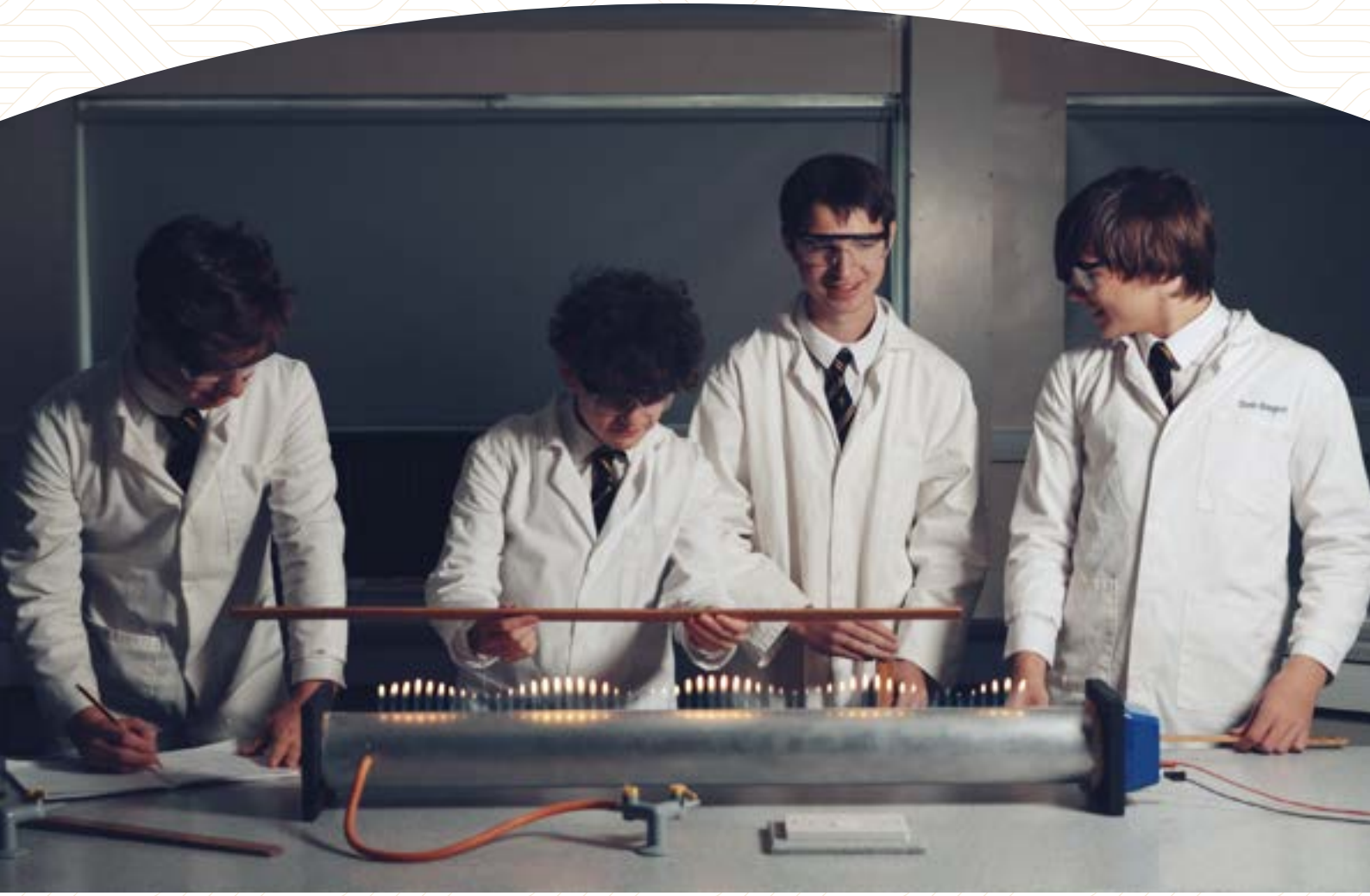
VICTORIA COLLEGE

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Sixth Form Subject Options Guide

2026/2027



Our World of Opportunity

Respectful • Resilient • Aspirational



Welcome

From Head of Sixth Form

Ms Parm Plummer

Sixth Form is a transformative time in a young person's development. We witness young men grow into capable, confident and mature individuals ready to step into the world equipped with the knowledge, skills and character that will serve them well in higher education, employment and beyond.

Our Sixth Form provides young men with an exceptional foundation for the journey ahead. With small class sizes, expert teachers and a newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre designed to support serious study and independent learning, our students are guided and challenged throughout their A Level courses. Beyond the classroom, a rich and varied wider curriculum offers countless opportunities for personal growth, enabling students to develop the confidence, leadership and wider skills that will remain with them long after they leave the College.

Choosing the right subjects is one of the most important decisions a student will make, shaping both their enjoyment and success over the next two years. I encourage students and parents to read this guide carefully. The best choices are those that spark curiosity and a genuine enthusiasm for learning; subjects that will sustain students through the demands of A Levels and potentially into further study at university. These decisions are not always straightforward, which is why conversations with teachers, parents and current students, alongside the information contained in this guide, are so valuable in helping students identify the three A Level subjects that are right for them.

These initial choices are only the beginning of the process. Students will have ample opportunity to discuss and reflect on their decisions with senior leaders and members of the Sixth Form team before finalising their programme of study. Through these conversations, we hope every student will arrive at the combination of subjects that best suits their interests, strengths and ambitions, inspiring both a passion for learning and a determination to achieve their full potential.

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Art

Examination board: OCR

The course

This is an exciting course that enables each individual student to explore and develop artistic skills in a number of areas. They will work on several different themes with a wide range of materials and techniques including drawing, painting, mixed media and some photography - on a variety of scales. As the course progresses, students will be given more freedom to explore their own ideas and make pieces that are more personal to them.

There are two major projects - Coursework and Controlled Assignment (examination). The coursework project also contains a written element where students will research an artist(s) of their choice, relating to their own work or artistic style, and produce a personal investigation of between 1000 - 3000 words.

Our A Level students have access to individual workspaces in the Art and Design Centre we share with JCG.

Requirements

Art GCSE at Grade 6 or above and an interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

Where can it take you?

Our students have pursued a wide range of art-based courses which have eventually shaped their careers. The course will provide students with the creative and technical knowledge needed to enter areas such as:

Fine Art (painting, sculpture and printmaking)
Architecture
Illustration
Graphics
Product design
Theatre design
Fashion and textile design
Photography and media production

Most students choose an art foundation course to experience a variety of disciplines before embarking on a degree that focuses on a specific area.

Biology

Examination board: Cambridge International A Level Biology

The course

This is a consistently popular A level that builds on a student's GCSE knowledge of Biology and extends their practical skills.

The following topics are studied:

Cell structure	Immunity
Biological molecules	Energy and respiration
Enzymes	Photosynthesis
Cell membranes and transport	Homeostasis
The mitotic cell cycle	Control and coordination
Nucleic acids and protein synthesis	Inherited change
Transport in plants	Selection and evolution
Transport in mammals	Biodiversity, classification and conservation
Gas exchange and smoking	
Infectious disease	Genetic technology

Students develop and practise many life-long transferable skills including describing, interpreting, explaining, learning facts, the ability to draw together a range of ideas and make sense of them, as well as problem solving skills.

Assessment is by examination:

Paper 1: Multiple Choice. Questions from the first 11 topics (AS Level) (1hr) 15.5%
Paper 2: AS Level Structured Questions (1hr 15mins) 23%
Paper 3: Advanced Practical Skills. Based on the AS Level syllabus (2hrs) 11.5%
Paper 4: A Level Structured Questions (2hrs) 38.5%
Paper 5: Planning, Analysis and Evaluation (1hr 15mins) 11.5%

Requirements

GCSE separate sciences Biology Grade 7 preferred, Grade 6 considered on individual basis and on condition of successful completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12.

Dual Award science - 8,8 preferred, on condition of completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12. Those students who are not taking Mathematics at A Level will be asked to take extra enrichment lessons to increase their understanding and bring them in line with their peers.

Where can it take you?

To a degree in every subject related to Biology but it is especially important for medicine, veterinary science, biological sciences, ecology, genetics, marine biology and environmental courses. It is also a gateway to other non-science related courses such as law, accountancy, economics, IT and geography.

Business

Examination board: AQA

The course

The brand new AQA Business specification is modern, relevant and designed to reflect the evolving business landscape. It is about analysis and problem solving in the real world. Students will gain an awareness of how the business environment provides opportunities and imposes constraints on organisations. The course helps students build the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in today's rapidly changing environment, whether heading to university, higher apprenticeships, or straight into the workplace.

The AQA A Level Business course is assessed through 100% examination in Year 13. Each of the three examinations is 2 hours in length and assesses the following content through a range of questions focused around two case studies in each paper:

Paper 1: What is business? Managing marketing and finance

- Business and objectives
- Forms of business and stakeholders
- Marketing management
- Financial management

Paper 2: Managing people and operations

- People management
- Operations management
- Managing business culture

Paper 3: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy

- Business and society
- Business and the external environment
- Strategy
- Change

Requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in English or maths and preferably a grade 7 in an essay-based subject. An interest in current business affairs is vital to be successful on this course and students should be keen readers of the news, especially around business. Good literacy skills in this essay-based subject are essential and quantitative skills make up a minimum of 10% of the overall grade.

Where can it take you?

An A Level in Business Studies provides a good grounding for many higher education courses and degrees. The skills obtained in this course will be welcomed by any employer and provide a sound base for students to start thinking about their own business. Countless careers are opened up to them including finance, marketing, human resources, and entrepreneurship.

Chemistry

Examination board: Cambridge Assessment International Examinations

The course

On the International A Level Chemistry course, students will continue their journey into the atomic world, learning what drives chemical reactions and why they occur in the first place. This is a challenging, but rewarding and enjoyable subject; we move on from IGCSE to apply the knowledge and there is a strong emphasis on practical work, which takes place in our well-equipped laboratories.

The course is assessed with five examinations at the end of Year 13:

Paper Name and Contribution Towards Full A Level

AS Multiple choice: 15.5%
AS Structured questions: 23%
AS Advanced practical skills: 11.5%
A Level Structured Questions: 38.5%
A Level Planning, Analysis & Evaluation: 11.5%

Course Content

Year 12
Physical chemistry - Atomic structure, Stoichiometry, Chemical bonding, States of matter, Chemical energetics, Electrochemistry, Equilibria, Reaction kinetics.

Inorganic chemistry - The Periodic Table: chemical periodicity, Group 2, Group 17, Nitrogen and sulfur.

Organic chemistry - An introduction to AS Level organic chemistry, Hydrocarbons, Halogen compounds, Hydroxy compounds, Carbonyl compounds, Carboxylic acids and derivatives, Nitrogen compounds, Polymerisation, Organic synthesis.

Year 13
Physical chemistry - Chemical energetics, Electrochemistry, Equilibria, Reaction kinetics.

Inorganic chemistry - Group 2, Chemistry of transition elements.

Organic chemistry - An introduction to A Level organic chemistry, Hydrocarbons, Halogen compounds, Hydroxy compounds, Carboxylic acids and derivatives, Nitrogen compounds, Polymerisation, Organic synthesis, Analysis, Analytical techniques

Requirements

GCSE separate sciences Chemistry Grade 7 preferred, Grade 6 considered on an individual basis and on condition of successful completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12.

Dual Award science - 8,8 preferred, on condition of completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12. Those students who are not taking Mathematics at A Level will be asked to take extra enrichment lessons to increase their understanding and bring them in line with their peers.

Where can it take you?

Chemistry is a requirement for degrees relating to Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, as well as other degree courses related to these areas, such as Pharmacology and Pharmacy. Degrees in Dietetics, Forensic Science and Chemical Engineering also frequently require the subject to be taken at A Level. It is also a valuable subject to study should you wish to go on to study a Physics or Biology related degree.

The numeracy skills involved also make a Chemistry A Level highly desirable and useful in areas such as accountancy, architecture and engineering. In fact, the analytical nature of the course makes it highly valued in many areas, with the course opening doors to most top degrees and disciplines. The Russell Group of Universities define Chemistry as one of the facilitating subjects at A Level. Employers also highly value the skills acquired during the course.

Computer Science

Examination board: OCR

The course

The world is increasingly dominated by digital technology, and this means the opportunities in the IT sector are unprecedented. This A Level course opens a door into one of the most thriving sectors of the economy. It aims to demystify computers and programming so that students will learn the principles of how a digital processor works. More importantly, it will help students excel in logic and creative problem-solving, the innovating skills that employers now value so highly.

In the programming module, students will learn about the common facilities of procedural and OOP languages, as well as how they are structured and how to write, test and run maintainable programs. The aim is to equip them with the knowledge, skills and understanding required to be able to apply the techniques to any programming language.

Requirements

Where Computer Science has been studied, at least a Grade 6 is required. If the GCSE has not been studied, then a minimum of a Grade 6 in Maths and English is required. Past students who did not study GCSE Computer Science have gone on to achieve the highest grades and further study at university. An understanding of at least one programming language would be extremely beneficial but not essential.

Where can it take you?

Computer Science is recognised by the Russell Group of Universities as a well-respected A Level subject, so it is widely accepted as a qualification that demonstrates the application of rigorous logical thought in a disciplined environment. It could be a stepping-stone onto a range of degree courses.

The more obvious routes are to Engineering and Computer Science, but Philosophy and Symbolic Logic are other subjects that have been taken by students who have completed this A Level.



Drama and Theatre Studies

Examination board: AQA

The course

Drama and Theatre Studies connects well with many other fields of study and career paths. There is a strong emphasis on personal growth, creativity, and strong interpersonal skills throughout the course. With a focus on written work, the course is recognised as a respected academic discipline, closely linked to English. Students will have the chance to participate in performances, whether as actors, directors, or designers in lighting, sound, set, costume, or even puppetry. Throughout the course, you will engage in set text analysis, devising, exploring scripted extracts, and experiencing live theatre. The assessment is divided into three components:

- **Drama and theatre:** This is a three-hour written paper on two set plays and on the work of live theatre makers, that you as a student will observe throughout the course
- **Creating original drama:** Here you will complete a practical assessment as a devised piece of theatre and link this closely to the work of a prescribed theatre practitioner by way of a written portfolio. You will be assessed as a performer, director or designer
- **Making theatre:** You will practically explore three extracts from three different scripted plays. Extract three will be linked to the work of a theatrical practitioner, with students being assessed as a performer, director, or designer. Students will be expected to produce a reflective report that is based on your theatrical interpretation of all three of the scripted extracts

Requirements

Students will need to attain a good set of academic grades at GCSE, particularly in English, and it is recommended, although not essential, that they have completed a GCSE in Drama. Theatrical experience gained via participation in House Drama, annual school productions or wider community theatre would also be of benefit. They will be required to put in extra time for rehearsal so their time management skills will be put to the test. The three most important attributes they can bring to the course are their ability to interpret things with creativity, their enthusiasm and time management skills.

Where can it take you?

The Drama and Theatre Studies course does not aim to prepare students vocationally for a career in theatre, although the skills they learn on this course would be of tremendous use in such a role. The course has far reaching benefits and is especially useful for people who may wish to pursue a career in law, media, advertising, design, public relations, music, or in fact any field that involves communication - which is most of them. This course is highly respected by Russell Group universities and is highly recommended as a fourth A Level for courses such as law and medicine where communication skills and creative thinking are crucial.

Economics

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

Economics offers students the opportunity to study a new subject, which is highly valued by both universities and employers because of the knowledge and skills that you learn and develop. Studying Economics will also help you to make more informed economic and financial decisions in the future.

Economics is a social science that focuses on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services, and analyses the choices that individuals, businesses, governments and nations make to allocate resources. The study of microeconomics focuses on the choices of individuals and businesses, and macroeconomics concentrates on the behaviour of the economy as a whole, on an aggregate level.

In Year 12 we will study economic models and theories to help us to understand the basic economic problem, the allocation of resources, demand and supply, market failure, economic objectives and the distribution of income and wealth. In Year 13 we apply the knowledge and skills learned in Year 12 to study labour markets, business economics, international trade, economic development, and financial markets. During the course we consistently apply these theories to current economic issues and problems to understand the significance of them in the real world and to help us to appreciate the importance of economics in solving complex problems.

We often have students from collaboration schools in our classes and we foster a positive, dynamic and collaborative approach to learning where high levels of engagement, effort, challenge, and academic discussions are encouraged.

If you are interested in how countries solve complex economic problems to improve their micro and macroeconomic performance, and standards of living, this will be the ideal course for you.

Requirements

Minimum of a Grade 6 in English and Maths or science. Preferably a Grade 8 in an essay-based subject such as English or History. An interest in current affairs is essential.

Where can it take you?

Universities have a high regard for this subject. Employers see an insight into Economics as a valuable asset. It opens up a wide range of career opportunities, including industry, finance, management, politics, journalism and law.

English Language and Literature

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

English Language and Literature A Level nurtures students' critical thinking, communication and writing skills. By exploring fiction and non-fiction texts, our studies will help students understand how words shape ideas, identities, and society, giving them powerful skills in analysis, communication, and creativity.

All English study develops students' skills as independent thinkers, exploring their own opinions and ideas. This combined A Level also hones their skills as a writer and their ability to communicate their ideas coherently and with precision.

This A Level is the study of English in use in the world around us. Students will have the opportunity to read a wide range of texts and explore the impact of language, structure and form not just in fiction but also spoken, written and multimodal texts.

Students will investigate a range of 'real-life' texts, such as blogs, text messages and emails, and their study of fiction will give them the chance to read the work of highly respected authors, poets and playwrights, both modern and from the literary canon.

Creative writing is assessed in Year 13. Students will be encouraged to pursue their interests and will be given freedom to choose the types of text they want to write.

Requirements

A minimum Grade 6 in English Literature and a Grade 6 in English Language at GCSE, but each student will be considered on their individual merits.

Where can it take you?

English Language and Literature is well respected by all academic institutions and forms an excellent basis for careers in the media, politics, business and legal professions.

It is also a subject that reaches out into other subject areas, offering stimulating points of intersection with: Art, History, Modern Languages, Media Studies, Music, Psychology and Philosophy.

English Literature

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

English Literature is a subject fuelled by ideas, inspiration and imagination. It is also a subject that nurtures writing and communication skills that will be valuable for the rest of a student's life. If they can communicate, the world is their oyster.

Students will be encouraged to read a wide range of diverse texts: Shakespeare alongside the lyrics of gangster rap or classical poetry alongside pop art.

They will be challenged to assess the value of radically different writing, to explore ideas for themselves and tackle the big questions that have preoccupied the great writers of our literary heritage for centuries.

Requirements

An English Literature Grade 6 or above but we will assess each student on their merits.

Where will it take you?

English Literature is well respected by all academic institutions and forms an excellent basis for careers in business, politics, the media and legal professions. It is also a subject that crosses over into other areas, offering stimulating points of intersection with Art, History, Media Studies, Drama, Philosophy, Music and Psychology.

French

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

Students will foster a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, focusing on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. During the first year, students will study aspects of the social context, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries focusing on music and cinema.

In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society, as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students will also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations.

Finally, students will have the opportunity to study both a film and a literary text linked to the topics covered, broadening their knowledge of French culture and society. They will be assessed in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading.

Requirements

A minimum of grade 6 in GCSE French.

Where can it take you?

Studying languages will give students excellent and varied career opportunities, together with life-long skills that will be stimulating, thought provoking, mind broadening, enjoyable, sociable, diverse and wide ranging. In today's world a language is a highly marketable qualification.

Communication skills, knowledge of languages, an understanding of foreign cultures, flexibility of mind, analytical ability and research skills are much in demand in a great many fields. Modern Language students tend to be mature, flexible and able to cope with the unfamiliar.

Studying a language does not narrowly confine you to any one area of future study or employment. Options could include journalism, the media and arts, banking, accountancy, management, administration, marketing, the civil service, teaching and professional language work. Very often, language students go on to combine their language with another subject such as law, business studies, engineering and teaching.

Geography

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

Studying Geography at Victoria College is an excellent opportunity to learn about the physical and human environment in an exciting and varied manner.

Geography A Level students must undertake four days of fieldwork as part of their course. These include two days of accompanied fieldwork with the department, and two days working independently around Jersey collecting data for their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). Additionally, we hope to offer off-Island trips to support learning at A Level.

We follow the Edexcel course, which develops some of the themes studied at GCSE, as well as introducing new aspects of the subject.

Year 12:	Tectonics, Coasts, Globalisation and Diverse Places
Year 13:	Water and Carbon Cycles, Superpowers, Migration, Identity and Sovereignty Students carry out an independent investigation, which is worth 20% of the A Level and will be internally assessed.

Requirements

Ideally GCSE Geography at Grade 6 but each student is considered on their merits.

Where can it take you?

Geography is regarded as a facilitating subject by Russell Group universities and other prestigious universities. It can be counted as a science or arts subject, so can benefit all prospective university entrants. Geography students learn to make reasoned judgments, analyse material and develop many transferable skills, so this A Level is highly regarded as an academic qualification by employers.



History

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

History A Level will provide students with a clear understanding of key historical developments of the 20th Century and how they connect to current political issues that our world faces today. It will help students build up essential skills of analysis and evaluation, developing their awareness of the complexity of human affairs. Understanding our past and how narratives can be adapted to serve the political agendas of present-day areas of contention is more important than ever. We live in a world saturated by information and the ability to select what is relevant and factually true presents challenges. History studies will help students develop their interrogative skills and reach balanced and informed judgements. They will learn to argue a case convincingly, both orally and on paper. Lessons will involve group discussions, debates and presentations.

The qualification follows a thematic approach, which ties our four chosen options together. Our chosen path is Route G: Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in twentieth-century Europe.

Within this route our students study:

- Germany and West Germany, 1918-1989
- Liberal and fascist Italy, 1911-1946
- The British Experience of Military Warfare, 1790-1918
- The Origins of the First World War and the historical controversy regarding Germany

A student's coursework is a personal investigation. The course requires them to undertake the research methodology applied by historians to explore the controversy surrounding who was to blame for starting war in 1914. They will be expected to engage with the views of historians and reach an overall judgement. This is excellent preparation for undergraduate work.

Requirements

A History GCSE Grade 6 is desirable, but students can take this A Level even if they have not studied it at GCSE. They will need to demonstrate a keen interest in the course content and excellent written analytical skills.

Where can it take you?

History is an especially well-respected subject. It has links to most other subjects, providing their context. The nature of our chosen curriculum content also borrows from politics, economics, psychology, literature and art to better understand the nature of democracy, dictatorship, and warfare.

It gives an excellent grounding for those wishing to study law, international relations, politics at university or careers where communication and evaluative skills are important.

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

Maths requires commitment but its rewards are knowledge, satisfaction and precise thinking. The course provides students with a wide range of activities and challenges. Mathematics and Further Mathematics not only develop topics covered in GCSE such as algebra, statistics and geometry, but also extend into new areas such as calculus, mechanics, discrete mathematics and numerical methods.

The mechanics content will allow physics students to successfully apply mathematical skills to physical problems.

Mathematics is one of very few subjects that offer the ability to complete two A Level qualifications. The Further Mathematics course also offers a degree of flexibility, and content can be tailored to suit individual students.

Requirements

A good general standard of Mathematics and, in particular, good algebraic skills are required. Even the best students find parts of the course challenging; you should have achieved Grade 7 at GCSE to begin the course, and Grade 8 to begin Further Mathematics. The study of the Level 2 Further Mathematics is highly recommended as it will make the transition between GCSE and A Level a lot smoother.

Where can it take you?

Mathematics is required by a range of students, from those intending to read it at university to those needing particular skills to support other subjects (particularly science) in their chosen careers. The course provides a good understanding of statistics, which is essential for anyone wishing to take psychology or sociology.

Music

Examination board: Eduqas



The course

Music is not just about playing an instrument or singing, it is about affirming a lifelong passion for music. It easily combines performance with being a rigorous academic subject which sets students up well for university study. Even if students do not intend to pursue it as a university degree, universities do like to see it as the third A level choice because of the skills developed within the course. The skills learnt involve written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills.

A Level musicians have long played an important leading role in both the Music Department and the school community. There are three components to the examination:

Performing 25-35% (dependent on option choice) – a programme lasting a minimum of 10 minutes using one or more of the following: solo piece on one or more instrument/s or voice, ensemble performance.

Composing 25-35% (dependent on option choice) - at least two separate pieces of music with a combined duration of 6 minutes

Listening and Appraising 40% - study and analysis of prescribed works including a Haydn Symphony, a Mendelssohn Symphony and various other genres including Blues and Popular Song, Film music, Music for the theatre, Baroque and Classical

Requirements

Students are expected to have achieved a Music GCSE at Grade 6 or above with a 6 in the Listening and Appraising written paper, in addition to ABRSM Grade 5 (minimum) standard on chosen instrument / voice. Familiarity with music theory and notation up to ABRSM Grade 5 standard is recommended. A Level students will need regular tuition on their main instrument.

Where can it take you?

Music is valued highly by universities and employers because it is recognised that musicians are motivated and committed with an excellent work ethic. For some non-music courses, it can be the favoured third A Level. As well as the obvious career as a performer, musicians go into many sectors including medicine, the legal profession, accountancy, teaching and acting. For example, the airport at Dubai is run by an English musician. (Ask the Director of Music, as he is a friend!). Top universities like music as an A Level subject, even if students intend to study a different discipline.

Philosophy

Examination board: AQA

The course

Put the question 'What is Philosophy?' to 100 Philosophers and you will probably get 100 different answers, but some common themes will also probably emerge. So, Philosophy is: thinking fundamentally about the nature of reality; refusing to accept anything without examining it; the pursuit of wisdom; arguing from the obvious to the surprising; a collection of questions that are of deep interest and for which there is (often) no experimental way of finding an answer; being logical and precise; seeing how ideas hang together; taking a closer look at things everyone ordinarily takes for granted; being interested in the quest for knowledge and truth through the application of reason. It is a subject that really comes alive when you start to try and think about these things for yourself.

As Bertrand Russell puts it: '*If the study of philosophy has any value at all...it must be only indirectly, through its effects upon the lives of those who study it*.'

A Level PHILOSOPHY is made up of four compulsory topics:

Paper 1

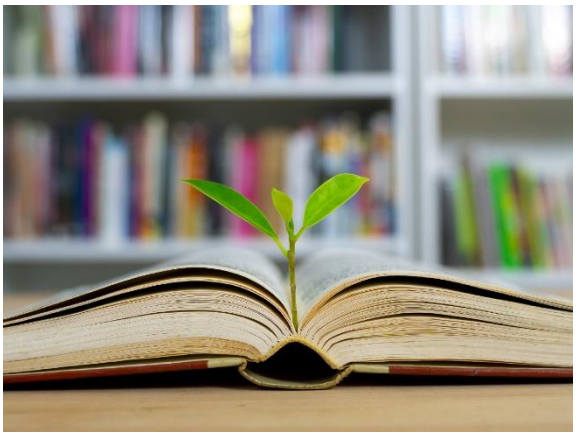
- Epistemology: This is probably closest to what people think of as 'pure' philosophy – questions about perception, what we know and how we know it.
- Moral Philosophy: This is about questions of right and wrong, how we should live, the foundations for different ways of being ethical, and the links between theory and practice (relating particularly to four key topics: stealing, telling lies, eating animals, and violence in computer games).

Paper 2

- Metaphysics of God: This is applying philosophical method to a particularly interesting area of discussion and debate.
- Metaphysics of Mind: Questions about consciousness, personal identity, artificial intelligence, free-will, and advances in neuroscience, make this one of the most contested and important areas of study in science, psychology and philosophy.

There are two three-hour exams. On each subject area students have to answer five questions for 3, 5, 5, 12 and 25 marks respectively, ranging from the shorter questions showing their knowledge and understanding of core concepts and methods of philosophy (60%) to the longer essay questions that show their ability to analyse and evaluate (40%).

Requirements



Religious Studies GCSE is not a necessity although some topics in Philosophy related to Religion and Ethics are relevant and, if students do have it, a Grade 6 or above would be helpful and a good indicator of their potential to do well. Just as useful will be an enquiring mind, a love of clear thinking, a philosophical disposition, and some proficiency in English so that they can thrive in discussion and debate and tackle with confidence the longer answers in the written exam.

Where can it take you?

Type 'Philosophy' into the UCAS website and you will find 1,155 different single and joint honours courses that involve Philosophy at British universities.

It is hard to think of an area where it would not have some relevance - from English to Economics, History, Art, International Relations, Law, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Theology, Politics, Sociology - and the same is true at A Level too: it would be a good companion to either the Humanities or the Sciences. If students are looking for a subject that is well respected, traditional, theoretical, analytic, and which goes well with other subjects then Philosophy may well be for them. The emphasis it places on reasoning, the clear and concise presentation of ideas, constructive discussion and critical thinking is recognised as desirable by almost every type of employer in both the public and private sectors.

Physical Education

Examination board: AQA

The Course

The Physical Education course is designed to develop a candidate's knowledge, skills and understanding of the factors that influence the quality of sports performance.

Candidates will be challenged to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of physiological, psychological and socio-cultural factors to a variety of sporting situations at elite and grass-root levels.

We have a wide range of sport choices for practical coursework and access to visiting Sports Science lecturers. Students will have the opportunity to perform or analyse sporting techniques, including comparing themselves with an elite performer in order to develop their own physical and mental performance.

Requirements

A Grade 6 in GCSE PE, with 60% in the theory exam, or in the absence of GCSE PE a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology. Candidates who do not have a GCSE in sport will be considered.

A healthy interest in a wide range of sporting activities is advisable, with a genuine passion for understanding what factors affect sports. The A Level is assessed predominantly through written exams and written coursework so proficient English is required.

Students will also be required to gain footage of themselves performing one sport in a competitive setting. It is important that they are regularly participating in their chosen sport.

Where can it take you?

A level Physical Education will open up many avenues both in terms of career prospects and higher education. Specific career paths could be physiotherapy, sports rehabilitation, psychology, teaching, sports coaching, sport related media, sports recreation or sports science for professional teams.

This A Level supports degree applications for a wide range of studies. Past pupils have gone on to study law, medicine, accountancy as well as sports-related degrees.

Physics

Examination board: Cambridge Assessment International Examinations

The course

Physics has been called 'the unbelievable in pursuit of the unimaginable'. It is a physicist's job to do that imagining. Physics encompasses the study of everything in the universe, from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Moreover, it's the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, geophysics and astrophysics as well as underlying all of the engineering specialties.

The Cambridge course we follow has plenty of up-to-date science, like Dark Energy or the purpose of the new Large Hadron Collider, but also retains the traditional elements needed to take the subject further. We use a single textbook, the Cambridge designated course book, but have a wide range of texts to support your study, and specialist books which are often borrowed by students who want to take things further. All students will be expected to read around the subject from periodicals, like Scientific American, and to keep up to-date with developments using science blogs and vlogs.

First year

Particles and Quantum Mechanics, Electricity, Materials and Mechanics, Waves and Thermal Physics.

Second year

Fields, Further Mechanics, Nuclear, Space and practice for both the Practical Exam and the Planning for a Practical Exam, the two of which form a unique part of the Cambridge A Level.

Topics covered include: The strong Nuclear Force holding nuclei together, Antiparticles Quarks and Leptons, Quantum Phenomena, Resistivity, Electromotive Force, Vector Motion, Motion of Projectiles, Properties of Materials, Wave Behaviour, Superposition of Waves, Diffraction and Interference Patterns, Simple Harmonic Motion, Vibrations and Resonance, Gravity, Electric Fields, Magnetic Fields.

Requirements

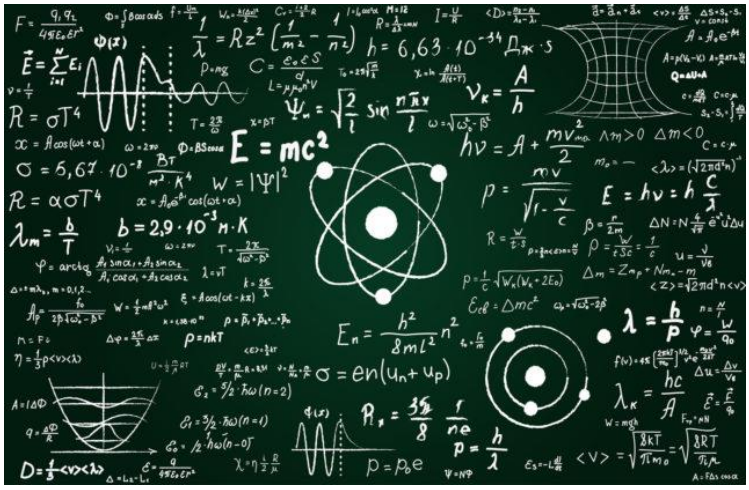
GCSE separate sciences Physics Grade 7 preferred, Grade 6 considered on an individual basis and on condition of successful completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12.

Dual Award science - 8,8 preferred, on condition of completion of bridging work by end of September of Year 12. Those students who are not taking Mathematics at A Level will be asked to take extra enrichment lessons to increase their understanding and bring them in line with their peers.

Where can it take you?

A level Physics is valued by universities and employers in any field because it shows that a candidate is numerate, can think analytically and is not afraid of intellectual challenge. There are career opportunities in Physics itself and in related areas such as architecture, engineering, and computing.

Less traditional degree courses like Medical Physics, Acoustics or Geophysics produce graduates who are highly sought after by industry, while physicists are also sought after by finance and law firms for their ability to think outside the box.



Politics

Examination board: Edexcel A Level Government and Politics

The course

Ever watched the news and wondered what exactly it is that governments do? What goes on in the Houses of Parliament? And who is Black Rod? And with such turmoil, scandal and sleaze in politics, why should people bother to vote?

This course will help you to understand the political discourse that is commonplace in our world today. You will develop an understanding of political ideas and how they have developed, how laws are passed and how the UK system of government operates. We will learn about the role of the Prime Minister and ministerial responsibility, the relationship between Parliament and the Supreme Court and take a deep dive into political parties and voting behaviour. We also explore the core ideologies - Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism - as well as learning about Nationalism, recognising key thinkers and their ideas, core concepts and views on human nature, state and society.

Globally, it will challenge you to make sense of Britain's place today, understand the work of the United Nations and how the international community is responding to problems that require global solutions. We will explore how America's dominance has changed and whether regional bodies, such as the European Union, exert more influence today. Areas covered will include different forms of globalisation, the nation state and sovereignty and the impact of non-state actors. Global governance in the spheres of political, economic, environmental and human rights will also be considered and the exercise of hard and soft power by nation states to achieve their objectives. We will also learn about the comparative theories of liberalism and realism that underpin international relations in our world today.

The course is split into three parts as below:

Paper 1: UK Politics

- Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media
- Three core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism

Paper 2: UK Government

- The Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive and relationships between the branches including the Supreme Court
- One non-core political idea: nationalism

Paper 3: Comparative Politics

- The state and globalisation
- Global governance: political and judicial

- Global governance: economic and environmental
- Power and developments
- Regionalism and the European Union
- Comparative theories

Assessment is by examination.

There are three exam papers, all taken at the end of the two-year course. Each is worth 33% and lasts two hours. There is a mix of short and long answer questions.

Requirements

An interest in current affairs and politics is vital to be successful on this course. Students will be keen readers of news and may hold political views themselves. They may be taking other subjects that are of an essay nature, although this is not essential. They will also need good literacy skills, as responses will mainly be in the form of essays, although these will not always be long. Finally, they should be interested in debate, as much of the course will involve oracy and discussion.

Where can it take you?

Studying Politics can help students in a number of ways. It is of interest in its own right and will help you gain a better understanding of the world around you. Many students combine their study of Politics with subjects such as History, Geography or Economics, as these social science subjects complement each other well. Students may go on to study Politics at undergraduate level or combine it with other subjects or as part of a Politics, Philosophy and Economics course. A popular route for former students has been International Relations. Careers include pretty much anything where you need strong communication skills, critical thinking and a good understanding of current affairs. Often Politics students go on to work in the Civil Service, media industry, local government, global or regional organisations and for political parties. Former students have gone on to work in the Royal Household, as lobbyists and many have gone into law.

Product Design

Examination board: OCR

The course

Product Design develops your capacity to think creatively and, as a critical thinker, you are able to adapt technical knowledge and understanding in different design situations.

Throughout the course students will learn critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling them to develop and make prototypes/products that solve real-world problems and consider their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

Product Design focuses on consumer products and applications, analysis in respect of materials, components, marketability, and the process of selection and use in industrial situations.

Year 12: Students will learn to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions and make and test prototypes and products.

Year 13: Students will learn to understand and apply processes of iterative design and put this into practice.

Assessment is by:

- Design Principles (Knowledge and Understanding): Exam of one hour 30 minutes worth 26.7%
- Problem Solving and Critical Evaluation: Exam of one hour 45 minutes worth 23.3%
- Iterative Design Project: 65 hours - worth 50%

What do I need?

A GCSE Grade 6 in Design and Technology. Students will need to be open to taking design risks, be intellectually curious, show innovation and enterprise and work collaboratively to develop and refine ideas.

Where can it take you?

With a focus on iterative design, this course will equip students with valuable critical thinking skills needed for higher education and industry where they can expect to make a contribution to 21st Century creative, engineering and manufacturing businesses.

Psychology

Examination board: OCR (provisional)

The course

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and the mind. It offers a unique educational experience that develops a distinctive and broad set of skills. It is located in scientific method and allows scope for extensive evaluation from a range of perspectives.

Students will learn to interpret and critically assess scientific data, and to research and critically evaluate a range of sources. Psychology is a popular combination with subjects such as Science, Humanities, English and Business Studies or Economics.

There are three components:

Research Methods (two hour written exam worth 1/3 of the total marks). Students conduct their own practical work involving four key techniques: self-report, observation, correlation and experimentation as well as understanding how descriptive and inferential statistics can be used to analyse the data collected. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own research as they develop vital investigative skills and an appreciation of the principles of empirical scientific enquiry.

Core Studies (two hour written exam worth 1/3 of the total marks). An introduction to key themes. The selection of 15 significant studies from different areas enables students to appreciate how approaches to Psychology differ, from the Biological which focuses on neuroscience, to the Social which focuses on the influence of other people.

Applied Psychology (two hour written exam worth 1/3 of the total marks). Two compulsory sections on issues in mental health and Criminal Psychology, and then a further applied option: Sport and Exercise Psychology. Students will consider the background, key research and application of these topics within the option:

Mental Health

- What is mental health? (History, definitions and diagnosis)
- The Medical Model (Biological explanations and treatments of mental illnesses like Depression, Schizophrenia and Phobias)
- Alternatives to the Medical Model (Non-biological explanations and therapeutic treatments of mental illnesses)
- Modern approaches to mental health (The use of technology and AI in treatment)

Criminal Psychology

- Turning to crime (biological, social, and cognitive explanations for violent crime)
- Building a case (biases in forensic evidence)
- In the courtroom (jury biases)

- Managing offenders (effects of imprisonment and alternative strategies)

Sport and Exercise Psychology

- Audience effects
- Exercise and mental health
- Motivation

What do I need?



- The ability to write extended responses: the Psychology paper will require you to discuss debates, like determinism, and argue the extent to which Psychology is a Science, which means demonstrable skills in Humanities or English are an advantage. Level 6 in English or one of the Humanities is preferred.
- An understanding of Higher Maths at GCSE is an advantage for data analysis, calculation of inferential statistics and drawing frequency density histograms. Level 6 is preferred.
- The ability to revise content effectively, similar to requirements in Humanities and Science, as there are new specialist terms and a lot of interesting new theories, techniques and research to remember.

Where can it take you?

For many careers some knowledge of Psychology is essential, including teaching, personnel work, law, clinical health, prison and Police service roles.

This is essential for a degree to become an Applied Psychologist and to support the additional professional training and further study afterwards.

Spanish

Examination board: Edexcel

The course

Students will foster a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, focusing on how Spanish-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. During the first year, students will study aspects of the social context, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish-speaking countries focusing on music and cinema.

In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of Spanish-speaking society, as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students will also study aspects of the political landscape in a Spanish-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations.

Requirements

A minimum of grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

Where can it take you?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world making it an appealing and prevalent choice for A Level study. The rich, diverse and fascinating cultures of the Hispanic world will leave students with a curiosity to experience the vast number of Spanish speaking countries for themselves. Spain itself is the second most visited country in the world! From Spain to Latin America, students will discover a gateway to incredible landscapes, diverse arts, unique traditions and customs, wonderful culinary delights and rich histories through the study of this beautiful language. Furthermore, in today's global economy studying Spanish can open a wide range of career opportunities for students. The discipline of studying a language is extremely well regarded by both employers and universities. They know that a linguist is likely to have strong communication skills and that this will be an asset to them.

Collaboration Schools

Subjects on Offer

Alongside the subjects available at Victoria College, a number of additional courses can be studied at one of our Collaboration Sixth Forms* including:

Jersey College for Girls

Italian, Media Studies, Textiles, Classics.

Beaulieu Convent School

Criminology, Dance, Health & Social Care, Religious Studies, Media Studies, Photography, Sociology, Music Tech, CTEC Diploma in Business, BTEC Sport and Medical Science.

**Places are subject to availability and meeting specific grade criteria, at the discretion of the host school. The viability of some courses is subject to adequate numbers of students enrolling for the course and varies each academic year.*

VICTORIA COLLEGE

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Victoria College, Mont Millais, St Helier, Jersey JE1 4HT
01534 638200 | admin@vcj.sch.je | www.victoriacollege.je

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