

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:

- 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 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.



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 further study and careers in Biology.

There are 6 units:

Module	
1	Development of practical skills in biology
2	Foundations in biology
3	Exchange and transport
4	Biodiversity, evolution and disease
5	Communication, homeostasis and energy
6	Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

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
Biological processes (01)	1, 2, 3 and 5	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Biological diversity (02)	1, 2, 4 and 6	100 marks (2hours 15minutes)	37%
Unified biology (03)	1-6	70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes)	26%
Practical endorsement in biology (04)	Throughout course	N/A Details of assessment to be confirmed by Ofqual.	Reported separately

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:

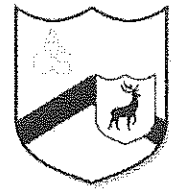
- The English Legal System
- Recruitment and Selection

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 prereleased information. There is also one externally assessed test to increase the rigour of the BTEC course.

Additional Information:

As well as studying the Business qualification, students can also study the Finance A-level qualification. Both the Business BTEC and Finance A-level qualifications complement each other.



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, which will be focused on coding and 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.

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



Performing Arts - Dance

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.



Performing Arts - Drama

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:

- Investigating practitioners' work
- Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- Group performance workshop
- 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.

You can study this course as part of the larger performing arts qualification adding extra performing arts based units to your learning to achieve the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts which is the equivalent of 2 A levels.

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.

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 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.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Level of course: 3

Description:

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.



Financial Studies

Type of Qualification: Diploma in Finance Studies (IFS University College)

Level of course: 3

Description:

Students are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life. This course will develop the knowledge and skills required for students to make informed financial decisions by introducing the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Personal Finance will explore social-economic trends and the relationship with an individual's circumstances and attitudes.

Topics include:

- The purpose of money
- Payment methods
- Borrowing products
- Saving products
- Budgets and forecasts

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. There is also a Certificate in Financial Studies, equivalent in points to an AS level, which runs for one year.

How is the course assessed?

The two year course consists of four mandatory units:

Unit 1 – Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term

Unit 2 – Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term

Unit 3 – Sustainability of an Individuals Finance

Unit 4 – Sustainability of the Financial Services System

Both are examined in two parts:

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in an online exam

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses



Financial Studies (AS-Level)

Type of Qualification: Certificate in Financial Studies (LIBF)

Level of course: 3

Description:

Students are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life. This course will develop the knowledge and skills required for students to make informed financial decisions by introducing the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Personal Finance will explore social-economic trends and the relationship with an individual's circumstances and attitudes.

Topics include:

- The purpose of money
- Payment methods
- Borrowing products
- Saving products
- Budgets and forecasts

The course does attract UCAS points for many Higher Education courses, and is an excellent choice of subject. It is equivalent to an AS qualification. There is also a Diploma in Financial Studies, equivalent in points to an A level, which runs for two years.

How is the course assessed?

The one year course consists of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 – Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term

Unit 2 – Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term

Both are examined in two parts:

Part A: 35 multiple choice questions in an online exam

Part B: pre-release case study requiring essay responses

A Level Geography



Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of course: 3

Description:

The course is designed to develop your knowledge, understanding and skills as a geographer. Over two years you will study:

Physical Geography	The Water Cycle The Carbon Cycle Coastal Systems Natural Hazards Ecosystems Physical Fieldwork Techniques
--------------------	--

Human Geography	Global Systems Global Governance Changing Places Resource Scarcity Contemporary Urban Environments Human Fieldwork Techniques
-----------------	--

At the end of Year 12 you will also undertake an individual investigation on a topic of your own choosing. This work will be written up as a piece of coursework, internally marked and externally moderated. The mark will for this work will contribute towards the overall assessment of the A-Level.

You will need to be prepared to 'read around' the different topics and take part in fieldwork activities throughout the course.

How is the course assessed?

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

There is a Physical Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.

There is a Human Geography exam of 2 hours 30 minutes worth 40% of the overall grade.

The individual investigation is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Mathematics



Type of Qualification: A Level

Level of Course: 3

Aim of Course:

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.

Pre-Apprenticeship Programme



Type of Qualification: GCSE & BTEC

Level of course: 2

Description:

The biggest barrier school leaver's face when applying for jobs is their lack of experience. The Astley Cooper School Sixth form works closely with organisations that are able to provide students with a structured work experience role, through which they will access new experiences, develop work-related competencies, grow in confidence, flourish as an individual and become ready for the world of work. The businesses we work with give students a real taste of working life and an introduction to the skills they need to secure a future job and succeed

The programme aims to provide long term, high-quality work experience preparing students for the world of work. The one-year course is aimed at Post 16 students as an alternative to A-levels.

Students spend September in school in order to get work-ready. This includes a number of work-shops run by local businesses training students on skills they see as essential in the work place

The students then begin their work experience placements for three days a week. The remaining two days are spent in school studying towards BTEC qualifications in Life Skills, which employers demand and students will benefit from throughout their career.

Many apprenticeships demand a GCSE pass in maths and English. Students can continue their studies in these subjects which will boost their career chances, as well as improving their long-term prospects and future earning potential.

By choosing our Pre-Apprenticeship Programme students will benefit from support provided to help them exceed their academic potential and become a sought after future employee.

How is the course assessed?

All students complete three BTEC courses equivalent to three GCSE's in the following programmes:

BTEC Level 2 Personal and Social Development

BTEC Level 2 Planning and Participating in Work Experience

BTEC Level 2 Workskills

Students will also continue to study GCSE English and Maths if they have not achieved a level 4.

Sport (Double Option)



Type of Qualification: BTEC Diploma

Level of Course: 3

Description:

You will study the course for two years. This will give you the equivalent of two A Levels. The Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Sport comprises of 720 guided learning hours (GLH) for the complete qualification.

Students will study nine 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.

Additional Information:

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 or fitness instructor, and 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.

Sport (Triple Option)



Type of Qualification: BTEC Diploma

Level of Course: 3

Description:

You will study the course for two years. This will give you the equivalent of three A Levels. The Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport comprises of 1080 guided learning hours (GLH) for the complete qualification.

Students will study fourteen units over the two-year course. Ten 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
7. Practical Sports Performance
8. Coaching for Performance
9. Research Methods in Sport
19. Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity
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 Well-being – 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 19 - Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity - This is a Pre-Release task. Students will analyse the provision of sport and activity of a location in the UK. They will then be expected to produce a plan for improvement in the future. 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.

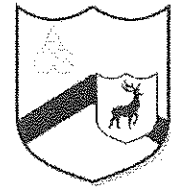
All other units will be assessed through the completion of assignments over the two years. As you complete each unit you will be given a pass, merit or distinction grade by your tutor.

Additional Information:

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 or fitness instructor, and 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

Travel & Tourism



Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel & Tourism

Level of course: 3

Description:

This course is intended for students who wish to study the Travel and Tourism industry. Students will learn about the 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 Travel & Tourism industry
- Different types of destinations and their importance
- Principles of marketing in Travel and Tourism
-

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

How is the course assessed?

The two year course consists of three mandatory units and 1 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

Assessment:

Unit 1 – 1.5 hour paper

Unit 2 – External coursework (Three hours)

Unit 3 – Coursework

Unit 9 - Coursework