammar points or lexis. Students will also be asked to complete long pieces of work at home and in class (essays, presentations, A Level type questions), which will be marked to A Level standard.

Students will sit end of year examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth year.

Students will sit A Level examinations at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Paper 3: Speaking

Textbook

Edexcel A level French

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

The Pearson Edexcel Advanced Level GCE in Further Mathematics consists of four externally-examined papers. Students must complete all assessment in May/June at the end of the two-year course.

Students wishing to study this course must also study the standard A Level Mathematics. It should be appreciated that there is some flexibility in the choice of units to be studied for the full A Level.

By the end of the Lower Sixth students will have covered elements of the following topics:

From Pure Mathematics: complex numbers, matrices and linear transformations, series, roots of polynomials, volumes of revolution, proof by induction and vectors.

From Mechanics: momentum and impulse, work, energy and power, elastic strings and springs, elastic collisions in two dimensions.

From Statistics: more discrete distributions, probability generating function, central limit theorem, chi-squared test and types of errors.

Assessment and Marking

Much of the work is self-marked. The weekly assignments will be assessed by the teacher and the marks, as a percentage, recorded. The final examination comprises four papers; two of the papers examine Pure Mathematics, one examines Mechanics and one examines Statistics. Each paper is of duration 1 hour 30 minutes and will be sat at the **end of the two year course**. The examination board is Pearson Edexcel.

Textbooks

All students will use the Pearson series of textbooks specific to the course.

GEOGRAPHY

We follow the OCR Geography H481 specification

Contemporary Geography is a subject which aims to understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking the debates surrounding contemporary challenges facing the world today.

All units specified in GCE Geography offer opportunities for candidates to:

- develop their knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments, at all geographical scales from local to global
- develop an understanding of processes in physical and human geography at a range of temporal and spatial scales
- recognise and be able to analyse the complexity of people-environment interactions at all geographical scales and appreciate how these underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today
- improve their understanding of the ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment

Topics to be covered:

Landscape systems

- How can coastal landscapes be viewed as systems?
- How are coastal landforms developed?
- How do coastal landforms evolve over time as climate changes?
- How does human activity cause change within the coastal landscape systems?

Earth's Life Support Systems

- How important are water and carbon to life on Earth?
- How do the water and carbon cycles operate in contrasting locations?
- How much change occurs over time in water and carbon cycles?
- To what extent are the water and carbon cycles linked?

Global Migration

- What are the contemporary patterns of global migration?
- Why has migration become increasingly complex?
- What are the issues associated with unequal flows of global migration?

Powers and Borders

- What is meant by sovereignty and territorial integrity?
- What are the contemporary challenges to sovereign state authority?
- What is the role of global governance in conflict?
- How effective is global governance of sovereignty and territorial integrity?

Changing Spaces and Making places

- What's in a place?
- How do we understand place?
- How does economic change influence patterns of social inequality?
- Who are the players that influence economic change?
- How are places created?

Trips

A fieldtrip to Dorset will be organised in June 2026 to help students develop field skills and to collect data for the Independent Investigation.

Assessment and Marking

All work will be marked according to the guidelines set by the specification.

Formal assessment will take the form of written assignments, group work, end of unit tests and an end of year examination.

Textbook

Hodder OCR A Level Geography

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION

Personal Portfolio (Unit 1)

This unit is the student's opportunity to make an in-depth personal response to a design brief by themselves or in conjunction with their teacher. There needs to be considerable evidence of the thought process that goes into the design, as well as a high degree of planning and preparation for delivery of the final design idea. The unit's work can take the form of one self-contained assignment or a clearly defined series or set of work. In connection with the unit's design aspects is an element of personal study. This should allow candidates to place their work within an historical and/or contemporary context. The word limit for this personal study is 1000-3000 words.

Controlled Assessment (Unit 2)

The examination board will select and send to the school a number of topics for research and development from the 1st of February. From this paper, candidates are expected to choose one starting point from which they will generate appropriate work for submission. The candidate must round off their work in a controlled time period of 15 hours' coursework study of the student's choosing within the above topic.

By the end of the year students should:

- have made a significant developmental leap as the design will show maturity, understanding of the current design community and market as well as having a polished feel in terms of professionalism and conception of ideas.

Equipment

Candidates are encouraged to have a camera and, if possible, a laptop. The school provides the necessary art and digital media equipment, as well as materials used in any 3D construction work.

Trips

Each term trips are organised to relevant design exhibitions in London.

Opportunities are also sought for trips abroad in collaboration with the Art and Digital Arts departments.

Assessment and Marking

Assessment is based around the unit's portfolios and sketchbooks, all work being carried out in students' A3 books, culminating in a finished design and associated presentation. Successful work will demonstrate a full understanding of the assessment criteria as well as creative thinking. Marking is carried out in school and moderated by the board in June.

There is a termly charge of £90.

HISTORY

Topics (AQA GCE History A Level)

There will be two routes through A Level History. Both routes must cover 200 years of history according to new guidelines, therefore there are certain limitations in the topics students can choose for coursework. Both routes include a compulsory unit on British history.

1) The British Empire 1857-1967

2) China 1936-97

3) Coursework - students to choose their own topic starting no later than 1797

OR

1) Russia 1855-1964

2) Modern Britain 1951-2007

3) Coursework – students to choose their own topic starting no later than 1807

What will students have achieved by the end of the year?

Students will have covered half the content of Units 1 and 2 and started the process of researching their coursework on a topic of their own choosing, with staff supervision.

All units will be completed and externally assessed in the Upper Sixth. Lessons and assessments will involve skills of both source analysis and essay writing. Students will also learn how to read, note take and debate.

Assessment and Marking

Students will be expected to maintain a file of notes, essays and handouts. These will be checked periodically. Essays and source questions will be marked according to examination board marking schemes. Other work will be marked according to the standard effort and attainment policy. Units 1 and 2 will be examined internally in the summer of the Lower Sixth.

Textbooks

Textbooks will be issued throughout the year and must also be brought to each lesson. They include: *Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855-1964* by Sally Waller, *The Transformation of China 1936-1997* by Robert Whitfield, *The British Empire 1957-1967* by Anthony Webster and Robert Carr, and *The Making of Modern Britain 1951-2007* by JMA Hugh. Other books will be used occasionally.

HISTORY OF ART

Topics to be covered this year:

Terms 1 and 2

A: Visual Analysis

- Understanding the formal characteristics of an art work (painting, sculpture and architecture).
- Learning key terminology and concepts to discuss artworks confidently.
- Obtaining a visual literacy and chronological understanding of painting, sculpture and architecture from within and beyond the European tradition of art, from Classical Greece (500 BCE) to the present.

B: Themes

Students to complete theme B1: Nature in art and architecture.

- The chosen themes will provide broad-based explorations of the developments in art and the connections between movements and periods across time and place.
- Works of art will be chosen from within and beyond the European tradition, dating pre and post 1850.
- Reading critical texts to develop knowledge and understanding of key works of art and integrating this knowledge effectively to support or counter personal interpretations.

Term 3

C: Periods

Students study the topic 'Rebellion and revival: the British and French Avant-Garde (1848-99). An in-depth investigation of the following:

- How the 1848 rebellions, industrial change and technological advancement sparked the extraordinary originality and inventiveness of art and architecture in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- Works will be studied from the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists as well as the Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite and Art Nouveau movements in Britain and France.
- Artists covered include Holman Hunt, Manet, Rodin, Gauguin, Cabanel, Millais and Rossetti.

By the end of the year students should:

- have an understanding of the terminology used to discuss artworks
- be able to make qualified judgments about previously unseen artworks
- have a knowledge of the chronology of Western Art since Classical Greece, with an in-depth understanding of some important art movements
- be able to identify the formal qualities of an artwork, such as composition, colour, line perspective etc., and use these qualities to decipher meaning
- be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the artists studied and be able to identify their work and the key features of their style
- have an understanding of the historical and political context in which works of art were produced

Trips

Due to the nature of this subject, trips to view original artworks are required. Throughout the course students will visit such important places as The National Gallery, The Courtauld, the Wallace Collection, Tate Britain and Tate Modern.

Potential trips abroad each year include Barcelona, Paris, New York, Venice and Rome.

Assessment and Marking

Students are required to sit two internal examinations at the end of the year. Paper 1 is adapted to a two hour examination that will eventually have a total weighting of 50% of the A Level. Paper 2 will be adapted from a three-hour examination to a 90 minute paper to examine content covered in the Lower Sixth year only. Paper 2 will eventually have a total weighting of 50% of the A Level.

Textbooks

Textbooks will be provided by the History of Art department. These include:

The Story of Art (1998) EH Gombrich

A World History of Art (1999) Hugh Honour and John Fleming

A Short Guide to Writing about Art (2008) Sylvan Barnet

Learning to Look at Modern Art (2004) Mary Acton

Learning to Look at Sculpture (2014) Mary Acton

Students will be expected to purchase textbooks for their own use throughout the year.

ITALIAN

Topics to be covered over the two-year course:

- Changes in Italian society (Year 1)
- Political and artistic culture in Italian-speaking countries (Year 1)
- Immigration and multicultural society (Year 2)
- From fascism to present day Italy (Year 2)

Students will also study two Italian works: either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and critical thinking, as well as linguistic and cultural knowledge which will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment
- develop independent research skills in the target language

Trips

Students will be given the opportunity to attend plays and view films in the language studied. Whenever possible, the department aims to arrange for students to attend conferences related to their studies. There may be opportunities to visit a country where the language studied is spoken.

Assessment and Marking

Students' progress will be assessed regularly with small tests focusing on specific grammar points or lexis. Students will also be asked to complete long pieces of work at home and in class (essays, presentations, A Level type questions), which will be marked to A Level standard.

Students will sit end of year examinations at the end of the Lower Sixth year.

Students will sit A Level examinations at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Paper 3: Speaking

Textbook

Italian Grammar in Practice

LATIN

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

Language:

Revision of grammar and syntax studied at GCSE; study of new AS Level vocabulary list and new words met when studying Livy unseens; study of A Level syntax and grammar; practice of prose composition for each new syntax topic.

Literature:

Study of translation and comment on the prose set texts:

Introduction to prose set texts: Cicero: *Pro Roscio Amerino*.

Introduction to verse set texts: Virgil *Aeneid* Book 4.

Term Two

Language:

Continued study of new AS Level vocabulary list and new words met when studying Livy unseens; unseen translation practice, Livy in particular; continued study of A Level syntax and grammar; continued practice of prose composition for each new syntax topic.

Literature:

Study of translation and comment on the prose set texts:

Prose set texts: Cicero: *Pro Roscio Amerino*.

Verse set texts: Virgil *Aeneid*, Book 4.

Term Three

Language:

Continued study of new AS Level vocabulary list and new words met when studying Livy unseens; unseen translation practice, Livy in particular; continued study of A Level syntax and grammar; continued practice of prose composition culminating in whole pages of prose composition concentrating on analysing the English passage first and how to gain style marks

Literature:

Study of translation and comment on the prose set texts:

Prose set texts: Cicero: *Pro Roscio Amerino*.

Verse set texts: Virgil *Aeneid*, Book 4.

By the end of the year students should:

- recognise all syntactical constructions and be able to translate them
- recognise all grammatical forms and be able to translate them correctly
- be able to translate unseen passages of Latin
- be able to compose a passage of English into Latin
- be able to translate and comment on prose set texts
- be able to translate and comment on verse set texts

Trips

There will be a conference held at school and students will also attend external lectures and events.

Homework

Homework will be set in the two modules each week. It will extend the work covered in class and will mostly take the form of translations, prose compositions, learning grammar/vocabulary/constructions, learning sections of text, studying commentary, writing essays/commentary answers on set text.

Assessment and Marking

Students' work will be given a percentage mark which will correspond to a grade, according to OCR guidelines. Students will also receive a comment appraising their work, setting targets to aim for and strategies to achieve those targets. Teaching staff are also available at the end of lessons, at break times and at the end of the day.

Textbooks

John Taylor, *Latin beyond GCSE*; R.Colebourn, *Latin sentence and idiom*; *Disce Latinum: Latin grammar*; *Cicero*; *Virgil's Aeneid*; books and resources provided by the department.

Texts may be subject to change.

MATHEMATICS

The Pearson Edexcel Advanced Level GCE in Mathematics consists of three externally-examined papers. Students must complete all assessment in May/June at the **end of the two-year course**.

By the end of the Lower Sixth, students will have covered elements of the following topics:

From Pure Mathematics: proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, binomial expansion and vectors.

From Statistics: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, correlation, probability; statistical distributions and hypothesis testing.

From Mechanics: modeling in mechanics, kinematics with constant acceleration, forces and motion, and variable acceleration.

Assessment and Marking

Much of the work is self-marked. The weekly assignments will be assessed by the teacher and the marks, as a percentage, recorded. The final examination, **at the end of the Upper Sixth**, comprises 3 papers each of a duration 2 hours. The examination board is Edexcel and more information can be found at www.edexcel.com.

Textbooks

All students will use the Pearson textbooks produced for the Pearson Edexcel syllabus.

MEDIA STUDIES

Aims of the course:

The media play a central role in contemporary society and culture. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate as commercial industries on a global scale. The global nature of the contemporary media, coupled with ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media, suggest that their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.

This year we are starting the brand new **Media Studies Specification under WJEC (EDUQAS)**.

The course is taught over **two years** with an exploration of nine media forms through exploration of existing media products and creative tasks.

Overall Structure of the two year course:

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes 35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts.

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences

This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts.

Section A – Television in the Global Age

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

Section C – Media in the Online Age

Component 3: Cross-Media Production

Non exam assessment 30% of qualification

By the end of the year students should:

- be able to apply the concepts of media language, audience and representation in turn to examples from print, audio-visual and online media products
- be able to explore each area of the theoretical framework by using contrasting examples across a range of media forms with an emphasis on the practical application of fundamental Media Studies terminology
- be able to address a specified audience appropriately; fit the media industry context and use appropriate representations for the audience and industrial context
- understand and be able to give brief examples from appropriate media forms of the key media industries terms
- understand and be able to exemplify that there are different kinds of media funding, understand the need for media regulation, and be able to name the regulator for any media form that has one

Assessment and Marking

Marks are always accompanied with comments outlining improvements required. Work usually will be resubmitted with the improvements made as this enables students to make good progress. Students' progress will be assessed through essays, in class tests, past papers, vocabulary tests and textual analysis tasks. Students are encouraged to gather an understanding of the mark scheme's criteria.

The final grade will be derived from one media portfolio (NEA) and two externally set examinations at the end of the U6th. There will be an end of year examination in the L6th.

Textbooks

WJEC/Eduqas Media Studies for A Level Year

AS Student Book: Revised Edition - Christine Bell, Lucas Johnson

MUSIC

'Studying Music at A Level will introduce you to a wealth of new approaches to music, while challenging you to deepen your current interests and skills. The most important thing at this stage is to begin thinking about music in a creative and disciplined way, exploring different repertoires and traditions for yourself, but keeping in mind the ways in which music is presented to you as an object of knowledge.'

The Music course offered at Harrodian is designed to provide students with a wide range of skills and experiences. Practically, students will improve their performance ability up to Grade 7 standard or higher, which could allow more able students entry to music college or university. All students will study composition from traditional harmony through to the more modern styles of popular music with possibilities opening up for gifted composers to take this further at music college or university.

Opportunities to develop performance skills and contribute to the musical ethos of the school are plentiful and A Level Music students are required to actively contribute to one or more of the extra-curricular musical groups.

Course Content:

WJEC Eduqas Syllabus: GCE A Level in Music

There are three components to the course as follows:

Component 1: Performing (35%)

This unit enables students to develop their skills in performing either as a vocalist or instrumentalist. Students will perform one or more pieces as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble in preparation for a 10-12 minute recital assessed by a visiting examiner in March/April of the Upper Sixth year. It is recommended that students perform at Grade 7 standard for this unit.

Component 2: Composing (25%)

In this unit students study a range of compositional techniques in a variety of styles, developing skills which will culminate in completing two externally assessed pieces. One of the compositions must be written to a set brief and reflect the musical techniques and conventions of the Western Classical Tradition. The second composition is a free composition. The total time of both compositions combined must be between 4-6 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Students analyse music within three areas of study:

Area of Study 1: Western Classical Tradition

Area of Study 2: Jazz or Musical Theatre

Area of Study 3: Into the Twentieth Century

There is one written examination (2 hours 15 minutes) at the end of the course.

Questions include a mixture of set work analysis with a score, context, unprepared extracts with and without a score and comparison questions.

Students are taken to concerts in London to develop and consolidate their critical evaluation skills of studied set works and unfamiliar works on the course. They are also expected to attend concerts in their own time to further develop these skills independently.

Specific Entry Requirements:

- Grade 7 or above in GCSE Music
- At least Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice
- Pass in Grade 5 Theory
- Good keyboard or guitar skills (for composing)

A Level Music students are strongly encouraged to participate in at least one of the ensembles on offer to the Sixth form including Chamber Choir, Jazz Band and Orchestra.

Textbook: *Eduqas AS and A Level Music Study Guide (Rhinegold)*

PHILOSOPHY

We follow the AQA Philosophy A Level (7172) specification.

Aims of the course:

Students will gain a knowledge and understanding of some of the main themes in modern philosophy. They will engage with a number of primary texts and be asked to assess the arguments of many of the major thinkers of the philosophical tradition. This focus on specific texts will help students build key comprehension skills as well as provide them with an overview of the history of ideas from the enlightenment to today.

The course is designed to focus students on specific arguments. This will develop critical thinking skills that students will need in order to understand and assess arguments.

Emphasis will be placed on students' capacity to engage in both concept and argument analysis. A related set of skills will be developed to allow students to construct their own arguments in a logical and well-reasoned manner.

Course Content:

Component One: Epistemology

Students will begin this component by looking at the philosophical debate around the concept of knowledge. They will examine the question of whether or not knowledge is a coherent notion, how it differs from belief and its relationship to other concepts such as reality and truth.

Students will then look at two different theories of justification: empiricism and rationalism. Under empiricism they will consider direct and indirect realism as well as Berkeley's idealism. Under rationalism they will consider innatism and the approach taken by Descartes.

Finally, in this component, students will consider the limits of knowledge. They will assess the problems raised by scepticism and evaluate various responses.

Component Two: Moral Philosophy

This component begins with students learning about three ethical theories. First they will look at utilitarianism as developed by Bentham and Mill. Secondly they will look at duty theory as developed by Kant. Finally they will look at virtue theory as presented by Aristotle.

In the second part of this component students will apply the above ethical theories to a number of areas of moral behaviour. The areas they will look at are: stealing, simulated killing (in computer games, film and other media), eating animals, and telling lies.

Finally students will look at the meta-ethical debate and ask whether or not ethical truths exist. They will look at the moral realism of Bentham and Moore and the anti-realism of Mackie, Ayer and Hare. They will also examine and analyse the argument known as Hume's fork.

Trips

Students will be able to attend the joint Religious Studies and Philosophy weekend trip to Edinburgh at the start of the Summer Term. We will investigate the Scottish Reformation and Enlightenment, looking particularly at the lives of John Knox and David Hume.

Assessment and Marking

Students will be expected to build and maintain a full file of notes over the course of the year. Regular questions that follow the AQA examination format will be used to assess their progress. Students will also sit content focused 'end of topic' tests. At the end of the academic year students will sit a three hour mock AQA AS examination paper and will be marked according to the AQA assessment scheme.

Textbooks

Philosophy for AS – Michael Lacewing (Routledge)

AQA AS Philosophy – Jeremy Hayward, Dan Cardinal, Gerald Jones (Hodder)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Topics to be covered this year:

Unit 1: The Portrait

This first unit is designed to introduce the fundamentals of photography to students while working through a series of small projects based around the idea of portraiture, exploring how we might experiment with the notion and deliver our personal responses. The unit will also introduce the basics of chemical based photography as well as looking at the technical aspects of SLR photography.

Unit 2: Personal Project

Undertaken from February to May, taken from a range of five starting points. The work should show a progression from unit one in terms of understanding of concepts as well as from a technical perspective. Again the topic may be tackled in a series of small projects connecting to the theme and will include a period of five hours supervised time.

By the end of the year students should:

- have a thorough understanding of their camera and be confident in its manipulation in the examining of topics
- be proficient in both the manipulation of digital and traditional chemical photography and be able to work independently in both media formats

It is important to remember that the subject is taught as an Art, so creativity is paramount in the successful exploration of a theme.

Trips

Each term trips are organised to relevant photographic exhibitions in London. Opportunities are also sought for trips abroad in collaboration with the Art and Media Departments.

Assessment and Marking

Assessment is based around the unit's sketchbooks, all work being carried out in the students' A3 books, culminating in a series of mounted or projected final pieces. Successful work will demonstrate a full understanding of the assessment criteria, as well as creative thinking, for it must be born in mind that this is an Art subject. Marking is carried out in school and moderated by the board in June.

There is a termly charge of £145.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Topics to be covered this year:

Paper 1 (2 hrs 105 marks and 35% of A Level to be taken at the end of year 13).

Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport.

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

By the end of the year students should:

- have developed their understanding of the topics outlined above
- have the skills to analyse and identify examination questions and compose suitable responses
- have learned to plan and prepare answers to related questions
- have combined their knowledge of different subject areas to have a written and verbal analysis of performance

Assessment and Marking

A letter grade will be given for attainment and a number grade will be given for effort.

Marks are accompanied by a comment or explanation to help students understand how to improve their levels of performance. Students are continually assessed throughout the course by questions and answers, homework pieces, end of unit and end of term tests.

Finally there is an internal end of year examination (120 mins).

Textbook

AQA A-Level PE Book 1, - Hodder Education

PHYSICS

Topics to be covered this year:

1 Measurements and their errors

Use of SI units and their prefixes; limitations of physical measurements; and estimation of physical quantities.

2 Particles and radiation

Constituents of the atom; stable and unstable nuclei; particles, antiparticles and photons; particle interactions; classification of particles; quarks and antiquarks; application of conservation laws; the photoelectric effect; collisions of electrons with atoms; energy levels and photon emission; and wave-particle duality.

3 Waves

Progressive waves; longitudinal and transverse waves; principle of superposition of waves and formation of stationary waves; interference; diffraction; and refraction at a plane surface.

4 Mechanics and materials

Scalars and vectors; moments; motion along a straight line; projectile motion; Newton's laws of motion; momentum; work, energy and power; conservation of energy; bulk properties of solids; and the Young modulus.

5 Electricity

Basics of electricity; current-voltage characteristics; resistivity; circuits; potential divider; and electromotive force and internal resistance.

By the end of the year students should have:

- acquired experimental measuring skills
- developed analytical and mathematical skills needed to answer a range of examination questions
- developed an understanding of the physical interactions between matter and energy
- the ability to recognise and describe experiments that show/explain physical phenomena

Assessment and Marking

We follow the AQA Physics specification. Written homework will be marked according to department and examination board guidelines and accompanied by a comment or explanation to help students understand how to improve their work. Folders will also be checked regularly to ensure the work is in order. There will be an end of topic test at the end of each section.

Textbooks

AQA A-Level Physics For A-Level Year 1 and AS – Hodder Education

AQA Practical Physics – Hodder Education

POLITICS

Exam Board: AQA.

Paper 1 – Government and Politics of the UK

Topics will include the UK Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Judiciary, Elections, Referendums, the European Union

Paper 2 – The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

Topics will include the US Constitution, Congress, the President, the Judiciary, Elections, Parties, Pressure Groups, Civil Rights

This paper will include a comparison of the British and American political systems.

Paper 3 – Political Ideas

Topics will include Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Feminism

What will students have achieved by the end of the year?

Students will have covered all of Paper 1 and have started Paper 2 and Paper 3. They will be able to understand the mechanics of government and the strengths and weaknesses of the UK system. Students will have started to understand the US political system and liberalism.

Assessment and Marking

All three papers are identical in format and worth the same weighting. Each paper is 2 hours and worth 77 marks. Students must answer three short questions on each paper, one source question and one essay from a choice of two. All topics covered by the end of the first year will be examined in an internal examination in the summer of the Lower Sixth. Students will sit all external examinations in the summer of the Upper Sixth. Students will be expected to maintain a file of notes, essays and handouts. Examination style questions will be marked according to examination board mark schemes.

Textbooks

Students will be supplied with two textbooks

AQA A Level Politics - Lemieux, S. Hammal, R. Fairclough, P. and Bennett, A. J. 2025 (second edition) *Political ideas for A Level: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, Feminism, Anarchism* - McNaughton, N. and Kelly, R. 2023.

Trips

Every year we endeavour to take the Lower Sixth to Parliament and the Supreme Court. There is no additional charge other than transportation and lunch costs for this trip. Historically we have also taken students when possible, to conferences such as the A Level PolEconUK conference to hear speakers such as Rory Stewart, Alistair Campbell and Jacob Rees-Mogg. We hope to do this again in future and the anticipated cost of these conferences is £30-40. We also encourage students to attend open lectures in central London when identified as applicable to their course. In previous years students have attended lectures at London School of Economics. These have not been run as formal school trips and students have booked their own seats and arranged transport. We would like to run a trip to Washington in the future.

PSYCHOLOGY

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- **Memory** - Explanations into the nature of memory, reasons for forgetting and eyewitness testimony
- **Approaches in Psychology** - A comparison of the major theoretical approaches in Psychology
- **Clinical Psychology and Mental Health** - Definitions in the field of mental health

Term Two

- **Attachment** - Explanations of attachment, types of attachment and the effects of childhood on adult relationships
- **Research Methods** - The scientific processes in Psychology, data handling and analysis, and inferential testing
- **Social Influence** - Explanations for conformity, obedience and independent behaviour

By the end of the year students should:

- have knowledge of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues
- have developed their skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation
- evaluate therapies and treatments in terms of their effectiveness and appropriateness
- be able to apply their knowledge and understanding to a range of contexts
- be able to write informed and analytical essays
- be able to design, conduct and report a psychological investigation

Trips

Students will have the opportunity to attend a conference with some of the world's leading psychologists. They will hear about some of the major theories and studies within Psychology and new research being undertaken.

Assessment and Marking

Students will be expected to maintain their own file of notes, which will be checked regularly. At the end of each topic students will be assessed on their knowledge of the areas covered with a practice examination paper. Students' homework, essays and practice examination papers will be assessed according to examination board marking schemes.

Examinations

Students will be set two internal mock examinations in June 2026. They will be assessed on the areas of the course that they have covered so far. Students' public external examinations will take place at the end of Year 2 of their A Level in the summer of 2027.

Textbook

'AQA Psychology for A-level Year 1' - Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis and Liddle

'AQA Psychology for A-level Year 2' - Flanagan, Berry, Jarvis and Liddle

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We follow the OCR Religious Studies A Level (H573) specification.

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences:
- The Existence of God
- God and the World

Component 2: Religion and Ethics

- The Ethical theories of Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism
- Euthanasia
- Business Ethics

Component 3: Developments in Buddhist Thought

- **Foundations:** The Buddha: Siddhartha's life, the Buddha's intellectual context; Taking Refuge
- **Insight:** Samsara; the Three Marks of Existence
- **Living:** Four Noble Truths; Meditation

Assessment and Marking

All work will be marked according to the guidelines set by the specification.

Formal assessment will take the form of written assignments, end of topic tests and an end of year examination.

Textbook

Oxford A Level Religious Studies for OCR: AS and Year 1 – Ahluwalia and Bowie
(Oxford University Press)

SPANISH

Topics to be covered over the two-year course:

- Changes in Spanish society (Year 1)
- Political and artistic culture in Spanish speaking countries (Year 1)
- Immigration and multicultural society (Year 2)
- The Franco years, the dictatorship and the transition to democracy (Year 2)

Students will also study two Spanish works: either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural knowledge that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment
- develop as independent researchers through the language of study

Trips

Students will be given the opportunity to attend plays and view films in the language studied.

Whenever possible, the department aims to arrange for students to attend conferences related to their studies. There may be opportunities to visit a country where the language studied is spoken.

Assessment and Marking

Students' progress will be assessed regularly with small tests focusing on specific grammar points or lexis. Students will also be asked to complete long pieces of work at home and in class (essays, presentations, A Level type questions), which will be marked to A Level standard.

Students will sit A Level examinations at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Paper 3: Speaking

Textbook

Edexcel A Level Spanish

SPORTS

Topics to be covered this year:

Term One

- Health Related Fitness, HITT, Yoga, Dance
- Weight Training
- Invasion games (Football and Netball)

Term Two

- Health Related Fitness, Boxercise, Yoga, Weight Training
- Spinning
- Invasion games (Rugby, Hockey, Football and Netball)

Term Three

- Health Related Fitness
- Swimming, Volleyball
- Strike and Field/Net Games (Cricket, Rounders, Tennis)

By the end of the year students should:

- have continued to develop their understanding of the rules necessary to perform effectively and how to apply tactics in response to these rules
- have continued to develop skilful attacking and team play developing fluency and timing. They should have consolidated on how to work well as a team when attacking and defending and the changeover between the two
- be able to think about how to use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition using team play and quick, effective decision making and communication
- be able to make good decisions about which techniques to use in specific situations
- be able to adapt to different situations quickly and begin to invent their own ideas, skills and tactics
- have developed skills during extra-curricular activities as academic pressure results in less sport contact time
- be able to perform a set dance and compose a small section with an understanding of rhythm and compositional ideas
- be able to maintain or improve levels of fitness through various different activities provided
- have learnt lifting techniques and developed a programme to improve functional strength

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are competitive inter-school fixtures available for all students in the main sports of each term. There are also lunchtime clubs in each sport to augment the contact time of each student per week. For 1st team players training is compulsory at lunchtime clubs. There is strength and conditioning training to support team players wishing to perform at higher levels.

Assessment and Marking

Attainment grades are limited to students taking PE at A Level.

THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Three Dimensional Design has been introduced at A Level in order to provide continuity of curriculum following the subject from the 13s and GCSE. The subject, as taught at Harrodian, is aimed at encouraging and exploring the disciplines of Design and Engineering, problem solving challenging design briefs whilst creating tangible three-dimensional models or working examples of solutions.

Controlled Assessment

The teacher will select a topic for research and development from September until February. From this area candidates are expected to make a personal response that fulfills the criteria of the outline, but work within carefully prescribed boundaries to impart the importance of working within a brief. Students will be exposed to a range of design techniques, specialised drawing and CAD techniques. By the unit's end each student will be expected to present their solution in 3D form along with associated 2D renderings to illustrate development and the reflective process.

Personal Portfolio

This unit is the student's opportunity to make an in-depth personal response to a design brief by themselves or in conjunction with their teacher. There needs to be considerable evidence of the thought process that goes into the design, as well as a high degree of planning and preparation for delivery of the final idea. The unit's work can take the form of one self-contained assignment or a clearly defined series or set of work. The unit runs from February until July.

By the end of the year students should:

- have an understanding of the design process as required at GCE level and be able to output carefully considered quality final working designs or scale models to demonstrate purpose.

Trips

A trip will be organised once a year to relevant design based exhibitions.

Assessment and Marking

Assessment is based around the unit's portfolios and sketchbooks, all work being carried out in students' A3 books, culminating in a finished design and associated presentation. Successful work will demonstrate a full understanding of the assessment criteria, as well as an understanding of the balance between form and function.

There is a termly charge of £145.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

PSHE Education is an integral part of supporting our 6th Form students with their continued emotional, intellectual and physical development in a fast changing world. Our programme involves one 25-minute Form Time per week devoted to PSHE or Current Affairs (in which PSHE issues and British values are linked to current stories and debates in the news) and an accompanying programme of 8-9 periods across the school year where students are taken off timetable for more in-depth PSHE sessions. These include the occasional use of outside speakers on topics such as drugs and alcohol, mental wellbeing and exam success.

The programme of study is based on the following half termly headings:

Half Term 1 – Good Mental Health

Half Term 2 – Drugs and Alcohol Education

Half Term 3 – Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Half Term 4 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Half Term 5 – Practical PSHE

Half Term 6 – How to Learn (exams)