

# Art, Craft & Design

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

The broad-based Art, Craft and Design title will enable you to explore a range of two-dimensional, three-dimensional or time-based approaches to your studies.

Artists, craftspeople and designers are often inspired and influenced by those working in a wide range of different creative areas. They draw inspiration from images, compositions, forms and ideas outside of their own discipline. They work frequently in multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary ways, breaking traditional boundaries to create works of art, craft and design that combine ideas, concepts and materials in new ways.

You will be encouraged to work and develop skills in a multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary way, exploring the connections between a variety of approaches, such as painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, illustration, graphics, textiles, design crafts, digital photography.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through two components:

- Component 1 - Personal Investigation. 60% of the total qualification and incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.
- Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment. 40% of the total qualification and incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies (for which you will produce a portfolio of practical work) and a 15 hour period of sustained focus (for which you will produce your final outcome(s)).

## Additional Information

To support your studies you will visit London museums and galleries.

### You can progress from this qualification to:

- higher education courses such as the BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
- higher education courses such as BTEC Higher National Diplomas in art and design subjects, or direct to a BA Honours degree with an art and design focus
- apprenticeships or other training and employment in a related sector

It is likely that you will have studied GCSE in Art and Design, or have developed skills and interest in art and design practices.

## Career Aspirations:

You can progress from this qualification to:

- further education courses such as the BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
- higher education courses such as BTEC Higher National Diplomas in art and design subjects, or direct to a BA Honours degree with an art and design focus
- apprenticeships or other training and employment such as a artist, teacher, photographer, interior designer, illustrator, architect, fashion and jobs in media/film

## Subject pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Photography

Performing Arts

# Biology

**Type of Qualification:** A Level  
**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

A level Biology aims to enthuse students in the essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject. Practical opportunities are regularly explored to allow the development of scientific skills, as well as mathematical and problem solving skills. The course considers the decisions made by society and how science contributes to the success of the economy.

Biology A level is an academic course involving fundamental practical tasks. The course is assessed through written papers of the concepts alone, with practical skills assessed separately. The course aims to develop an interest in higher study and careers in Biology.

There are 8 core units:

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

## How is the course assessed?

At A level, components assess the content from different modules as outlined in the table below. All components contain synoptic assessment.

Assessment title	Modules assessed	Length of paper	Assessment value
Paper 1	1-4 including any relevant practical skills	91 marks (2hours)	35%
Paper 2	5-8 including any relevant practical skills	91 marks (2hours)	35%
Paper 3	1-8 including any relevant practical skills	78 marks (2 hours)	30%
Practical endorsement in biology	Throughout course	N/A	Reported separately

## Career Aspiration:

This subject could lead to careers in science and research, medicine and healthcare, agriculture, sport and fitness, engineering and police and emergency services.

## Subject pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:  
 Chemistry  
 Sport

## A-Level Business

**Type of Qualification:** A-Level

**Level of Course:** 3

### Description:

A-Level Business Studies provides a comprehensive understanding of various business aspects, emphasising real-world applications.

In the dynamic business environment, individuals must navigate a range of concepts, including marketing, finance, operations, and strategy. The course encourages a holistic perspective, fostering connections between different business functions and their impact on organisational success.

### Assessment is divided into four themes:

Theme 1: Marketing and people

Theme 2: Managing business activities

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4: Global business

### Additional Information:

Students gain practical insights through case studies and real-world examples. The course equips them with valuable skills for higher education or entering the business sector.

### Career Aspirations:

Upon completing A-Level Business Studies, students can progress to:

- Higher education in business-related courses
- Apprenticeships or employment in sectors such as finance, marketing, management, or entrepreneurship.

### Subject Pathway:

A-Level Business Studies can complement other subjects including

Economics

Mathematics

Computer Science

# BTEC Business

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Extended Certificate

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

This course will give an underlying in-depth knowledge of various Business topics in a genuine vocational context. It will develop transferable business skills including researching and selecting information, writing skills, working on your own as well as in teams, decision-making, problem solving, being creative, analytical and evaluative skills. For over thirty years, the BTEC has seen more students progressing to higher education than ever before; in 2013, over three times more students started UK higher education courses with a mix of A-Levels and BTEC Nationals than in 2008. Employers also seek out BTEC-qualified students: four out of five BTEC students who progressed into employment considered BTEC as an important stepping stone towards their dream job.

## What will I study?

This course emphasises vocational, practical contexts with a range of areas to study. There are three mandatory units which are:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance

There is one optional unit to study which would be one of the following, developing an area of interest:

- The English Legal System
- Recruitment and Selection

## How is the course assessed?

Students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario which is tailored to local industry needs. Students complete, in controlled conditions, a task tackling an everyday challenge; some tasks also draw on pre-released information. There is also one externally assessed test to increase the rigour of the BTEC course. Students are learning about Business through a variety of sources including real life case studies, Business textbooks and bespoke materials. At Astley Cooper, we invested into high quality teaching materials, available online and printed.

Every student has access to learning materials via an easily accessible and friendly Google Classroom. Throughout the course, students have many opportunities to test their knowledge and receive instant feedback.

## Career Aspiration:

This subject could lead to careers in a variety of different businesses, marketing, accountancy or banking.

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Finance

Travel and Tourism

Maths

# Chemistry

**Type of Qualification:** A Level (OCR A)

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

A Level Chemistry aims to teach and allow students to practically discover the building blocks of everything around us on an atomic scale. The course involves many practical applications to allow the development of scientific thought and skills, as well as applying mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Chemistry A-level is an academic course involving fundamental practical tasks and theoretical concepts that encompasses the subject for future careers in Chemistry. The course is assessed through written papers of the concepts, with practical skills assessed both separately and within the relevant modules of the written papers. The course aims to develop an interest in further study and careers in the Chemistry field.

The subject content includes:

### Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Practical skills assessed in a written examination; Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement.

### Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; Amount of substance; Acid–base and redox reactions; Electrons, bonding and structure.

### Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

The periodic table and periodicity; Group 2 and the halogens; Qualitative analysis; Enthalpy changes; Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

### Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Basic concepts; Hydrocarbons; Alcohols and haloalkanes; Organic synthesis; Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

### Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative); pH and buffers; Enthalpy, entropy and free energy; Redox and electrode potentials; Transition elements

### Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Aromatic compounds; Carbonyl compounds; Carboxylic acids and esters; Nitrogen compounds; Polymers; Organic synthesis; Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject.

## How is the course assessed?

Assessment title	Modules assessed	Length of paper	Assessment value
Paper 1	Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (Modules 1, 2, 3 & 5)	100 marks (2 hours 15 mins)	37%
Paper 2	Synthesis and analytical techniques (Modules 1, 2, 4 & 6)	100 marks (2 hours 15 mins)	37%
Paper 3	Unified chemistry (Modules 1 - 6)	70 marks (1 hour 30 mins)	26%
Practical endorsement in Chemistry	Throughout course	N/A	Reported separately

## Career Aspirations:

This subject could lead to careers as an analytical chemist, chemical engineer, data scientist, biochemist, pharmaceutical quality control/formulator, laboratory manager, forensic reverse engineer, formulation chemist, biotechnologist, chemical consultant, colour scientist, research scientist, forensic scientist, pharmacologist, teacher of science and nanotechnologist.

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Maths / Biology / Physics / Psychology / Geography

# Computer Science

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

A Level Computer Science will inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire.

Some of the key benefits of Computer Science specifications:

- The qualifications will be focused on programming, will build on GCSE Computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline
- There will be an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course
- The ICT content of the new specifications will be appropriate to a Computer Science qualification
- Computational thinking will be at the core of the new specifications

## How is the course assessed?

The two year A Level will consist of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification. The other 20% will be the coursework project (NEA), which will involve programming.

## Additional Information:

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

Computer Science qualification values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

## Career Aspiration:

The A level course would suit students who would like to go on to study Computer Science at university or at a higher level in a higher education college. It would also provide a good grounding for those studying other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Job opportunities include software engineer, game developer, game designer, IT consultant, cyber security analyst, data analyst.

## Subject Pathways:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects:

Maths

# Criminology

**Type of Qualification:** WJEC Applied Diploma

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

This course will equip you with a strong working knowledge of the fundamental aspects of Criminology as a discipline. It will give you an opportunity to apply theoretical learning to real life problems and develop a set of transferable skills including research, analytical thinking and communication that are essential for university study and most careers.

You'll explore the reasons why people commit crime, critically evaluating theories from psychological, biological and sociological perspectives. You'll get an understanding of how society tackles crime through the law, policing and punishment. You'll explore the changing public perceptions of crime and what is regarded as criminal. You'll investigate the role of the media and the ways crime is represented and investigate methods used by agencies to raise awareness of crime so that it can be tackled effectively. The course will give you an understanding of the roles of personnel involved from crime scene to courtroom and develop analytical skills to critically evaluate evidence used to bring people to trial. You'll look at policies of social control and review their effectiveness. You'll plan and design your own campaign for change relating to crime, producing materials and presenting your case for action.

## Units studied

Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime - Internally assessed

Unit 2 - Criminology Theories - Externally assessed

Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom - Internally assessed

Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment - Externally assessed

## How is the course assessed?

Through two 90 minute externally marked written examinations and teacher marked assignments.

## Career Aspiration:

The Criminology A Level course provides a really good introduction to a range of degree courses and careers, and is ideal for students wishing to study criminology, law, politics, social policy or sociology at university. It is also very relevant for students interested in any role within the criminal justice system, such as in the police force, prison officer, probation officer or crime scene investigator.

## Subject pathway

Psychology

History

Media

English

# Economics

**Type of Qualification:** A-Level

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

A-Level Economics offers a deep exploration of economic principles, fostering an understanding of how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions in a global context.

Students delve into microeconomics and macroeconomics, exploring topics like market structures, economic indicators, and government policies. The course emphasises critical thinking and analytical skills to assess economic issues.

## Assessment is divided into four themes:

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

Theme 2: The UK economy - performance and policies

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

Theme 4: A global perspective

## Additional Information:

Practical application of economic theories is integrated through case studies and real-world scenarios. The course prepares students for higher education and careers in economics, finance, or policy analysis.

## Career Aspirations:

Upon completion, students can progress to:

- Higher education in economics, finance, or related fields
- Careers in finance, consulting, economic analysis, or government roles.

## Subject Pathway:

A-Level Economics can be paired with

Mathematics

Business Studies

Politics

These will provide a comprehensive academic foundation for those interested in economic and policy-related fields.



# English Literature

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

The aim of the course is to enable students to gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident, autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for both exams and non-exam assessment, but also experience a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English Literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

The A level content is as follows:

### *Paper 1 - Drama*

Section A is based on the reading of one Shakespeare play.

Section B is based on the reading of one other play: either tragedy or comedy.

### *Paper 2 - Prose*

Students will study two prose texts from a chosen theme, and at least one text will be pre-1900.

Students answer one comparative essay on the studied theme.

### *Paper 3 – Poetry*

Section A requires students to answer one comparative essay question on an unseen modern poem written post-2000 and one named poem from the studied contemporary text.

Section B focuses on pre- or post-1900 poetry and requires students to answer one essay question.

### *Non-exam assessment:*

One 2500-3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts that are different from the texts studied for the other exam components.

## How is the course assessed?

*Exam Paper 1 - Drama*

Written exam: 2 hours 15mins. Open book. 30% of A-level

*Exam Paper 2 - Prose*

Written exam: 1 hour. Open book. 20% of A-level

*Exam Paper 3 - Poetry*

Written exam: 2 hours 15mins. Open book. 30% of A-level

*Non-exam assessment* 20% of A-level.

## Career Aspirations:

This subject can lead to many job opportunities including, but not limited to; - Teacher, Journalist, Paralegals, Web editor and Content Manager, Publisher, Editor, Administrator, PR manager, Librarian, Freelance Writer, Advertising Manager and Social Media Manager.

## Subject Pathways:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects:

History

Politics

Psychology

## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

**Type of Qualification:** Extended Project

**Level of course:** 3

### Description:

This course is worth the equivalent of half an A-Level and can be studied in addition to three other full time subjects

To achieve the AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification learners undertake a self-directed project.

Students choose and design a project under the guidance of a supervising teacher. They choose to produce either a research essay on a topic of interest to them or create an artefact (for example a painting, a short film, a piece of music, a fashion item, an event or a computer program) which they research, design and make.

### How is the course assessed?

On completing the project, learners give a presentation to a non-specialist audience using media that is appropriate to the type of project.

Students are also required to write up their project and throughout the course will complete a log which is also assessed.

For the research essay students are required to write 5,000 words. If students produce an artefact they will produce an accompanying report of between 1,000 and 5,000 words.

### Additional Information:

The course supports students to become more independent in their learning. Students will develop and apply problem-solving skills. They are also encouraged to demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

**The Extended Project Qualification is valued highly by employers and universities alike.**

# Geography

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

Geography is a popular subject at A level that is fit for the 21st Century and is a must for anyone who is interested in the present and future state of our planet and its inhabitants. It is a subject for those interested in the world around them, how it is changing and how people and the environment interact. It is suitable for those interested in the sciences and natural sciences, but who want to focus on actual places and real life situations, taking in traditional and contemporary issues. By studying Geography at A- Level, students will develop a deep understanding of the world around them and how it can change.

The course has a balance between physical, human and environmental topics with fieldwork and research skills a key feature. Students will develop their decision-making and analytical skills both as an individual and in groups. Students will build on the knowledge; understanding and expertise gained at GCSE and will investigate the challenges of the natural world and today's modern society.

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. The Russell Group report names geography as one of the eight facilitating subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to you at university. The world is constantly changing and by studying Geography it ensures students are up to date with that. It is a good stepping stone to the next life stage whatever students choose to do.

A Level Geography is split into three components for the AQA exam board:

Component 1- Physical Geography	Component 2- Human Geography	Component 3- Geographical Investigation
What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Coastal systems</b> (what landforms and processes are found at the coast and how is it being managed)</li> <li>● <b>Hazards</b> (hazards in the lithosphere; volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and in the atmosphere including hurricanes and flooding)</li> <li>● <b>Water and carbon cycles</b> (the key cycles which help to run the planet)</li> </ul>	What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Global systems and governance</b> (how countries develop, and how we are operating increasingly at the global scale, including TNCs)</li> <li>● <b>Changing places</b> (an opportunity to examine environmental and social challenges associated with urban growth and changing society)</li> <li>● <b>Population and the environment</b> (how we interact with our environment and how this affects our lives)</li> </ul>	What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.</li> <li>● Students complete field trips to collect data to use in their coursework investigation</li> </ul>

## How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through two written examinations and the coursework investigation:

- Component 1 - Physical Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.
- Component 2 - Human Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.
- Component 3 - Individual coursework investigation 3000 - 4000 words is worth 20% of the overall grade.

## Career Aspirations:

Apart from the obvious Geography degree, it supports a wide range of other subjects including geology, architecture, engineering, conservation, education, medicine, sociology, politics and economics.

A good Geography degree provides you with the skills to start a wide variety of jobs: from traditional geography based jobs like town planning and engineering to working in teaching, law, and politics. Further and more creative jobs such as zoology and animal conservation, architecture and advertising.

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Chemistry

Maths

Biology

Economics

# History

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

### Component 1 (Breadth study) Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- Why did opposition develop and how effective was it?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

### Component 2: (Depth Study) The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

Units:

- The Affluent Society, 1951–1964
- The Sixties, 1964–1970
- The end of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979
- The impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987 (A-level only)
- Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997
- The Era of New Labour, 1997–2007

### Component 3: Coursework

Students must carry out an independently researched enquiry to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations and to organise and communicate their findings. The students can choose the topic from anything the like as long as it covers 200 Years

## How is the course assessed?

There are 2 examination papers

## Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers in law, politics, broadcasting, journalism or archaeology.

## Subject pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

English Literature  
 Geography  
 Economics  
 Psychology  
 Politics

# Mathematics

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of Course:** 3

## Description:

In all new specifications for Mathematics, the emphasis is on providing a strong foundation for progress to further study. Importance is placed on representing situations mathematically, using models to investigate problems in context and being able to justify solutions. The enjoyment of tussling successfully with a complex mathematical problem cannot be underestimated.

Many of the topics studied in the course link to other subjects, such as forces in Physics, correlation in Geography and genetic probability in Biology.

The skills gained from this course are sought after for entry to a wide range of university courses, not just Mathematics or Accountancy. The Russell group universities feel that it is a sound basis for all their courses and look favourably on applicants with A level Maths. The analytical side of the subject is recognised as useful in many areas of employment too. It is a good stepping stone to the next life stage whatever you choose to do.

## Course Content:

There are three main areas of study: core mathematics, mechanics and statistics. The core elements build on knowledge and skills gained at GCSE such as algebra, graphs and trigonometry. Topics from Mechanics include Newton's laws, friction and moments. In Statistics, work is based around a large data set, for example weather data from a number of weather stations. Diagrams, statistical tests, analyses and inferences are covered in the context of the data and there is an expectation that the statistical functions of both the calculator and spreadsheet software will be utilised effectively.

## Mode of Assessment:

This course is assessed through written examinations.

There are three exams, each of which is two hours long.

## Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers in law, the media, business, in the public sector, accountancy, actuarial work, investment management, investment banking, retail banking, defence and intelligence roles, working as a statistician, operational research, being an academic mathematician

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Physics

Chemistry

Computer Science

Business Studies

Finance

# Media Studies

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

Students selecting this option will explore how and why the Mass Media plays such an important role in our lives.

The study of Mass Media revolves around four key concepts: Media Audience, Representation, Language and Industry. Under each key concept a range of exciting and engaging historical and modern areas of Mass Media will be explored considering social, historical, political and cultural associations which will include analysing ‘relevant and hot’ topics in:

Advertising and Marketing	Music Video
Film Marketing	Radio
Magazines and Newspapers	Video Games
Social and Participatory Media	Online Media

The media is the most dynamic, innovative and influential method of mass communication of modern times. It has been reported that adults in Great Britain are consuming media for almost 8 hours a day. That’s watching films and television, reading newspapers, and sifting through online media. Within that time, we are bombarded by other people’s representations of the world and how we respond to these representations can affect our perceptions of people, places and society, of politics and culture, of ourselves and of our place in the world. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media’s significance and its power. “In our media-saturated age, it’s vital that young people can evaluate competing sources of information, and communicate effectively within a fast-changing digital environment. They need critical knowledge of media texts, audiences and digital culture, and of the complex political economy and technology which underpin them.”

## How is the course assessed?

**The two year course consists of three mandatory units:**

**Component 1:** Media Products, Industries and Audiences - 35% of final grade 2 hrs 15 mins exam. A mixture of short questions and extended responses.

**Component 2:** Media Forms and Products in Depth - 35% of final grade 2 hrs 30 mins exam. A mixture of short questions and extended responses.

**Component 3:** Non-examined Assessment (NEA) Practical Coursework - 30% of final grade. An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas. (Magazine Covers and double page spreads, DVD/Blu Ray covers and Film Posters, Music Videos or Television Dramas and creating Websites with working hyperlinks; all of these require original photography or footage to be used.

## Career Aspirations:

Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. There is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, which is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate. The entertainment and media sector was worth £76 billion by 2022 and the video games sector is currently valued at more than half the UK’s whole entertainment industry. Media is a route into careers such as TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media, and digital marketing. It could help to provide you with the foundation to secure roles in technical production, special effects, web design and postproduction.

**Subject Pathways:** This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects: Art, Business Studies, Drama, English Language, History, Music, Photography and Politics

# Music Performance

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Extended Certificate

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance is intended to be an Applied General qualification. It is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the music sector or the creative sector as a whole. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent course of study covering both performance and the music industry. It is designed to be taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications. No prior study of the sector is needed, but learners should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject. It is equivalent to an A-level qualification.

## How is the course assessed?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the music sector. Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units:

- **Unit 1:** Practical Music Theory and Harmony (Assessed Internally)
- **Unit 2:** Professional Practice in the Music Industry (Assessed Externally)
- **Unit 3:** Ensemble Music Performance. (Assessed Externally)

Learners choose one optional unit. These have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas, such as:

- composing music • improvising music • solo performance. (All Internally Assessed)

## Career Aspirations:

For learners who wish to study an aspect of music in higher education, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Performing Arts, if taken alongside an A Level in English Literature and a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Music Industry Management, if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business
- BA (Hons) in Music Business and Arts Management, if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business and an A Level in Art.

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Art

Performing Arts

Photography

Business

English

## Performing Arts - Dance Pathway

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Extended Certificate

**Level of Course:** 3

### Description:

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate gives you an understanding of and training in the skills needed to succeed in dance and the performing arts industry.

You will study four different units which will explore different dance practitioners, develop skills for performance and develop your dance technique in various dance styles. The course is taught with a vocational context allowing an insight into the dance industry and the different career paths that are available to you.

The course consists of three core units and one optional unit. All units consist of both practical and theory work.

The units are:

- 1: Investigating practitioners' work
- 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- 3: Group performance workshop
- 4: Optional unit. Either contemporary technique, jazz technique or street dance technique

### How is the course assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are externally set tasks which are marked by the examination board.

Units 2 and 4 are internally assessed through the centre.

### Additional Information:

This course is ideal for students who have an interest in dance and the performing arts industry. Some prior knowledge and ability in dance would be beneficial and an enjoyment of performing is essential. The course is the equivalent of one A-Level.

This course will provide you with the level of skill required to pursue dance at a higher level. It may also lead to employment with the dance or performing arts sector.

### Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers in dance, theatre, teaching, Arts administrator, Choreographer, Community arts worker, Dance movement psychotherapist, Dancer, Personal trainer, Theatre director.

### Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Sport

Art

Photography

Music



## Performing Arts - Drama Pathway

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Extended Certificate

**Level of Course:** 3

### Description:

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate gives you an understanding of and training in the skills needed to succeed in drama and the performing arts industry.

You will study four different units which will explore different drama practitioners, develop skills for performance and develop your acting technique in various theatre styles. The course is taught with a vocational context allowing an insight into the acting industry and the different career paths that are available to you.

The course consists of three core units and one optional unit. All units consist of both practical and theory work.

The units are:

- 1: Investigating practitioners' work
- 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- 3: Group performance workshop
- 4: Optional unit. Either acting styles, physical theatre technique or improvisation

### How is the course assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are externally set tasks which are marked by the examination board

Units 2 and 4 are internally assessed through the centre

### Additional Information:

This course is ideal for students who have an interest in drama and the performing arts industry. Some prior knowledge and ability in drama would be beneficial and an enjoyment of performing is essential. The course is the equivalent of one A-level.

This course will provide you with the level of skill required to pursue drama at a higher level. It may also lead to employment within the drama or performing arts sector.

### Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers like Actor/performer, Dancer/performer, Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager, Production Designer, Performing Arts Teacher/Lecturer

### Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Sport

Art

Photography

Music

# Photography

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

Photography has been used by practitioners to record, document and present examples of everyday life, in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. It has also been used as the vehicle for artistic expression, communicating personal ideas about the world around us. It is used to convey personal identity more widely than any other art form, is applied in the creative process across art, craft and design and is widely used in social, commercial and scientific contexts.

The word photography could be taken to mean 'a graphic representation with light'. In this way a photograph can take on the qualities of a drawing.

Photography includes works in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials. Sometimes specific techniques and processes are used to convey messages and create works related to other disciplines, such as web-based animations, photographic images in printed journals, and light projections within theatrical or architectural spaces.

When undertaking work in photography, you will engage with:

- the operations and principles of creating a photographic image, including the use of available and controlled light, lenses, cameras and light-sensitive materials
- a range of materials used in photography, including print and screen-based materials
- how the formal elements evoke responses in the viewer
- viewpoint, composition, focus, aperture, shutter speed, exposure
- the processes for production of digital and print-based photographs
- methods of presentation of photographic images
- sustainable materials and production processes in the construction of work
- the potential of collaborative working methodologies in the creative

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through two components:

**Component 1** - Personal Investigation. 60% of the total qualification and incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.

**Component 2** – Externally Set Assignment. 40% of the total qualification and incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies (for which you will produce a portfolio of practical work) and a 15 hour period of sustained focus (for which you will produce your final outcome(s))

## Career Aspirations:

Photography could lead to academic or vocational degrees relating to Art careers, Advertising, Commercial work, Editorial, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Ariel, Portraiture and Wedding photography, Sports and Travel, Press photography, Photojournalism, Fine Art, Editing, Fashion photography

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subject/s:

Art

Performing Arts

English

Geography

Psychology

# Physics

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

The course aims to encourage learners to develop:

- Essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- A deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- An understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

Students cover the following 6 modules:

1. Development of Practical Skills in Physics
2. Foundations in Physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics

## How is the course assessed?

Modelling physics (2hr 15mins paper) – 37% of A2 grade

Exploring physics (2hr 15mins paper) – 37% of A2 grade

Unified physics (1hr 30mins paper) – 26% of A2 grade

Practical Endorsement in Physics (Teacher assessed) – Students will be assessed throughout the year in practical investigations, however, there is no external assessment of practical skills.

## Progression Routes

With a physics A level students have a wide range of course options open to them at university. These include engineering, physics, IT, astronomy, mathematical sciences. Graduates go on to successful careers that include data analysis, IT, design, chemical, mechanical and laser engineering, medical physics, education, technician, research.

## Subject Pathway

Any other science subjects - Biology, Chemistry

Maths

Computer Science

# Politics

**Type of Qualification:** A Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

### Unit 1: UK Politics

- Political participation, democracy, parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Core political ideas - conservatism, liberalism, socialism

### Unit 2: UK Government

- the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between branches
- None core political ideas - anarchism, ecology, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism

### Unit 3: Comparative Politics

- The USA political system - the constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

The course attracts UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject.

## How is the course assessed?

Three 2 hour exams, one for each unit. Exams are worth 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the A-Level each.

## Career Aspirations:

Lawyer, journalist, broadcaster, teacher, police officer, the military, politics, civil service, academia, marketing, business, diplomatic service, public relations, stockbroker

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects:

History

English Literature

Geography

Business

Financial Studies

Maths

# Applied Psychology

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Extended Certificate

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the human mind and behaviours.

Topics include:

- The basic ideas from different approaches in psychology
- The understanding of how psychological research and concepts can explain gender, aggression and consumer behaviour.
- Social Psychology – how human behaviour occurs in a social context and how people, society and culture can affect behaviour.
- Cognitive Psychology – focusing on human information processing and how it can influence and be influenced by perception and memory.
- Research methods in psychology, including carrying out a pilot study on a topic of their choice.
- Health Psychology – the understanding of how stress is linked to health. Learning about addictive and unhealthy behaviours and the reasons behind these.

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many courses.

**This is a two year course which consists of three mandatory units:**

**Unit 1** – Psychological Approaches and Applications

**Unit 2** – Conducting Psychological Research

**Unit 3** – Health Psychology

**And one optional unit from the following list that we will choose with the students at the end of the first year of study:**

**Unit 4** – Criminal and Forensic Psychology

**Unit 5** – Promoting Children’s Psychological Development

**Unit 6** – Introduction to Psychopathology

## How is the course assessed?

**Unit 1** – 1.5 hour external examination paper

**Unit 2** – Internally assessed coursework – Pilot Study

**Unit 3** – 2 hour external examination paper

**Unit 4/5/6** – Internally assessed coursework

## Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers in Psychology (developmental, clinical, forensic, educational), teaching, the police force, the prison service

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects:

Sport

English

Travel and Tourism

Biology

# Psychology

**Type of Qualification:** A-Level

**Level of course:** 3

## Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the human mind and behaviours. It will teach you the basic principles and theories within the subject. We will investigate some of the key experiments that became the building blocks of the topic such as Stanley Milgram's shock experiment and Zimbardo's prison experiment. We will also investigate new theories and supporting research, showing the progression of different psychological topics. The course will involve practical application of knowledge and theories, with a research project giving students an opportunity to improve their research skills. The course will develop transferable life skills including research, writing skills, teamwork, collaboration, communication, problem solving, analytical and evaluative skills.

Some of the Topics include:

- The basic ideas from different approaches in psychology
- The understanding of how psychological research and concepts can explain gender, aggression and consumer behaviour.
- The study of psychopathology including; phobias, mental health and treatments.
- Discussing the fundamental issues and debates in psychology such as determinism vs free will.
- Research methods in psychology, including carrying out your own research.
- Biopsychology - focusing on how our biology explains human behaviour. Including the study of the brain, nervous system, hormones and brain scanning.

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many courses.

## How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Introductions Topics in Psychology	Paper 2: Psychology in Context	Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology		
		What Will I study: Issues and Debates in Psychology and one from each option		
What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Influence</li> <li>• Memory</li> <li>• Attachment</li> <li>• Psychopathology</li> </ul>	What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approaches in Psychology</li> <li>• Biopsychology</li> <li>• Research Methods</li> </ul>	<b>Option 1</b> What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Gender</li> <li>• Cognition and Development</li> </ul>	<b>Option 2</b> What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schizophrenia</li> <li>• Eating Behaviour</li> <li>• Stress</li> </ul>	<b>Option 3</b> What will I study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggression</li> <li>• Forensic Psychology</li> <li>• Addiction</li> </ul>
<u>Length of Paper</u> 96 Marks (2 Hours)	<u>Length of Paper</u> 96 Marks (2 Hours)	<u>Length of Paper</u> 96 Marks (2 Hours)		
<u>Assessment Value</u> 33.3%	<u>Assessment Value</u> 33.3%	<u>Assessment Value</u> 33.3%		

## Career Aspirations:

Students who study this subject could progress into careers in Psychology (developmental, clinical, forensic, educational), teaching, the police force, the prison service, Marketing, Legal.

## Subject Pathway:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects: Criminology, Sport, English, Travel and Tourism, Biology, Business, Maths, History.

## Sport (Single, Double or Triple Option)

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC National Diploma

**Level of Course:** 3

### Description:

You will study the course for two years. The Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Sport comprises 360 (single) 720 guided learning hours (Double) or 1080 (Triple) for the complete qualification.

Students who study the single option will study 4 units over the two years, those on the double option will study nine units over the two year course and those on the triple option will study 14 units over the two year course. Six are mandatory units which are:

1. Anatomy and Physiology
2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
3. Professional development in the Sports Industry
4. Sports Leadership
22. Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
23. Skill Acquisition in Sport

### How is the course assessed?

**Unit 1** – Anatomy and Physiology – This will be assessed by a written exam with short and long answer questions assessing understanding of anatomy and physiology and how different systems of the body can affect sports performance.

**Unit 2** – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing – This is a Pre Release task. Students will interpret lifestyle factors and health screening data to create and justify a fitness training programme for a client. This will be externally assessed.

**Unit 22** – Investigating Business in the Sports Industry - This is a Pre Release task. Students will research various sports and leisure businesses and will then have to produce a business plan for a selected sports business. This will be externally assessed.

All other units will be assessed through the completion of assignments over the two years. As you complete each unit you will be given a pass, merit or distinction grade by your tutor.

### Career Aspiration:

This qualification is aimed at learners looking to progress to employment in the sports sector. It is designed for entry to roles such as gym instructor, physiotherapist, sports coach or PE teacher. It is appropriate for progression to Level 3 Personal Trainer qualification or degree programmes.

If you decide to go to university or college you could take a degree or a BTEC Higher National in subjects such as Personal Training, Teacher Training and Fitness Programming.

### Subject Pathways:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects

Biology

Psychology

Performing Arts

## Travel & Tourism

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

**Level of course:** 3

### Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the Travel and Tourism industry. Students will learn about how the Travel and Tourism industry contributes to the economy as well as examining the importance of tourism in the UK.

Students also study and investigate the features and appeal of global destinations. This qualification can lead to further education at University as well as transferable knowledge and skills such as communicating and presenting ideas.

Topics include:

- The different modes of travel
- The types of tourists and their travel requirements
- Global tourism destinations and their importance
- Marketing in Travel and Tourism

The course carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements for many courses.

**The two year course consists of three mandatory units and one optional unit.**

Unit 1 – The World of Travel & Tourism

Unit 2 – Global Destinations

Unit 3 – Principles of Marketing in Travel & Tourism

Unit 9 – Visitor Attractions

### How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 – 1.5 hour paper

Unit 2 – External coursework (Three hours)

Unit 3 – Coursework

Unit 9 - Coursework

### Career Aspirations:

This subject can lead to many job opportunities including, but not limited to; Air Cabin Crew, Tour Manager, Tourism Officer, Hotel Manager. The course can also help you get jobs outside of tourism such as: event management, sales and marketing executives, customer service manager and outdoor activities/ education manager.

### Subject Pathways:

This subject could be taken alongside the following subjects:

Business Studies

Finance

Psychology



## Pre-Apprenticeship Programme

**Type of Qualification:** BTEC Certificate in Workskills

**Level of course:** 2

### Description:

In an innovative exciting development, we bring together the worlds of education and business. This unique one year course is a combination of in-school study and work in local placements. It is an ideal preparation for a traineeship or apprenticeship. Input from local employers, Pearson and the Careers and Enterprise Company has ensured that our students will be equipped with exactly the right skills for work in designated sectors and are accredited with appropriate qualifications.

The programme includes two days a week in a placement, which is carefully tailored to the student and three days in school completing units in employment skills alongside the opportunity to improve on grades in GCSE English and Maths or study the Extended Project Qualification.

This programme will give the students a skill set that will give them a head start and make them stand above other candidates of the same age when applying for jobs. This course will need perseverance and commitment from students especially when they are out at work.

### How is the course assessed?

6 units of coursework to be completed internally.

Unit 1 - Developing Work Related Skills and Behaviours

Unit 2 - Developing Job Application Skills

Unit 7 - Planning for Career Entry and Progression

Unit 13 - Working in a Team

Unit 14 - Anticipating and Meeting the Customer Needs and Expectations

Unit 16 - Planning for and Learning from a Work Placement

### Career Aspirations:

Ideal for students who are practical and would like to go into the world of work quicker. Any type of employment that offers apprenticeships this course will help to develop skills towards this career.