



ST LAWRENCE  
COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

2024

# SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM



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## LEARNING PATHWAYS

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3. BIOLOGY
4. BUSINESS STUDIES
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# LEARNING PATHWAYS



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## LEARNING PATHWAYS

Our A Level qualifications are tailored to nurture intellectual curiosities, pave career pathways, and equip you with the knowledge and skills to thrive in a competitive global landscape. From the sciences to the humanities, our diverse range of courses are meticulously designed to match individual ambitions.

Pupils typically study three subjects in the Sixth Form as well as an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is the equivalent of half an A Level.

In the process of choosing pathways, all pupils receive 1:1 guidance and have the opportunity to attend taster sessions for the A Level subjects they are considering. Specialist subject teachers, form tutors, housemasters, the Head of Careers and Assistant Heads are also here to help with A Level choices.

We encourage all pupils to follow these three principles to make informed choices that will give the best Sixth Form experience and set them up for life beyond St Lawrence College.

### DO WHAT YOU ENJOY AND FIND INTERESTING

You will be studying A Level subjects for 6 periods a week, alongside 10-12 periods of expected independent working, wider-reading and homework. Even if you are motivated to study a subject, if you don't enjoy it, you won't achieve as well as you might otherwise have done. Selecting a subject that energises and excites you will be far more motivating.

### DO WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT

There is usually a correlation between things we enjoy and things which we excel at. However, it is best to select subjects in which you also have the most potential for success. Finishing Sixth Form with the strongest possible set of grades will open up the most opportunities for your future. Therefore, it is best to choose subjects which align to your strengths.

### KEEP DOORS OPEN

When you start your A Levels, you will be closing certain doors. For example, if you don't study Chemistry, you are essentially ruling out medicine. If you don't study Maths, achieving an Economics degree will be challenging. Consider what subjects you might need for the future, and what doors you would like to keep open.



# ART & DESIGN

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : A LEVEL 7201

Art & Design is an exciting, imaginative and highly creative subject to study at St Lawrence College. Pupils will get to experience a wide range of creative processes including painting and drawing, ceramics, textiles, sculpture, printmaking and photography. Pupils who have studied A Level Art & Design at the college have gone on to gain university places at prestigious colleges such as the Glasgow school of Art, Chelsea, Camberwell and Central St Martins.

Throughout all courses we support and empower pupils to create works that have a unique approach and which demonstrate sensitivity to their subject matter as well as a distinctive application of their materials. This allows pupils to explore and develop their own ideas from an array of influences and gives flexibility with outcomes in terms of mediums and processes used.

Art, craft and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables pupils to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has had on contemporary life and that of different times and cultures. The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives.

ART & DESIGN

## COURSE INFORMATION

A good grade at GCSE (7-9) will support pupils to enter the course with the proper skills, a broad range of recording styles and experience with handling a variety of practical materials. Pupils should be able to work independently, supported by teaching staff. Critical/historical study and investigation forms a vital part of the coursework process and in support of this, regular visits are organised to exhibitions and galleries.

## EXAMINATION

### Component 1 Personal investigation (60%)

This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Pupils are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the pupil and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

### Component 2 Externally set assignment (40%)

Pupils will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Following the preparatory period, pupils must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time.



## ART & DESIGN - PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : A LEVEL 7206

Photography presents a stimulating and rewarding opportunity for pupils to develop a broad range of lens-based media to express personal ideas. Pupils are introduced to technical camera skills, digital image editing techniques and darkroom practice, which are developed in response to a given theme. Coursework allows the pupil to construct a portfolio, which demonstrates their ability to express ideas effectively, meaningfully and personally, selecting appropriate media to visualise an idea.

Creative tasks are initially approached as a group in order to embed practical skills and develop a critical approach. Contextual studies of relevant photographers and artists inform the pupil of creative practices that stimulate thinking, encouraging them to make connections to visual elements. Crucially pupils are encouraged to consider their own approaches and personal interests to express an idea as this lays the foundation for greater independence of thinking and practice.

The second part of the course involves the Externally Set Assignment in which the pupil selects from a range of themes set by AQA Exam Board. This assignment provides a rich opportunity for pupils to become more self-directed in their studies, making use of tutorial support in order to bring their ideas into being.

### COURSE INFORMATION

A good grade at GCSE (7-9) on an arts based course will support pupils to enter the course with the necessary skills and experience. Pupils should be able to work independently, supported by teaching staff. Critical/historical study and investigation forms a vital part of the coursework process and in support of this, regular visits are organised to exhibitions and galleries.

### EXAMINATION

Over two years, pupils complete as their coursework component one submission, a project titled Personal Investigation (60% of A Level). This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Pupils are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the pupil and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

They complete the course by creating a body of work for their Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level). Pupils will be provided with examination papers on 1 February. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format. Following the preparatory period, pupils must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time.



## BIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD : OCR

SPECIFICATION : H420

In addition to the generously allocated teaching time, we offer regular clinics and targeted revision sessions. Our extracurricular activities programme affords pupils the opportunity to take part in authentic scientific research. Whilst our new purpose built Science building will offer state of the art facilities, we are also fortunate to have access to our extensive school grounds, including the pond, for ecology activities. We make good use of facilities in the wider area, with recent fieldwork trips being taken to Wildwood Trust in Canterbury, medical conferences in London and local lectures. Pupils also have the opportunity to take part in the annual British Biology Olympiad as well as action-packed series of events in National Biology Week, including dissections and workshops.

Biology A Level is a natural precursor for many university courses including medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and biological sciences, but it is also suitable for pupils who wish to develop transferable analytical and problem-solving skills that are sought after by so many employers in the scientific industry and beyond.

BIOLOGY

## COURSE INFORMATION

We advise pupils to take this subject only if they have achieved a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Biology and Chemistry or grade 8 in GCSE Combined Science, as well as a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. This subject combines well with Chemistry A Level.

For pupils who wish to explore the course further or to gain a head start to their studies, our textbook for Year 1 of the A Level course is published by Pearson (OCR AS/A Level Biology A, Student Book 1, ISBN 978-1-4479-9079-6). We also recommend reading the Biological Sciences Review to broaden students' understanding of Biology and to keep up to date with the latest research.

## EXAMINATION

The curriculum is broad and covers a range of topics, from health and disease to ecosystems and sustainability. The teaching of cell structure and biological molecules at the start of the course provides a firm basis for pupils to then learn about all of the organ systems in depth, as well as applying their knowledge in the study of the biochemical pathways of respiration and photosynthesis. Pupils are also introduced to concepts that they are unlikely to have studied previously, such as DNA sequencing, neuroscience and the ways in which microorganisms can aid our own survival in rapidly advancing industries such as biotechnology.

- 01: Biological Processes• 100 marks• 2 hours and 15 minutes written paper (37% of total GCE)
- 02: Biological Diversity• 100 marks• 2 hours and 15 minutes written paper (37% of total GCE)
- 03: Unified Biology• 70 marks• 1 hour and 30 minutes written paper (26% of total GCE)
- 04: Practical endorsement in Biology• Non-examination assessment



## BUSINESS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD : OCR

SPECIFICATION : H431

OCR A Level Business provides an insight into how businesses work, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with commerce in their everyday lives. Learners will gain an understanding of businesses in a range of contexts and develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants.

We will study business opportunities, problems and issues and gain an awareness of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals. Learners will develop a more strategic view of business opportunities, problems and issues and acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills including decision making, problem solving, groupwork and presentation skills. Learners will be introduced to a wide range of topics including types of business, business objectives and strategy, corporate social responsibility, business planning and measuring financial and non-financial performance, human resource management, marketing and the production process. They will also consider aspects of the external environment such as competition, international trade, the European Union, emerging markets, political, social, technological, ethical, legal and environmental factors..

## COURSE INFORMATION

Prior knowledge of Business is not required, but learners should be aware that the academic demands of A Level Business are more significant than is often appreciated. It requires essaywriting skills, numerical skills and a capacity for logical and analytical thought. It is a subject well suited to learners who take an interest in the world of business and are prepared to carry out background reading and research.

A grade 5 in GCSE English and Mathematics should be seen as a minimum expectation. It is essential for learners to keep up to date with business events in the news and some opt to take part in the school's Young Enterprise activity outside of class which provides them with an opportunity to set up their own business and to put their learning to the test. The course provides a good foundation for effective progression to higher education, modern apprenticeships and employment.

## EXAMINATION

Assessments are carried out throughout the course in order to monitor progress and provide further individual advice but the A Level examinations are held at the end of the two year course. The course is divided into three main areas with the examination papers reflecting this:

Paper 1: Operating in a local business environment (2 hour written paper).

Section A contains multiple choice questions. Section B contains questions relating to real business case studies.



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## EXAMINATION

Paper 2: The UK business environment (2 hour written paper).

Section A contains a number of short-answer questions. Section B contains extended response questions based on a case study of a real business.

Paper 3: The global business environment (2 hour written paper).

This paper contains both data response questions and extended response questions which relate to a business case study.

For more information please contact Mr C Brown (Head of Department) [cjb@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:cjb@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com)

BUSINESS STUDIES





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## CHEMISTRY

EXAM BOARD : EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION : A LEVEL 9CH0

Chemistry is a vibrant and thrilling subject. It underpins everything we do and everything that is around us. From the quality of water that we drink, to the design of medicines to cure the deadliest diseases, to the development of new materials used in the latest technologies - Chemistry is fascinating!

At St Lawrence College, we have a strong ethos that our pupils should be equipped with skills that are essential to 21st century learning, whilst promoting a long-lasting enjoyment of the subject. During Chemistry lessons, pupils will be taught using a wide range of teaching strategies and resources, whilst also being supported to think critically and foster collaboration and teamwork amongst themselves. This is delivered by subject specialists who have experience of working at the cutting edge of research & development, both in industry and academia.

The Edexcel course studied allows pupils to explore, to get hands on and to understand some of the processes that are fundamental to the world around us. It is open to pupils who enjoy problem solving, have strong Mathematical skills and individuals who like the variety of participating in a range of practical activities. Learning takes place both in and out of the classroom; not only are pupils taught in the impressive CPC facilities, but they also participate in the Chemistry Olympiad and go to see exciting guest speakers.

Chemistry is a well-respected subject to study and it provides a significant range of options in higher education, especially to those who are looking to study at Russell Group universities. An A Level in Chemistry is essential for entry into degree courses such as Veterinary, Medical Science and Dentistry, and can lead to a wide range of careers which do not necessarily have to be closely allied to the subject.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Pupils should have gained a minimum of grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry and a grade 6 in Mathematics. Although a sound basic knowledge of both chemical and mathematical principles is required, an enquiring mind and a willingness to work hard are equally important. Suggested resources include:

- Edexcel A Level Chemistry Student Book 1 (by Graham Curtis) ISBN: 978-1471807466
- Essential Maths Skill for A Level Chemistry (by CGP) ISBN: 978 1 78294 472 0
- Chem guide (An excellent and clear guide to a variety of topics) <http://chemguide.co.uk/>

## EXAMINATION

At the end of the 2 years, pupils will be assessed through 3 examination papers based on a wide range of theoretical and practical concepts.

For more information please contact the Head of Chemistry Mr Simon Wilde saw@St Lawrence Collegeuk.com or visit <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-A Levels/chemistry-2015.html>.

CHEMISTRY



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## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7552

Imaginative practical work is at the heart of this subject. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products. They will explore, design, create and evaluate innovative solutions in response to realistic design contexts. Pupils should develop knowledge and understanding of the core technical, designing and making principles for product design. They will gain practical, designing and problem solving skills that will support them in careers in architecture, engineering, fashion, graphics as well as product, interior and industrial design.

### COURSE INFORMATION

The course is suited to those with ambitions and aptitude in the sciences, mathematics and engineering subjects, as well as business studies, art and photography. Pupils' analytical and evaluative skills as well as their creativity and innovation will be tested. An awareness of current trends in design, the environment, moral and ethical considerations is vital.

### EXAMINATION

The course consists of 50% exam (mathematics and science contribute 15%), with two papers for A Level. The remaining 50% is a non-exam assessment (NEA) at A Level. This consists of a single design and make activity. A Level pupils are free to choose their context.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



# ECONOMICS

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7136

Economics is a fascinating subject and perhaps more relevant today than ever before. Questions such as why is the world so unequal? Why do professional footballers earn so much money? Why are there so many people without jobs? Why does the cost of living keep rising? Why does the Bank of England change interest rates? Are individuals rational? and many more are all explored in Economics. Better still, Economics looks for answers to all of these questions. Economics can help us to make more efficient use of the world's scarce resources and help to increase the standard of living throughout the world over time.

As an economist you will develop a wide range of skills including quantitative, analytical and evaluative skills along with communication, problem solving, debating and team work skills. The subject keeps your options open in terms of higher education and also careers. Some pupils decide to continue with the subject at university.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Prior knowledge of Economics is not required, but pupils should understand that the academic demands of A Level Economics are considerable. In year one pupils take part in an international essay competition which provides a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate to universities and employers the skills required to succeed beyond school. The course requires essay-writing skills as well as data-handling skills, a basic level of numeracy, and a capacity for logical and analytical thought. It is a subject well suited to pupils who take an interest in current affairs and are prepared to carry out background reading. A grade 5 in GCSE English and Mathematics should be seen as a minimum expectation. It is essential for pupils to keep up to date with economic events in the news and many pupils subscribe to relevant economics magazines (through the school). In this way pupils will gain a quick appreciation of the relevance of Economics to the real world.

## EXAMINATION

Assessments are carried out throughout the course in order to monitor progress and provide further individual advice but the main A Level examinations are held at the end of the two year course. The course is divided into two main areas with section 1 investigating the Operation of Markets and Market Failure and section 2 investigating The National Economy in a Global Context.

The examination at the end of the two year course consists of 3 papers. Paper 1 (Markets and market failure) and Paper 2 (National and international economy) are both worth 33.3% of the A Level and involve a 2 hour written exam (data response and essay). Paper 3 (Economic principles and issues) is also worth 33.3% of the A Level and involves a 2 hour written exam (data response and multiple choice questions).

For more information please contact Mr C Brown (Head of Department) [cjb@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:cjb@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com)



# ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD : CAMBRIDGE

SPECIFICATION : IELTS

## COURSE INFORMATION

EAL in the Sixth Form prepares pupils for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination (Academic module), ideally for examination before the end of Year 12.

The classes are tailored according to the level of the pupils, and include practice test material to ensure they are fully prepared for the Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking papers. The aim of the lessons is to fully support pupils in developing the academic language and style required for University, as well as to broaden the wider vocabulary essential for further study. In addition we focus on developing critical thinking skills. Topics studied include the world of work, education, the environment, health and lifestyle and technology. The lessons (2 hours per week) are communicative in nature and involve an expectation of independent work in addition to class time, which may include reading and listening to a variety of authentic materials such as news articles and research papers as well as listening to podcasts and radio programmes.

IELTS preparation classes are also available for Year 13 pupils who have not yet secured a sufficient band score to fulfil the terms of university offers. More information can be found at <https://www.ielts.org/> Pupils who have already gained a qualification in English Language GCSE or IGCSE English (Grade 7 or higher), may be exempted from EAL in the Sixth Form.

Pupils aim for a minimum overall Band Score of 6.5. This is approximately equivalent on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to Level B2, formerly known as Upper Intermediate. CI (formerly known as Advanced) being Band 7.0 and above.

Band 6.5 is the likely English language entry requirement for most United Kingdom undergraduate courses. Entries are made by the Head of Department and the examinations are taken off-site and administered by Chaucer College, Canterbury: <https://www.chaucercollege.eo.uk/ielts/>

## EXAMINATION

Pupils not attaining a 6.5 score may take the IELTS test in their country of origin during the summer vacation. In such cases, they must provide proof of their results, in the form of their original certificate.

Please note - Any pupil intending to apply for a 'Foundation Course' will need to take a UKVI Academic IELTS. Whilst the 'standard' Academic IELTS remains sufficient for a Degree course, the UKVI is now mandatory when applying for a Tier 4 visa to study for lesser qualifications. For further information contact [rjc@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:rjc@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com)

EAL



## ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD : EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION : 9ET0

The Edexcel course has been chosen for the range of opportunities and breadth of experience it offers. The syllabus offers equal opportunity to explore some of the greatest achievements of our cultural heritage, and to examine lesser known or more controversial works, pushing at the boundaries of what is considered 'literary'.

Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on lively discussion and debate, interrogating critical standpoints and cultural assumptions, and producing a convincing argument. You will develop and hone your expertise in critical thinking, a sensitivity to nuances and shades of meaning, and the ability to articulate and structure all this coherently and lucidly in your writing.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Already, perhaps, you are looking for a course that goes beyond the rather dry set texts and methodologies you may have encountered at IGCSE. You will welcome an Advanced Level course that gives you the chance to explore some challenging and provocative texts, to delve into troubled characters and moral dilemmas that have been puzzling readers for hundreds of years, to make sense of the huge range of social, cultural, philosophical, artistic and literary contexts that might have influenced an author, to add your own perspective to those of critics who have examined problems ranging from how many children had Lady Macbeth to the nature of language itself.

All A Level English candidates should have at least a grade 6 at GCSE or IGCSE for English Literature. IGCSE English Language alone does not cover the necessary analytical skills, and so candidates without a Literature qualification are only considered in exceptional circumstances. This also applies to pupils for whom English is a second language.

## EXAMINATION

Paper 1: Drama - A Shakespeare play and one other text

Paper 2: Prose - A selection of two prose texts, including one pre-1900, linked by a particular theme or genre

Paper 3: Poetry

There is a completely free choice of texts for coursework, the only requirement is that two complete works are studied. They may be linked by theme, movement, author, or period, and may be selected from any genre, including non-fiction. Possible pairings could include dystopia (Nineteen Eighty-Four, Brave New World), American literature (The Great Gatsby, The Grapes of Wrath), the Gothic (The Bloody Chamber, The Castle of Otranto), satire (Catch-22, A Modest Proposal) ... The list goes on!



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## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATIONS

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7993

The EPQ provides the opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. In completing an EPQ pupils learn about subjects that they do not cover in lessons and/or participate in topics that they might not otherwise study. It can also be useful to earn extra UCAS points.

EPQ

### COURSE INFORMATION

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed as appropriate. Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification involves some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work and 120 guided learning hours in total.

### EXAMINATION

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.



## FRENCH

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7652

Many pupils in England choose to study French, due to the proximity of France. It is so easy to hop on a ferry and be enjoying a croissant and a cafe creme in France in under two hours.

More than 220 million people speak French on the five continents. The OIF, an international organisation of French-speaking countries, comprises 77 member States and governments. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. France is one of the world's top tourist destinations and attracts more than 79,5 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all the regions of France and offers insights into French culture and way of life. French also comes in handy when travelling to Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Monaco and the Seychelles.

Speaking French opens up study opportunities at renowned French universities and business schools, ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world. Pupils with a good level of French are eligible for French government grants to enroll in postgraduate courses in France in the discipline of their choice and qualify for internationally recognised degrees.

FRENCH

## COURSE INFORMATION

A Level French helps pupils develop confident, effective communication skills in French and a thorough understanding of the culture of France and communities where French is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages pupils to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

Pupils will develop their ability to write and speak in French with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken French in a variety of contexts and genres. This course is particularly suitable for pupils who have achieved grade 7 or above in GCSE French.

## EXAMINATION

- 1. Social issues and trends
- 2. Political and artistic culture
- 3. Grammar and translation
- 4. Works: Literary texts and films (one literary text and one film)

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2hr 30min written exam, 100 marks - 50% of A Level)

Paper 2: Writing (2hr written exam, 80 marks - 20% of A Level)

Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 min oral exam, 60 marks- 30% of A Level).

For further information contact [rjh@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:rjh@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com) or see the AQA website.



# GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7037

Do you want to be able to demonstrate a wide range of skills to future employers?

Geography acts as a bridge between the Sciences and the Humanities and therefore can be combined appropriately with a wide range of other studies, from Physics and Mathematics to Languages, History and Business Studies. Students find the course develops their ability to express themselves effectively in writing and in basic statistics, and to design, carry out and present a project or investigation. These skills are relevant to a wide range of careers and courses of study.

Fieldwork is an essential part of A Level studies and it provides students with some of their most fulfilling aspects of sixth form study. Across the course students have the opportunity to visit places from local to global locations, including investigations of fluvial action in the River Stour and Gentrification in Notting Hill, London. There are also exciting optional fieldtrips to Iceland and possibly even more exotic places, on a semi-regular basis.

"Geographers are among the most employable because they develop the kinds of skills and knowledge that employers value." Royal Geographical Society

GEOGRAPHY

## COURSE INFORMATION

It is expected that a GCSE (or equivalent) will have been studied in Geography and ideally a grade 6 or higher has been achieved to study this A Level course. You should have a very good knowledge and understanding of the physical processes and cycles which shape the world, such as the rock and water cycles. The main texts used here at St Lawrence College are AQA Geography AS and A Level Physical, and Human, books by Oxford.

## EXAMINATION

Paper 1. Physical Geography Section A: Water and carbon cycles Section B: either Hot desert environments and their margins or Coastal systems and landscapes Section C: one of a) Hazards or b) Ecosystems under stress or c) Cold environments.

• 96 marks • 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper • 40% of total GCE

Paper 2. Human Geography Section A: Global systems and global governance Section B: Changing places Section C: Contemporary urban environment or Population and the environment or Resource security.

• 96 marks • 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper • 40% of total GCE

Paper 3. Geographical investigation: Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

• 35 marks • 3,000-4,000 words non-examination assessment • 20% of total GCE





# HISTORY

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7042

The course involves studying in length and breadth as well as in depth, and expertise in historical and general skills will be developed. Significant events, individuals and issues will be studied from a range of historical perspectives, incorporating the history of more than one country, as well as a substantial element of British history.

History teaches students to think and write critically, encouraging intellectual rigour in handling sources and evidence and giving training in practical research and presentation skills of enduring use. History is highly regarded by universities and employers because students who study it develop experience in gathering and analysing information. A History qualification is useful in many careers such as Journalism, Teaching, the Legal Profession, the Civil Service, the Diplomatic Service, the Media, (International) Business, Accountancy, Finance, Management.

HISTORY

## COURSE INFORMATION

GCSE at grade 6 is preferred. However, it may not be essential for an able pupil to have studied History at GCSE, as long as they have high grades in essay writing subjects such as English Literature or Religious Studies. A strong facility with the reading and writing of English is essential for success with this subject at A Level. A willingness to undertake wide reading and confidence with the evaluation of historical documents will greatly facilitate study. A key vocabulary list for starters is available on request.

## EXAMINATION

1 K: The Making of a Superpower: The USA 1865-1975  
2 hours 30 minutes written paper; 40% of A Level

2B: The Wars of the Roses, 1450-1499  
2 hours 30 minutes written paper; 40% of A Level

3: Historical Investigation. A personal study based on a study of British India 1757 to 1878.  
Non exam assessment 3000-4000 words; 20% of A Level



## MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD : EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION : 9MA0 (AS LEVEL 8MA0)

A Level Mathematics requires skills of a high level of numeracy and problem solving with persistence, logic, attention to detail, being able to link concepts between topics, processing and analysing information. Gaining success is hard work, but all the more satisfying for this. These skills are applied in many other subjects at A Level and beyond. Pupils can enter AS Level at the end of year 1 if they decide not to continue to a full A Level.

Mathematics A Level combines well with A Levels in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography, Psychology, Economics, Business Studies, Art & Design, Design & Technology and Languages. This subject can lead to university courses such as Mathematics, Pure and Applied Sciences, Medical Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Social sciences, Architecture, Economics, Business, Management and Finance.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Requirements for this course are a love of mathematics, attention to detail, accuracy, processing, problem solving. This should be backed up with confidence in high level mathematical skills, particularly in algebra, coordinate geometry and trigonometry. Minimum grade 7 at GCSE is required. Knowledge and understanding to this level is assumed to access this advanced level course. At St Lawrence College the Casio CG-50 graphical calculator will be required for the course.

The main textbooks used will be Pearsons Edexcel AS and A Level textbooks.

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/Secondary/Mathematics/16plus/EdexcelASandAlevel1Mathematics2017/EdexcelASandAlevelMathematics2017.aspx>

## EXAMINATION

The content is split between pure mathematics and applied in a ratio of 2:1. The applied content is equally weighted between Mechanics and Statistics. Pure content includes proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation & integration and vectors. Statistics content includes sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing. Mechanics content includes quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics and forces and Newton's laws.

Assessment is through three equally weighted papers, each 2 hours long with 100 marks. Calculators should be used on all three papers.

Paper 1 and 2 - Pure Mathematics

Paper 3 - Mechanics and Statistics

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-A Levels/mathematics-2017.html>



## FURTHER MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD : EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION : 9FM0 (AS LEVEL 8FM0)

A Level Further Mathematics is taken in addition to A Level Mathematics and develops in greater depth skills of a high level of numeracy and problem solving with persistence, logic, attention to detail, being able to link concepts between topics, processing and analysing information. Gaining success is hard work, but all the more satisfying for this. These skills are applied in many other subjects at A Level and beyond. Mathematics and Further Mathematics combine well with A Levels in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography, Psychology, Economics, Business Studies, Art & Design, Design & Technology Languages. These subjects could lead to university courses in Mathematics, Actuarial Science, Philosophy, Pure and Applied Sciences, Medical Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences, Architecture, Economics, Business, Management and Finance.

Further Mathematics is taught in parallel with the A Level in Mathematics. This means that students will take their A Level exams for both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at the end of Year 13.

### COURSE INFORMATION

Requirements for this course are confidence in high level mathematical skills, particularly in algebra, coordinate geometry and trigonometry. Minimum grade 8 at GCSE is required. A high level of knowledge and understanding to this level is assumed to access this advanced level and pace of this course.

### EXAMINATION

There is a core content of Further Pure Mathematics and two further optional papers. At St Lawrence College, we will teach Decision Mathematics as the optional papers.

Pure mathematics content includes Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions & differential equations. Decision mathematics content includes Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical paths analysis, linear programming, transportation problems, allocation problems, flows on networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations & decision analysis.

Paper 1 and 2 - Core Pure Mathematics

Paper 3 and 4 - Decision Mathematics

Each paper is equally weighted, 1 hour 30 minutes long with a total of 75 marks. The core pure content can be assessed on either paper. Calculators should be used on all four papers.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-A Levels/mathematics-2017.html>



## MEDIA STUDIES

EXAM BOARD : EDUQAS

SPECIFICATION : A680QS

The WJEC Eduqas specification offers pupils the opportunity to develop a thorough and in depth understanding of key issues within the media, using a comprehensive theoretical framework and a variety of advanced theoretical approaches and theories to support critical exploration and reflection, analysis and debate. The study of a wide range of rich and stimulating media products is central to the specification, offering opportunities for detailed analysis of how the media communicate meanings in a variety of forms. Pupils will work from the product outwards to debate key critical questions related to the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media. This specification also recognises the fundamental relationship between theoretical understanding and practical work, providing pupils with exciting opportunities to develop media production skills in different forms, apply their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework to media forms and products, and become creators of meaning themselves.

## COURSE INFORMATION

The Media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. Pupils study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. The following forms are studied in depth through applying all areas of the framework: newspapers, magazines, television, on line, social and participatory media, advertising and marketing, film, music video, radio and video games. Learning about the media involves both exploring and making media products and these two activities are fundamentally related in this course. Pupils will have opportunities to develop their practical and creative skills in filmmaking, web and print design, in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC.

## EXAMINATION

Component 1: Media products, Industries & Audiences (Written examination: 2 hours 15 mins, 35% of qualification).

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation - This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences - This section assesses two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth (Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 35% of qualification).

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

Section A - Television in the Global Age

Section B - Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

Section C - Media in the Online Age

Component 3: Cross-Media Production (Non-exam assessment, 30% of qualification)

An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.



# MUSIC

EXAM BOARD : EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION : 9MU0

A Level music is a fantastic stepping-stone to studying Music at University or, if you hope to study another subject, provides those who study it with excellent skills in analysis, listening, organisation and confidence. Music pupils understand cultural history, self-motivation and develop their creativity; these are attributes that are desirable to all employers.

At St Lawrence College we have a suite of iMacs with Sibelius software for music composition and practice rooms for you to rehearse in. The small classes are taught by passionate teachers who are experts in performing, composing and analysing music in a variety of styles. The course is challenging and requires pupils to learn about a wide range of music, from Bach to the Beatles, via the Batman soundtrack.

MUSIC

## COURSE INFORMATION

It is important that pupils are having instrumental or singing lessons and they must be of grade 5 standard as a minimum at the start of the course. They should also have achieved grade 5 theory or be able to demonstrate equivalent understanding of written notation, key signatures and the fundamentals of harmony. It is essential that pupils continue to practise their instrument(s) regularly throughout the course. They must also be willing to listen actively to a wide variety of music in their own time.

## EXAMINATION

A short recital is worth 30% of the A Level.

Two compositions (one harmony exercise and one longer free composition) are worth 30% of the A Level.

A listening examination based on the set pieces and pieces related to them is worth 40% of the A Level.



## PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

EXAM BOARD : WJEC EDUQAS

SPECIFICATION : A120PA

Philosophy and Ethics is a unique A Level as it requires developing an in-depth understanding of the history of thought and belief. We will study classical theorists such as Plato and Aristotle, alongside contemporary thinkers from a range of perspectives, including religious and non-religious. It is intellectually demanding and highly regarded by universities and professions such as Law, Economics, Teaching, Medicine, Accountancy and Journalism.

Its philosophical and moral aspects add another dimension to the academic rigour demanded at A Level. It will broaden the curriculum for pupils and is ideal for those who enjoy developing their skills of proper argumentation. Pupils find the course stimulating and enjoyable, many have gone on to read Philosophy at University.

Philosophy & Ethics helps pupils develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- analytical and strategic thinking
- research skills
- critical judgement
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas
- an ability to negotiate and resolve conflict
- problem-solving skills
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

## COURSE INFORMATION

No prior learning in the field of Religious Studies is required however the pupil must be prepared to read widely and to complete sufficient (independent) purposeful practice. With this firmly in mind, the minimum requirement in English is a grade 5 at GCSE for both Language and Literature.

A full reading list is available before the commencement of the course, and pupils should take advantage of this. This includes Traditional Arguments for the Existence of God, The problem of Evil & Religion & Science.

## EXAMINATION

Component 1: A Study of Religion

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion Written examination

Component 3: Religion and Ethics

Paper 1: A Study of Religion 100 marks, 2hr written exam (33.3% of A Level)

Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion 100 Marks, 2hr written exam (33.3% of A Level)

Paper 3 Ethics 100 marks, 2hr written exam (33.3% of A Level).



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7582

The modules provide a valuable and challenging course of study for students who wish to extend their understanding of the subject and wish to study it at higher education level. It will therefore provide enjoyable breadth and balance to a student's advanced studies.

This A level combines well with Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. It can lead to careers such as Physiotherapy, Nutrition, Podiatry, Sports Science, Sports Psychology and Teaching.

## COURSE INFORMATION

For students seeking to follow related courses at higher education, the course will provide a suitable foundation for the enrichment of their knowledge and understanding. It requires students to undertake physical activities and enable them to gain an understanding of the principles related to the improvement in performance. All students will be encouraged to be self-directed learners able to address, with confidence, problems associated with physical education. Consequently, the specification aims to make a significant contribution to a student's lifelong involvement in physical activity. Entry requirements: The recommended entry requirement is a minimum B grade on the GCSE PE and a B in Science.

## EXAMINATION

### **Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (A and AS)**

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

### **Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (A Level only)**

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

### **Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport (A and AS)**

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity, plus a written/verbal analysis of performance.

For more information please contact Ms Samantha Clark (Head of Academic PE at [sjc@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:sjc@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com))



## PHYSICS

EXAM BOARD : OCR

SPECIFICATION : H556

The pupils are taught by dedicated and experienced specialist teachers who aim to inspire and increase their interest in the subject. They are encouraged to develop a wide spectrum of skills through theory and application. They are taught in small groups, and they are also given the opportunities to engage in one-to-one interactions with their teachers. We offer a wealth of extra curricular activities such as an opportunity to get involved in research, experimentation, or competitions such as the British Physics Olympiad.

We organise trips such as to the Dungeness nuclear Power station, Live science lectures and CERN in Geneva. Our aim is to increase curiosity, engagement and support every pupil to achieve their potential. Physics A Level combines well with Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, and Computing. It is an excellent foundation for further study of Physics, Natural sciences, Engineering (and related subjects such as Metallurgy, Materials Science), Geophysics, also Mathematics-related courses, Medicine, Medical Physics, History and Philosophy of Science, Computing, and other related courses.

PHYSICS

## COURSE INFORMATION

This is a linear two-year course with exams taken at the end of the two years.

The specification is divided into 6 modules, starting in the first year with foundation skills, then building on GCSE knowledge of forces, motion, electricity, and quantum physics waves but in greater depth. It requires a good mathematical background as 40% of the marks available in the examinations will be for the assessment of Mathematics. To enter the course, it is advisable that the pupils have at least grade 6 in GCSE Physics or grade 7 in GCSE Combined Science and a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. The pupils could use the following resources if they wish to have a head start to their studies:

- OCR AS/A Level Student Book 1 Physics, Pearson ISBN 9781447990826
- Essential Maths Skills for A Level Physics CGP ISBN 9781782944713
- Physics Review magazine (applications relevant to A Level theories)

## EXAMINATION

During the two-year course they gain a range of practical skills, and they build up a folder of written assignments of a minimum of 12 investigations. If they meet all the criteria at the end, they are awarded a "Pass."

1. Modelling Physics - 100 marks, 2h 15 min.
2. Exploring Physics -100 marks, 2h 15min.
3. Unified Physics - 70 marks, 1 h 30min.
4. Practical Endorsement - non exam assessment.

For more information, please contact Mrs Eleni Kouthouri (Head of Science at ek@St Lawrence Collegeuk.com).





# PSYCHOLOGY

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : A 7182

Psychology seeks to explain the causes of human behaviour by placing the individual as the primary level of analysis. It is fascinating, as we explore classical and contemporary developments across various psychology-related fields. The approach is scientific and rigorous, and requires clear, critical and logical thinking. Pupils will have the chance to learn from a wide range of psychological studies and theories. The specification also seeks to cover the many methods used in psychology, both in the laboratory and outside it. We will examine the advantages and disadvantages of a range of research methods such as experiments, observations and interviews.

Pupils are expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues
- apply psychological knowledge and understanding
- analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness.

These qualifications are linear. Linear means that pupils will sit all the exams at the end of their A Level course. Psychology combines well with Biology, Philosophy & Ethics and History. Although it is not essential, it is useful if you want to study Psychology at university. Requirements for this course are grade 5 or above in Biology, Mathematics and English.

PSYCHOLOGY

## COURSE CONTENT

### Year 1 Subject content (compulsory)

Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Approaches in psychology, Psychopathology, Research Methods

### Year 2 Subject content

Compulsory content - Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods, Issues and debates in psychology

Optional content -

Option 1: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and development

Option 2: Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress

Option 3: 15 Aggression, Forensic psychology, Addiction

## EXAMINATION

Three 2-hour papers at the end of the second year.



## SPANISH

EXAM BOARD : AQA

SPECIFICATION : 7692

With some 400 million speakers, Spanish is the fourth most commonly spoken language in the world. Only Mandarin, English and Hindi have more speakers. Spanish is an official language on four continents and is the mother tongue in 21 countries. Knowing another language, particularly one as widely spoken as Spanish will be extremely useful when you are looking for a job. With the world becoming ever more global, contact with people of other countries has increased tremendously in recent decades.

Learning Spanish can also help you to improve your knowledge of your own language. Spanish is from the Romance language family of languages, its roots coming primarily from Latin. English, too has many words of Latin origin. Because of this, knowing Spanish helps speakers of English (as well as some other European languages) broaden their vocabulary in as well as understand the grammar of their native language. Often, these same Latin roots are at the base of many sophisticated words in English, so Spanish learners can also become more proficient in English.

Studying Spanish at St Lawrence College will give pupils the opportunity to study in small groups, thus enabling them to practise and improve their oral skills, whilst receiving individual attention. They will also have the opportunity to visit Spain both in the L6 and U6.

SPANISH

## COURSE INFORMATION

Pupils will cover a wide range of topics including aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism in Hispanic society and aspects of political life. They will also study a set text and film, rich in cultural references which will broaden the pupils' horizons and knowledge. They will also do an independent research project on an area of their own interest, which they will speak about in their oral examination.

## EXAMINATION

Themes include Social issues and trends, Political and artistic culture, Grammar and translation & Works: Literary texts and films. Assessments/examinations based on the topic areas will be taken throughout the course in preparation for the A Level examination at the end of the course (detailed below):

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing 2hr 30min written exam, 100 marks (50% of A Level)

Paper 2: Writing 2hr written exam, 80 marks (20% of A Level)

Paper 3: Speaking 21-23min oral exam, 60 marks (30% of A Level).

This qualification is linear. Linear means that pupils will sit all their exams at the end of the course. For

further information contact [rjh@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com](mailto:rjh@StLawrenceCollegeuk.com) or see the AQA website.



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