



BROOKE HOUSE COLLEGE

A LEVEL PROGRAMME

GCE A level is one of the world's most recognised qualifications, leading students to direct university entry. To obtain this qualification, students undertake a two year course in three to four subjects, normally starting at the age of 16. Our A level programme has been designed to give flexibility of choice for our students.

At Brooke House College we have six faculties, led by experienced middle leaders, within these faculties there are many subjects your child can choose to study at advanced level.

Social Science Faculty Subjects

Business Studies

This course will suit anyone with a genuine interest in how the commercial world works, with particular interest in the external environment.

In year 1 you will study the initial fundamentals of a business such as the differing legal forms and the role of shareholders along with the differing objectives. You will study the differing management styles and learn what makes an effective leader. You will also look into marketing and the decisions a company makes such as who to aim a product at and how to appeal to different customers. You will look in depth at how a business operates efficiently leading on to how they manage their finances and analyse their financial performance.

In year 2 you will look in depth at how the external environment affects a business such as tax, exchange rates and inflation. You will look into how a business assesses itself through looking inwardly such as whether they should export, invest or innovate. You will also look into how to manage change and how and why strategies fail.

This subject combines well with other subjects such as Economics and Accountancy and will offer a deeper understanding of many of the topics studied in Business. The subject also combines well with other Social Sciences subjects when studying the theories of management style and behaviour of an effective leader.

The exam board used is AQA and will be examined externally with three exams at A level.

Law

This course will suit students who have a good grasp of English and who wish to work within the court system including, but not exclusively, being a barrister or a solicitor.

In year 1 you will study the key components of the English Legal System so you will learn how laws are made by Parliament and interpreted by judges. You will learn how you qualify as a member of the legal profession and the nature and role of the judiciary. In addition students will learn about criminal law and tort law.

In year 2 students will build on their knowledge of the English Legal System, criminal and tort law and will study either contract law or human rights legislation. Within criminal law you will learn how to prosecute a range of crimes including murder and theft and within tort law you will learn how to successfully complete a claim of negligence.

The exam specification we use is AQA, there are three exam papers of two hours at the end of the two years. The course will lead onto any social science/humanities degree course at university including to read law. Many universities welcome students to read law if they have studied it at A level and students themselves have fed back to us on how useful it was to have the A level when beginning their university studies.

Psychology

Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

The AQA A level qualification offers students an engaging and stimulating introduction to the study of psychology, combined with the academic integrity and skills that Higher Education and employers value.

The new specification ensures that the psychologists of the future will have a fascinating and coherent introduction to the subject - new topics like Forensic Psychology are now offered as options in A2.

This course will appeal to a cross-section of students, regardless of whether they have studied psychology before.

Sociology

Sociology is a science about various groups in the society and their interaction. Psychology looks up close at the mind of the individual, whereas, sociology zooms out and focuses on the institutions and power dynamics of society. We look at the social phenomena: family, education, mass media, subculture, crime and deviance and religion through the lens of underpinning social theories, such as Marxism,

functionalism and feminism. It is a challenging, yet enlightening course that will help you to make sense of the world you live in.

There are a range of forms of assessment, all OCR exam based. These range from short answer to longer essay questions. Assessment will take place at the end of the two year course.

Accounting

It enables students to apply their knowledge of accounting theory and practice to develop their commercial acumen and financial awareness. In addition it facilitates students' development of key transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- Purpose, importance and consequence of effective financial accounting.
- Techniques to gather and produce financial statements and other relevant reports.
- How to analyse, interpret and communicate the results of financial information.
- How financial accounting helps in the measuring, monitoring and planning of successful business operations.

The exam board is AQA, students are assessed by two examinations; Paper 1 and 2 by the exam board AQA.

Economics

Study economics and you'll soon be able to impress your friends – and your parents' friends – by knowing what phrases such as 'the balance of payments', inflation' and 'budget deficit' mean. But economics is about so much more than high finance – it touches every aspect of our lives. Essentially, it's about how you, your family, the firm where you work and your government choose to use the resources available (time, money, skills, buildings or land, for example) to maximum effect. It's a great subject for those with questioning minds, curious about what goes on around them. Economics is fascinating to study because it is so applicable to everyday life. Why is the economy taking so long to recover from the financial crisis? Will the government be able to repay its mountain of debt? There are very few subjects that you can study during the day and see the relevance of what you've learned on the news at night.

With an economics qualification, students will be welcome in business, banking and accounting, as well as politics and journalism. Other A level subjects which combine well with economics are mathematics, government and politics, history, geography, English literature and law.

This is a two year course, leading to an A level qualification in economics. Edexcel A level economics (A) is a linear qualification. This means that all examinations must be sat at the end of the course. There is no course work

PE Faculty Subjects

Physical Education

Sport and fitness is a huge industry... and you can be part of it. If you're keen on sport you can make a healthy living from your passion. Whether that's working for a football club, as a personal trainer at the local gym, or training to be a physiotherapist, there are lots of opportunities.

From professional sport through to amateur teams and individuals who just want to get in shape, sport and fitness is a fast-growing business. Best of all, you could be in a career doing something that you love.

Subject content:

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Skill acquisition
3. Sport and society
4. Exercise physiology
5. Biomechanical movement
6. Sport psychology
7. Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

Science Faculty Subjects

Chemistry

A level chemistry is a must for anyone wishing to go on to study courses relating to chemical sciences, medicine or considering a career linked to chemical engineering.

For A level chemistry, we follow the Edexcel chemistry course, which offers a rigorous practical approach to chemistry. Topics covered include atomic structure, formulae, bonding, elements, organic chemistry, spectrometry, energetics, equilibrium, entropy, redox, metals, kinetics and organic synthesis.

The practical element is assessed via a suite of 12 compulsory practical activities, while the theoretical element is assessed by two exams for AS chemistry in the first year and two exams for A level chemistry in the second year.

Physics

A level physics is a must for anyone wishing to go on to study courses relating to physical sciences, engineering or considering a career linked to any type of engineering. Physics also encompasses a suite of skills making it useful for a number of different career paths.

For A level physics, we follow the Cambridge International A level course, which offers a rigorous approach to physics. Topics covered include mechanics, dynamics, electricity, waves, fields, nuclear and particle physics, thermal physics and quantum

physics. The practical element is assessed via a practical exam, while the theoretical element is assessed by two exams for AS physics in the first year and two exams for A level physics in the second year.

Biology

A level biology is a must for anyone wishing to go on to study courses relating to biological sciences or considering a career linked to botany, zoology or conservation.

For A level biology, we follow the Edexcel Biology A course, which offers a rigorous applications-based approach to biology. Topics studied include biological molecules, cells, viruses and reproduction, biodiversity, energy for biological processes, control, microbiology, genetics and variation and ecosystems.

The practical element is assessed via a suite of 12 compulsory practical activities, while the theoretical element is assessed by two exams for AS biology in the first year and two exams for A level biology in the second year.

Computing

This course follows the AQA A level computer studies course. It offers a similar range of areas studied at GCSE, but to a much greater level of detail as well as having extra areas not covered at GCSE level.

The course is assessed using AS and A level exams at the end of the year.

Maths Faculty Subjects

Maths

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary (8MA0) and Edexcel Advanced GCE (9MA0) specification require students to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of:

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors
- Statistics
- Mechanics

There are no options on this course as all topics are compulsory.

Further Maths

Students wishing to study Further Mathematics at GCE level will study the full A level Maths in the first year. The second year will encompass the full A level Edexcel

Further Maths (9FM0) qualification. The compulsory elements (which are 50% of the final mark) are:

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

Students can choose from the following options for the remaining 50% of their qualification:

- Further Pure Maths
- Further Mechanics
- Further Statistics

Humanities Faculty Subjects

Fine Art/Graphics

For those wishing to study art or graphics at A level you should have a minimum B grade at GCSE in the subject or equivalent prior to the course. If it is your intention to study design of any sort at university, including architecture, it is necessary to do an “arts” subject at A level. Students can do either or both especially if they want a career in the arts. Both A level art and graphics involve a high level of commitment both inside and outside of the classroom as independent work is a requirement of the course. The two year course consists of coursework and a practical exam at the end of the A2 year. The exam board is AQA.

English Literature

Students will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established whilst studying English at GCSE. Students will study poetry, plays and novels and be required to show knowledge and understanding of the effects of functions and effects of structure, form and language in text; some of the ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers; and some of the ways in which texts relate to one another and to the contexts in which they are written and read. They will also look at the interpretation of texts by different readers, including over time; how texts relate to literary traditions, movements and genres; and the cultural and contextual influence upon readers and writers. As part of the wider learning experience, we will have regular trips to the theatre to watch the plays come alive. We follow the OCR specification.

Geography

Topics: Human Geography (Changing Places), People and the Environment, Contemporary Urban Environments, Physical Geography (Water and Carbon Cycles)

Summative: 3 papers, Component 1 (Physical Geography - 2.5 hours - 40%), Component 2 (Human Geography - 2.5 hours - 40%) and Individual Investigation Task - BHC marked/AQA moderated - 20%)

German

Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where German is spoken, and their language skills; they will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German. The approach is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. Students study aspects of the social context together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries.

Government and Politics

Government and politics has compulsory modules on the British political system, and a consideration of key political philosophies. The option studied looks at global political issues. These modules help promote understanding of both the contemporary British and international political systems. It is equally relevant for British and overseas students. International and domestic economic, political, military and social issues shape all aspects of life and this course helps students develop an insight into these relevant and important issues. This A level is suitable as preparation for a wide variety of degrees and careers from journalism, business, economics, the military, the diplomatic service, law to name but a few. It compliments many other A levels very well indeed.

Students will develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. They will gain an understanding of the structures of authority and power within the UK's political system and how these may differ from those of other political systems.

The course provides:

- A broad AS course which provides a structured foundation of political knowledge on which to develop skills for citizenship and further study.
- An emphasis on contemporary politics and current areas of constitutional concern, putting the UK in the context of the EU and the wider world.
- The opportunity to specialise in different areas at A2 giving students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of aspects of the subject at a higher level the opportunity to engage in contemporary political debates.

History

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Overview of content

Students take one of the following options:

1C: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

1D: Britain, c1785–c1870: democracy, protest and reform

1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin

1F: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96

1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Paper 2:

Students take one of the following options:

2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

2D.1: The unification of Italy, c1830–70

2D.2: The unification of Germany, c1840–71

2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery

2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Students take one of the following options:

35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914

35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928

36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality

Paper 4. Coursework, examination

Spanish

The aim of the course is to expand an interest in Spanish language and culture as well as to develop linguistic skills, whilst developing grammatical systems and a range of structures. The course will include the study of literature/history and film and will encourage the students to be up to date with current affairs. It will also help to demonstrate the ability of critical thinking when studying aspects of contemporary society, cultural background and heritage. Students will develop skills in manipulating the language accurately to organise facts and ideas, present explanations, opinions and information in speech and writing as well as transferring meaning from Spanish into English and from English into Spanish.

Studying this subject may lead to a career which will involve translating or interpreting skills in such fields as export marketing and selling, travel and tourism, banking, international law, advertising or the media. For Higher Education, a foreign language can be studied as a straight degree course but is more usually combined with another language, business studies, law, history or economics and many other subjects. A degree in modern languages can enhance your career chances considerably as it is highly valued by both employers and universities.