ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM
EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE

COURSE INFORMATION

Subject Guide.

Every course we offer, in one place.

ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form



Centred on you.
Embrace what's next.

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Find your subjects.

Every course we offer, in alphabetical order. If you're not sure where to begin, start with our guide to choosing your subjects.

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Courses run subject to demand, and details can change. For the latest information, visit **ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form**

Choose for you.

The subjects you choose will shape the next two years, and the doors that open after them. Take your time, ask questions and choose what's right for you.

1 Choose what you enjoy

You'll study each subject in depth for two years. Real interest is what keeps you going when the work gets harder.

2 Build on your strengths

Look honestly at your GCSE results and how you learn best. Check each sheet's entry requirements: some subjects ask for more than five grade 5s.

3 Think about what's next

Some university courses and careers ask for particular subjects. If you have a goal, check its requirements now. If you don't yet, a balanced mix keeps your options open.

4 Know how it's assessed

Each sheet shows how a course is assessed: exams, coursework, practical work or a mix. Choose a balance that suits the way you work.

5 Make it your choice

Choose subjects for you, not because your friends are taking them. You'll make new friends in every class.

6 Ask us

Talk to subject teachers and current students, come to our open evening, and speak to your tutor or our Post-16 Student Adviser. Nobody has to decide alone.

YOUR PROGRAMME

- Three main subjects
- The EPQ or Core Maths
- CoRE, taken by all students
- A programme of enrichment activities

Core Maths can't be taken alongside A Level Mathematics. Courses run subject to demand.

A LEVEL ART AND DESIGN

Look closer. Make it. Mean it.

Art and Design at A Level is about finding your own visual voice. You'll build skills across a range of materials and processes, study the artists and movements that shape how we see, and develop **a sustained personal investigation that leads to work that is entirely your own**. There are no written exams: everything you make counts.

BIG IDEAS

Drawing
Recording what you see, think and feel: the starting point of every project.

Materials
Painting, printmaking, 3D and mixed media, by hand or digitally.

Context
Artists, movements and genres, and how art relates to the time and place it was made.

Your response
Developing, refining and presenting ideas that are genuinely yours.

Your work is assessed on four equal skills: developing, exploring, recording and presenting ideas.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

48%
NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 01 **Personal Investigation: Portfolio**

A sustained project on a theme agreed with your teacher. Research, experiment with media and techniques, record your ideas and refine them into finished outcomes, informed by the work of other artists and designers.

12%
WRITTEN · 1,000+ WORDS

COMPONENT 01 **Personal Investigation: Related Study**

An extended written study, at least 1,000 words, exploring the artists, movements or genres behind your portfolio. It can be an illustrated essay, a digital presentation or study sheets, with a full bibliography.

40%
SET TASK
15 HRS SUPERVISED

COMPONENT 02 **Externally Set Task**

In February of Year 13 the exam board releases a paper of themes with written and visual starting points. You choose one, research and plan your response during a preparation period, then realise it in 15 hours of supervised time.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You love making things and want time to develop your own ideas in depth.
- You're curious about artists, images and why they matter.
- You can work independently and keep a long project going.
- **Worth knowing:** there are no written exams, but there is a written related study of at least 1,000 words.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **Art Foundation** courses, the usual next step before an art and design degree.
- **University degrees** such as Fine Art BA (Hons) and Visual Communication BA (Hons).
- **Careers** in the creative industries.
- **Skills universities and employers value:** imagination, independent thinking and problem solving.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 or above in GCSE Art**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Gallery and museum trips locally, nationally and in Europe, such as the National Portrait Gallery, V&A and Tate Modern, and a mixed-year art trip abroad. Catch-up sessions and open art-room times, and leadership roles supporting younger students.

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Look closer. Ask why. Explore life.

Biology is the study of life, from the molecules inside a single cell to whole ecosystems. You'll discover **how living things work, evolve and depend on each other**, and build real lab skills along the way.

BIG IDEAS

Cells and molecules
The structures, molecules and enzymes that make life possible.

The living body
Exchange and transport, nerves, hormones and keeping conditions stable.

Energy for life
How photosynthesis and respiration capture and release energy.

Genes and ecology
Inheritance, evolution, biodiversity and how populations interact.

Practical work runs through the whole course, and at least 10% of marks involve maths skills.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

37% EXAM · 2 HRS 15

PAPER 1 **Biological Processes**
Cells, biological molecules, enzymes and membranes; exchange and transport in animals and plants; nerves, hormones and homeostasis; photosynthesis and respiration.

37% EXAM · 2 HRS 15

PAPER 2 **Biological Diversity**
Disease and the immune system; biodiversity, classification and evolution; inheritance, manipulating genomes, cloning and biotechnology; ecosystems and sustainability.

26% EXAM · 1 HR 30

PAPER 3 **Unified Biology**
Questions from across the whole course, testing how well you connect ideas and apply your practical skills.

PASS REPORTED SEPARATELY

COMPONENT 4 **Practical Endorsement**
At least 12 assessed practicals, from microscopy and dissections to planning your own experiments. Reported alongside your A Level, it shows universities and employers your lab skills.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're curious about how living things work, from cells to ecosystems.
- You enjoy practical work and are comfortable with data and calculations.
- You have an analytical mindset and can write clear, accurate explanations.
- **Worth knowing:** your A Level grade comes from three exams at the end of Year 13.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in biology and its specialisms, such as evolutionary biology.
- **Medicine:** Biology isn't always required, but it's very helpful and gives you a head start on anatomy.
- **Skills employers want:** analysing data, evaluating evidence and reaching sound conclusions.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Biology**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

An ecology fieldwork trip, to a destination that changes from year to year. Recommended reading includes *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and Paul Nurse's *What is Life?*

A LEVEL BUSINESS

Spot it. Plan it. Grow it.

Every product you buy and every job you'll apply for depends on business decisions. A Level Business takes you from **the first spark of an idea to the strategy of a global company**, exploring how organisations of every size, from small start-ups to multinationals and not-for-profits, compete, adapt and make choices that affect us all.

BIG IDEAS

Enterprise
Spotting an opportunity, planning a new business and finding the money to start it.

Business functions
Marketing, finance, people and operations, and how they work together.

Analysis and strategy
Using data, forecasts and performance measures to make big decisions.

A changing world
Risk, ethics, the law, the environment, trade and globalisation.

You'll apply every topic to real, current businesses in local, national and global contexts.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS 15

COMPONENT 1 **Business Opportunities and Functions**

How new businesses start: enterprise, business plans, markets and market research, structure, location, finance, and revenue and costs. Then the core functions every organisation needs, from start-ups to multinationals: **marketing, finance, people and operations**.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS 15

COMPONENT 2 **Business Analysis and Strategy**

The tools businesses use to decide what to do next: data and market analysis, sales forecasting, financial and non-financial performance, aims and objectives, strategy and implementation, **decision-making models and investment appraisal**.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS 15

COMPONENT 3 **Business in a Changing World**

How businesses adapt to the world around them: change, risk management, PEST factors, ethical, legal and environmental factors, international trade, globalisation and the European Union. A case study, then **one synoptic essay** drawing on the whole course.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're interested in how businesses work, from the shop on the corner to global brands.
- You follow the news and want to understand the business stories behind it.
- You write clearly and you're confident with numbers and analysing data.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. You sit three exams of 2 hrs 15 at the end of Year 13, mixing short answers, data response and essays.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **Business-based university degrees**, and later postgraduate study such as an MBA.
- **Trainee schemes** with large corporate companies.
- **Careers** in accountancy and financial services, investment and risk, HR, logistics, marketing, systems analysis, teaching and management.
- **Your own business:** the knowledge and skills to start an enterprise of your own.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths. No previous study of Business is needed, though **grade 5 in GCSE Business or a Level 2 Merit or above in Level 1/2 Business** is an advantage.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

You'll take part in the **Young Enterprise** national competition, setting up, presenting and running a real enterprise, working with industry specialists and the Chamber of Commerce.

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Predict it. Test it. Prove it.

Chemistry asks one of the biggest questions there is: **what is the world made of, and how does it change?** From the structure of the atom to the design of new medicines, you'll build a deep understanding of how substances behave, and test your ideas in the lab with hands-on practical work right through the course.

BIG IDEAS

Physical chemistry
Atoms, bonding, energy, rates and equilibria: the rules every reaction follows.

Inorganic chemistry
The periodic table, from Group 2 and the halogens to the transition metals.

Organic chemistry
Carbon compounds, from fuels and plastics to medicines, proteins and DNA.

Practical skills
Twelve required practicals: measure, analyse and draw your own conclusions.

At least 20% of the marks use maths skills, and at least 15% assess practical skills.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

35% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 **Physical and Inorganic Chemistry**

Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, equilibria, redox, thermodynamics, electrode potentials and acids and bases, alongside periodicity, Group 2, the halogens, Period 3, transition metals and reactions of ions in solution.

35% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Physical and Organic Chemistry**

Kinetics, rate equations and equilibria, alongside the full organic course: alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography.

30% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 **Practical Skills and Synoptic Chemistry**

Questions on practical techniques and data analysis, questions drawing on the whole specification, and 30 marks of multiple choice.

PASS TEACHER ASSESSED

ALONGSIDE **Practical Endorsement**

Your teachers assess your practical skills as you carry out the twelve required practicals over the two years. A **Pass** is reported separately, alongside your A Level grade.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy finding out how and why things happen, right down to the atoms involved.
- You can picture processes, use the periodic table to reason and handle equations confidently.
- You like practical work and turning observations into clear, logical explanations.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. Your grade comes from three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees:** the five most popular with A Level Chemistry students are chemistry, biology, medicine, maths and pharmacology.
- **Careers** such as chemical engineer, doctor, pharmacist, research scientist, toxicologist and chartered accountant.
- **Sectors** including medicine and healthcare, science and research, engineering, the energy sector, manufacturing, consumer goods, and business and management.
- **Apprenticeships** in science, engineering and manufacturing.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Practical techniques that prepare you for university or industry, and university visits. Keep up with new discoveries by listening to *The Rest Is Science* podcast.

LEVEL 3 COMPUTING & IT

Design it. Build it. Test it.

Every app, game and website started as a problem someone wanted to solve. Learn **how real software gets made**: work with clients, design interfaces people find easy to use, then build and test your own digital products. The same size as an A Level, it mixes exams with hands-on projects.

BIG IDEAS

Users and clients
Turn what people need into a clear plan.

UX and UI design
What makes an interface intuitive.

Building software
Create, test and improve working prototypes.

Security and law
Keeping data safe and within the law.

Coursework projects are built around a client brief, just as developers work in industry.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

20% EXAM · 1 HR 15

UNIT F160 **Fundamentals of Application Development**

How developers produce working software: development models, project planning, scoping client needs, interface design and industry job roles.

20% EXAM · 1 HR 15

UNIT F161 **Developing Application Software**

Building for different platforms, how data flows, APIs and protocols, security, releasing and maintaining software, and the law.

20% NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

UNIT F162 **Designing and Communicating UX/UI Solutions**

Plan, design and present a high-fidelity prototype for a client, then review and improve it.

40% NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

TWO UNITS **Optional Units: To Be Decided**

Two practical projects worth 20% each, chosen from: **F163** Game Development, **F164** Website Development, **F165** Immersive Technology Solution Development and **F166** Software Development.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy solving problems and finding out how things work.
- You like creating things: code, designs or games.
- **Worth knowing:** 60% is coursework, plus two written exams. Expect to practise coding outside lessons.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University**: computer science, games development, creative computing, web and mobile development, UX design.
- **Apprenticeships and jobs**, using your portfolio of work.
- **Careers**: software developer, games or UX designer, IT technician, cybersecurity analyst.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE Computing or IT**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Hutch Games industry workshops, a Bletchley Park trip and a Girls in Cyber Security workshop.

Course: OCR Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development (Extended Certificate) · H129 · Course details subject to change

LEVEL 3 CORE MATHS

Measure it. Model it. Solve it.

Core Maths takes the GCSE maths you already know and puts it to work on **real data, real money and real decisions**. If you want to understand how the world works, and keep your maths sharp alongside your A Levels without taking A Level Maths, this course is for you.

BIG IDEAS

Statistics
Analyse real data, test correlation and make predictions with regression.

Probability
Work out chance and risk, from tree diagrams to insurance and trading.

Linear programming
Find the best outcome, such as the most profit or the lowest cost.

Growth
Sequences, compound interest, loans, depreciation and population growth.

A one-year course. Every topic is applied to real-world contexts, and you can use a calculator in both exams.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

40%
EXAM · 1 HR 40

PAPER 1 **Comprehension**

A source booklet sets out **two real-life contexts**, and you get it from March, so you can study it before the exam. In the exam you comprehend, interpret and analyse the information in those sources, using methods from all four areas of the course. A clean copy of the booklet is given to you on the day, along with a formulae sheet.

60%
EXAM · 1 HR 40

PAPER 2 **Applications**

Section A returns to one of the Paper 1 contexts with new questions. **Section B** sets three new tasks, each with its own theme, where you choose the methods, solve problems you haven't seen before and explain what your answers mean in context.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You want to keep using maths after GCSE, but A Level Maths isn't for you.
- You're curious about how data, money and risk shape everyday decisions.
- Your other subjects use maths, such as Psychology, Geography, Business, Economics or the sciences.
- **Worth knowing:** for a degree in maths, physics or statistics, you'll usually need A Level Maths instead.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **Support for your other A Levels:** the sciences, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics all assess maths skills.
- **University ready:** many degrees have hidden maths, especially statistics, from biology and business to geography, nursing, health and social care, and psychology.
- **The world of work:** data analysis and problem solving used in management and many other roles.
- **Maths for life:** understanding loans, interest and risk when the decisions are yours.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths. You need a **grade 5 minimum in GCSE Maths**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A trip to the *Maths Inspiration* show.

LEVEL 3 CRIMINOLOGY

Investigate it. Explain it. Judge it.

Why do people commit crime, and how should society respond? Criminology is a brand-new subject for most students. You'll use **theories of criminality to analyse real cases**, plan a campaign for change, research policy in practice and review the evidence behind real verdicts.

BIG IDEAS

Awareness
Unreported crime, media portrayals and campaigns for change.

Theories
Biological, individual and social explanations of crime.

Investigation
From crime scene to courtroom: evidence, roles and trials.

Justice
Punishment, social control and the criminal justice system.

It's an applied course: every unit is built around real cases and the real criminal justice system.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

25% INTERNAL · 8 HRS

UNIT 1 · YEAR 12 **Changing Awareness of Crime**

Explore crimes that go unreported and why, how the media represents crime and how we measure it, then plan and design your own campaign for change.

25% EXAM · 1 HR 30

UNIT 2 · YEAR 12 **Criminological Theories**

Why do people commit crime? Apply biological, individualistic and sociological theories to real cases, and assess how they shape policy.

25% INTERNAL · 8 HRS

UNIT 3 · YEAR 13 **Crime Scene to Courtroom**

Follow a case from investigation to verdict: the people and techniques involved, the evidence, the trial, and whether justice was done.

25% EXAM · 1 HR 30

UNIT 4 · YEAR 13 **Crime and Punishment**

How the criminal justice system works, the aims and forms of punishment, and how well agencies achieve social control.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're fascinated by crime, justice and the stories behind the headlines.
- You follow current affairs and political issues and enjoy discussing them.
- You can apply ideas to real cases and write clear explanations.
- **Worth knowing:** half the course is controlled assessment and half is on-screen exams, which draw on what you've learned in the other units.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in criminology, or combined with sociology, psychology, law or forensics.
- **Careers** in criminal justice and forensics, such as the Probation Service and the courts.
- It pairs well with Sociology, Psychology, English, History, Business and Philosophy, Theology and Ethics.
- We offer the full **two-year Diploma** course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including **grade 5 in English Language**. No previous study of Criminology needed.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A visit to **Birmingham Crown Court**, and a **Crime Scene Masterclass** run by Birmingham City University (BCU).

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Read it. Feel it. Argue it.

English Literature takes you from Shakespeare to the present day. You'll explore how writers shape **tragedy, crime and the human experience**, read through the lens of genre and critical theory, and grow in confidence expressing ideas that are genuinely your own.

BIG IDEAS

Tragedy
Why we are drawn to stories of suffering, downfall and the flawed hero.

Crime writing
Guilt, justice and detection, from 19th-century poetry to the modern thriller.

Critical theory
Reading texts through different lenses: Marxist, feminist, post-colonial and more.

Your own voice
Independent research and essays where the argument is yours.

Wider reading is built in, so your experience of literature keeps growing.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

40%
EXAM · 2 HRS 30

PAPER 1 **Aspects of Tragedy**

Flawed heroes who suffer and fall: Shakespeare's *Othello*, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Keats's narrative poems, including 'Lamia' and 'The Eve of St. Agnes'. A closed-book exam: a passage-based question and an essay on *Othello*, then an essay linking two texts.

40%
EXAM · 3 HRS

PAPER 2 **Elements of Crime Writing**

Guilt, motive and justice in Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*, Kate Atkinson's *When Will There Be Good News?* and poems by Crabbe, Browning and Wilde, including 'My Last Duchess' and 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol'. An open-book exam: analyse an unseen crime extract, write on one set text, then connect two.

20%
NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

NEA **Theory and Independence**

Two essays of 1,250 to 1,500 words, one on a poetry text and one on a prose text **of your own choice**, each read through a different section of the AQA Critical Anthology, such as feminist, Marxist or post-colonial theory. One can be a re-creative piece with a commentary.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You love reading and talking about what you've read.
- You enjoy thinking critically and building an argument.
- You can express yourself clearly in writing.
- **Worth knowing:** Paper 1 is closed book, but in Paper 2 you take your set texts into the exam.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **A widely respected A Level** that complements almost any combination of subjects.
- **University degrees** in English Literature, or English Language and Literature, one of the most highly regarded academic courses.
- **Careers** across a wide range of areas, because the skills you build are so transferable.
- **Skills employers want:** critical reading, clear writing, independent research and confident argument.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Regular theatre trips and debating, plus a wider reading list, crime and Shakespeare podcasts and audio drama to explore.

A LEVEL FRENCH

Hear it. Speak it. Live it.

A Level French takes you far beyond the phrasebook. You'll explore **the culture, society and politics of France and the French-speaking world**. You'll debate real issues in French, study a novel and a film in depth, and research a question of your own. By the end, you'll listen, read, write and speak with real confidence.

BIG IDEAS

Society
Family, the digital world, volunteering, diversity and life on the margins.

Artistic culture
Heritage, contemporary francophone music and French cinema.

Political life
Young people and the vote, strikes, protests, crime and punishment.

Multiculturalism
Immigration, racism and how different cultures live side by side.

Everything is studied through authentic French sources, from news and online media to film and literature.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

50%
EXAM · 2 HRS 30

PAPER 1 **Listening, Reading and Writing**

Listening and reading questions on all four themes, with your own control of the recording so you can replay each extract as often as you like. Then translate one passage into English and one into French.

20%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Writing: Literature and Film**

Two essays in French: one on Joseph Joffo's *Un sac de billes*, two Jewish brothers' escape across Occupied France, and one on Mathieu Kassovitz's *La Haine* (1995), set in the Paris banlieue.

30%
SPEAKING
21–23 MINS

PAPER 3 **Speaking**

Discuss one of two stimulus cards on the course themes, then present and discuss your **Individual Research Project**: a question of your own choice about the French-speaking world, researched from sources in French.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy French and want to become genuinely fluent.
- You're curious about other cultures and the wider world.
- You like forming your own opinions and debating them.
- **Worth knowing:** accuracy matters, so you'll need to read, listen and watch in French independently every week.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in French, on its own or combined with almost any other subject, such as business, economics or history.
- **Careers** in international business and communications, and the chance to live and work abroad.
- **Linguists are in demand** across many sectors of industry.
- **Skills for life:** confident communication, critical thinking and an understanding of other cultures.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE French (Higher tier)**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A trip to Paris in Year 13, weekly speaking support for younger students, and help arranging work experience abroad.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Explore it. Measure it. Explain it.

Geography explains the world you live in and the forces shaping your future. You'll study **how the physical and human worlds work, and how they interact**. With climate change, migration and natural hazards in the news every day, few subjects are more relevant.

BIG IDEAS

Earth systems
How water and carbon move around the planet, and why it matters for climate.

Coasts and hazards
How coastlines form and change, and how people live with natural hazards.

Global connections
Trade, migration and the rules of an interconnected world.

Places and people
What gives places their identity, and how cities grow and change.

Every student completes four days of fieldwork, in both physical and human geography.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

40%
EXAM · 2 HRS 30

COMPONENT 1 **Physical Geography**

Water and carbon cycles and what they mean for climate. **Coastal systems and landscapes:** erosion, landforms and how coasts are managed. **Hazards:** volcanoes, earthquakes, tropical storms and wildfires, and how people respond.

40%
EXAM · 2 HRS 30

COMPONENT 2 **Human Geography**

Global systems and global governance: globalisation, trade and shared spaces such as Antarctica. **Changing places:** what gives a place its character. **Contemporary urban environments:** urban growth, climate and waste, and sustainable cities.

20%
NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 3 **Geography Fieldwork Investigation**

An individual investigation of 3,000 to 4,000 words on a question you define yourself, built on data you collect in the field. It is marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're interested in local and global issues, from climate change to migration.
- You're comfortable with data as well as extended writing.
- You enjoy thinking critically and working independently.
- **Worth knowing:** 80% of the grade comes from two 2½-hour exams.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in physical (BSc), human (BA) or integrated geography, and a wide range of related subjects.
- **Careers** in planning, the environment, finance, law, tourism, retail, international charities and hazard management.
- **Skills employers want:** data and spatial analysis, research and problem solving.
- **Strong prospects:** Institute for Fiscal Studies research found geography graduates are more likely than average to find work, and among the top earners.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE Geography if you took it**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Four days of fieldwork across the two years, with destinations that vary from year to year.

LEVEL 3 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

See the person. Keep them safe. Change lives.

Health and Social Care is about people: how we grow and change from birth to later life, how the body works and what happens when it doesn't, and how professionals keep people safe and well. You'll learn **the values, science and law behind good care**, rooted in the dignity of every person.

BIG IDEAS

Human development
Physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth through every life stage.

The human body
Body systems, how they normally work and the impact of common disorders.

Values and law
Person-centred care, safeguarding, legislation and the duty of care.

Safe care
How services are regulated, monitored and kept safe for the people they serve.

Your Year 13 assignment draws on everything you've learned in the two exam units.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

25% EXAM · 1 HR 30

UNIT 1 · YEAR 12 **Human Lifespan and Development**

Growth and development through each life stage, the factors that shape health, health inequalities, and how professionals promote health, prevent illness and treat conditions.

25% ASSIGNMENT 16 HRS

UNIT 6 · YEAR 12 **Safe Environments in Health and Social Care**

Explore local care services for people at different life stages, the laws and duty of care that keep them safe, and how settings are regulated, monitored and keep effective records.

25% EXAM · 1 HR 30

UNIT 2 · YEAR 13 **Human Biology and Health**

Cells, tissues and the main body systems, how the body keeps its internal environment stable, and how common disorders affect normal functioning.

25% ASSIGNMENT 12 HRS

UNIT 3 · YEAR 13 **Principles of Health and Social Care Practice**

The values behind person-centred care, communication, confidentiality and safeguarding; how organisations, law and guidance shape practice; and how social factors affect people's health.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You care about people and want to understand what helps them live well.
- You're curious about how the body works and why health differs between people.
- You can write clearly and apply ideas to real cases.
- **Worth knowing:** half the course is two exams and half is two assignments set by Pearson and completed under controlled conditions.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in nursing, social work and subjects allied to health.
- **Work in health and social care** in a wide range of roles, including management.
- It pairs well with Psychology, Biology and English.
- **Skills universities value:** critical thinking, research, compassion and empathy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Language**, **grade 4 in GCSE Biology or Combined Science**, and a **Merit in GCSE Health and Social Care if you took it**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Visits from health and social care professionals. Read *This is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay, listen to the *Care to Chat* and *NICE Talks* podcasts, and explore careers on Step into the NHS.

A LEVEL HISTORY

Question it. Interpret it. Judge it.

History helps you make sense of the world you live in. You'll explore **how two nations were made**: the USA's rise from civil war to superpower, and Britain's transformation since 1951. You'll look at the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives, then investigate a question of your own.

BIG IDEAS

Superpower
How the USA rose to world power, and how united it really was.

Modern Britain
Governments, consensus and change, from Churchill to Blair.

Society and culture
Civil rights, youth culture, immigration and the changing role of women.

Evidence
Weigh primary sources and historians' interpretations, and reach your own judgement.

You'll cover more than 140 years of history, from 1865 to 2007.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

40% EXAM · 2 HRS 30

COMPONENT 1 **The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975**

A breadth study: from the Civil War and Reconstruction through the Gilded Age, the Depression and the New Deal, to McCarthyism, civil rights and Vietnam. A compulsory question on **historians' interpretations**, plus two essays.

40% EXAM · 2 HRS 30

COMPONENT 2 **The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007**

A depth study: the Affluent Society, Suez and the Sixties, then Thatcherism, the miners' strike, Major and New Labour. A compulsory question on **primary sources**, plus two essays.

20% NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 3 **Historical Investigation**

A personal study of 3,500 to 4,500 words, answering **a question you choose**, set in around 100 years of context. Marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You have a keen interest in History and how the past shapes today.
- You read widely and enjoy learning independently.
- You have a good level of written English and can build an argument.
- **Worth knowing:** 80% of the grade comes from two 2 hr 30 exams; 20% is your own investigation.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **Careers** in law, journalism, education, the civil service, archaeology, architecture and many more.
- **Skills employers want:** analysing complex information, weighing evidence and defending your conclusions.
- **Understanding the world:** so many of today's conflicts and alliances have their roots in the past.
- **Telling truth from myth:** recognising propaganda, bias and lies.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Literature and GCSE History**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Visits to Ironbridge and the Houses of Parliament.

A LEVEL LAW

Know it. Argue it. Win it.

Law shapes every part of your life, from the contracts you sign to your rights if you're ever arrested. A Level Law is **brand new at Ilsley**. You'll learn how laws are made, how the courts really work and **how to argue like a lawyer**, applying real legal rules to real problems.

BIG IDEAS

Law and justice
What makes a law fair, and whether the law really delivers justice.

Making law
How Parliament and judges make law, and how courts interpret it.

The legal system
Courts, juries, barristers, solicitors and judges, and who gets access to justice.

Legal argument
Apply the law to problem cases and build a persuasive argument.

You'll work with real cases and real statutes, solving legal problems just as lawyers do.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

25% OF THE COURSE

FOUNDATION **Law and the Legal System**

How Parliament and judges make law, how statutes are interpreted and precedent works, and the courts, juries and legal professions. Plus the big questions: law and morality, law and society, and whether the law achieves justice.

25% OF THE COURSE

PRIVATE LAW **Contract or Tort**

Disputes between people and businesses, through **contract** (making agreements, terms, breach and remedies) or **tort** (negligence, occupiers' liability and compensation when someone is harmed).

25% OF THE COURSE

PUBLIC LAW **Criminal Law or Human Rights**

The law between the individual and the state, through **criminal law** (murder, manslaughter, assault, theft and defences such as self-defence) or **human rights** (privacy, free speech and protest, and how far rights can be limited).

25% OF THE COURSE

FURTHER AREA **One More Area of Law**

A third area chosen from contract, tort, criminal law and human rights, taking you deeper into how the law works in practice.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You care about justice, fairness and how society is run.
- You enjoy debate and can back up an argument with evidence.
- You're precise with words: in law, a single word can decide a case.
- **Worth knowing:** Law is new to everyone, so no previous study is needed. Expect to solve legal problems and write evaluative essays.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in law, criminology, politics and the social sciences.
- **Careers** as a solicitor, barrister, chartered legal executive or paralegal, and in the police, civil service and business.
- **Apprenticeships**, including solicitor and paralegal apprenticeships.
- It pairs well with Politics, Criminology, Sociology, History and English.
- **Skills employers want:** careful reading, logical thinking and confident argument.

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

Think it. Prove it. Solve it.

Maths is the language behind science, technology and finance. You'll master **the pure maths everything else is built on**, from proof and algebra to calculus, then put it to work: using statistics to make sense of real data and mechanics to model how things move.

BIG IDEAS

Pure maths
Proof, algebra, functions, trigonometry, logarithms and vectors.

Calculus
Differentiation and integration: rates of change, areas and differential equations.

Statistics
Sampling, probability, distributions and testing hypotheses with real data.

Mechanics
Motion, forces and Newton's laws, projectiles and moments.

Every topic builds on the last, and you can use a calculator in every exam.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 Pure Mathematics 1

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods and vectors. Either pure paper can test any of these topics.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 Pure Mathematics 2

The same pure content, tested in new ways, so you bring topics together to solve longer problems: from the binomial expansion and parametric curves to differential equations and the Newton-Raphson method.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 Statistics and Mechanics

Statistics: sampling, data, probability, the binomial and Normal distributions and hypothesis testing, including questions on a large data set you study in advance. **Mechanics:** kinematics, projectiles, forces and Newton's laws, friction and moments.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy maths and want to take it further than GCSE.
- You like solving problems, and you stick with them when they get hard.
- You want to understand why methods work, not just how.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. You sit three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13, and regular practice outside lessons is essential.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in maths, engineering, physics, computer science, economics, finance and data science.
- **Careers** in engineering, finance and accountancy, data and AI, computing, research and teaching.
- **A highly respected A Level** that strengthens almost any combination of subjects.
- **Skills employers want:** logical thinking, problem solving and working with data.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 7 minimum in GCSE Maths**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The *Maths Inspiration* show, and entry into the national **UKMT Senior Maths Challenge** in Year 12 and Year 13.

A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

Question it. Challenge it. Create it.

At A Level you go deeper. Apply media theory to television, newspapers, magazines and online culture, uncover **who controls the media and why audiences respond as they do**, then create a cross-media project that is entirely your own. In a world shaped by algorithms, influencers and AI, few subjects matter more.

BIG IDEAS

Media language
How codes, conventions and techniques create meaning, and the theories that explain it.

Representation
How the media construct people, places and issues, and whose voices are missing.

Industries
Ownership, funding, regulation and the power of global media companies.

Audiences
How media targets and shapes audiences, and how audiences talk back.

Everything is studied in its social, cultural, political and economic context.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

35% EXAM · 2 HRS 15

COMPONENT 1 Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Analyse advertising, marketing, music videos and newspapers, including products you have never seen before, and explore how they represent people, places and events. Then study the business behind the media: how film, radio, newspapers and video games are funded, owned and regulated, and how they find and shape their audiences.

35% EXAM · 2 HRS 30

COMPONENT 2 Media Forms and Products in Depth

Three in-depth studies. **Television in the Global Age:** *Black Mirror* and the French drama *The Returned*. **Magazines, mainstream and alternative:** *Vogue* and *The Big Issue*. **Media in the Online Age:** KSI and *Attitude*, exploring vloggers, online magazines and participatory media.

30% NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 3 Cross-Media Production

Your own production across two media forms, in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board each year. At Ilsley, students usually take the **film marketing** brief, creating the marketing for a new film of their own. You plan it, create it and evaluate it yourself.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You are curious about how the media shapes what people think, buy and believe.
- You enjoy debating ideas and writing extended, argued essays.
- You want a substantial creative project that is completely yours.
- **Worth knowing:** 70% of the grade comes from two written exams (4 hrs 45 in total), so strong essay writing matters.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in media, journalism, film, communications, marketing and the wider humanities and social sciences.
- **Apprenticeships** in digital marketing, content creation and media production.
- **Careers in AI**, one of the fastest-growing areas of media: creative and content roles, digital ethics and policy.
- Pairs well with English, History, Sociology, Politics and Art.
- **Critical and digital literacy for life:** spotting bias, spin, misinformation and AI fakes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE Media Studies if you took it**. No previous Media study needed.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Hands-on use of industry-standard editing software, and workshops run by media industry professionals. Keep up with the industry by listening to *The Rest Is Entertainment* podcast.

A LEVEL PHYSICS

Question it. Measure it. Discover it.

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know, from the smallest pieces of matter to the furthest reaches of the universe. You'll learn **the laws that explain how and why the world works**, test them in the lab, and follow the same journey of discovery as the physicists before you.

BIG IDEAS

Particles and radiation
Quarks, antimatter, and light that behaves as both a wave and a particle.

Fields and forces
Gravity, electric and magnetic fields, from orbiting satellites to generators.

Mathematical models
Using equations and graphs to describe, predict and explain.

Practical physics
Planning experiments, measuring precisely and judging uncertainty.

Maths runs through everything: at least 40% of the marks use mathematical skills.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

34% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 **Particles, Waves, Mechanics and Electricity**

Measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, and periodic motion, including circular motion and simple harmonic motion. 60 marks of short and long answers, plus 25 multiple-choice questions.

34% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Thermal Physics, Fields and Nuclear Physics**

Thermal physics; gravitational, electric and magnetic fields; capacitors; and nuclear physics, building on everything from Paper 1. The same format: 60 marks of written answers and 25 multiple-choice questions.

32% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 **Practical Skills and Your Option**

Section A tests practical skills and data analysis. Section B covers one option topic your class chooses together in Year 13: **Astrophysics**, **Medical physics**, **Engineering physics**, **Turning points in physics** or **Electronics**.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You want to know how and why the world around you works.
- You have strong mathematical ability and enjoy solving problems.
- You're resilient and determined, and work well both independently and in a team.
- **Worth knowing:** you'll keep a university-style lab book, and your practical skills earn a separate **practical endorsement** alongside your A Level grade.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **A facilitating subject:** highly regarded whatever degree or career path you choose.
- **Essential for science and engineering degrees**, and a strong route into physics, astrophysics, medicine, computer science and maths.
- **Careers** in engineering, aerospace, renewable energy, medical physics, research, computing and finance.
- **Skills employers value:** mathematical and analytical techniques, critical and creative thinking, and problem solving.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, plus **grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 7 in GCSE Physics**, and **grade 7 in GCSE Maths**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The chance to visit Jodrell Bank and use specialist equipment, including radiation sources. Keep exploring with *The Infinite Monkey Cage* podcast and Isaac Science problems.

A LEVEL POLITICS

Debate it. Challenge it. Change it.

Politics is the study of how countries are governed, why, and **where power really lies**. Understand it, and you stop being on the receiving end of other people's decisions and start taking part. You'll focus on the politics and government of Britain and the USA.

BIG IDEAS

Participation
Democracy, elections, voting behaviour, parties and the media.

Government
The constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive.

The USA
The Constitution, Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court.

Political ideas
Liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism.

You'll follow real events as they happen: elections, debates and decisions.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

COMPONENT 1 **UK Politics and Core Political Ideas**

Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. Then the core ideas: **liberalism, conservatism and socialism**, through the thinkers who shaped them.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

COMPONENT 2 **UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas**

The constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and executive, and the relationships between the branches of government. Plus one further idea: **nationalism**.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

COMPONENT 3 **Comparative Politics: USA**

The US Constitution and federalism, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court and civil rights, and democracy and participation. Then **comparative theories**: how the UK and US systems differ, and why.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You follow the news and want to know why things happen.
- You enjoy debate and can back up your opinions with evidence.
- You have a high standard of written English, especially essay writing.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. You sit three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13, mixing source-based questions and essays.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **A traditional academic subject** that shows you can build detailed written arguments and reasoned judgements.
- **University degrees** in politics, law, history, philosophy, economics, journalism and the social sciences.
- **Careers** in the civil service, government, law, the media, international organisations and public policy.
- It pairs well with History, Sociology, English and Philosophy, Theology and Ethics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Language and/or English Literature**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A trip to Westminster, including a tour of the Houses of Parliament, and talks from visiting MPs and local leaders. Keep up with events by listening to *The Rest Is Politics* podcast.

A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN

Imagine it. Design it. Make it.

Think about the products you love: your phone, your trainers, the chair you're sitting on. Someone designed every one of them. Product Design shows you **how great products are imagined, engineered and made**, and ends with a substantial design-and-make project that is entirely your own.

BIG IDEAS

Materials
How woods, metals, polymers, composites and smart materials behave, and how to choose the right one.

Manufacture
From one-off prototypes to mass production: CAD/CAM, quality control and modern industry.

Design thinking
Design methods, iteration, and the movements and designers who shaped the products around us.

Responsible design
Sustainability, the environment and designing products that can be repaired and recycled.

Maths and science are built in: you'll calculate, test and apply both, as real designers do.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

30% EXAM · 2 HRS 30

PAPER 1 **Technical Principles**

Materials and how they perform, finishes, and how products are formed, joined and assembled. Then modern industrial practice, digital design and manufacture, health and safety, protecting designs, and designing for maintenance, repair and disposal.

20% EXAM · 1 HR 30

PAPER 2 **Designing and Making Principles**

Design methods and theory, from the Bauhaus and Art Deco to designers such as Dieter Rams and James Dyson, plus responsible design and project management. **Section A** asks you to analyse products from images; **Section B** focuses on commercial manufacture.

50% NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

NEA **Design and Make Project**

A substantial project of your own: identify a real problem, research it, design and develop a solution, then make a final prototype. You submit a written or digital design portfolio with photographs of your finished prototype.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy solving problems and making things, by hand and on screen.
- You're curious about how products are designed and made, and why some succeed.
- You can manage a long project independently and keep it on track.
- **Worth knowing:** half the grade is your project and half is two written exams, so strong written English matters as much as practical skill.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in product, industrial, automotive and interior design, architecture and engineering.
- **Careers** in design, CAD and manufacturing, engineering (civil, mechanical, structural, electrical), advertising, animation and teaching.
- **Apprenticeships** in engineering, design and manufacturing.
- **Skills employers want:** creative problem-solving, project management and clear technical communication.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Hands-on CAD/CAM with Rhinoceros 3D, a laser cutter and a 3D printer. Trips have included the MINI factory in Oxford, Morgan Cars, Silverstone and the University of Birmingham's engineering department.

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Observe it. Test it. Explain it.

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Why do people obey, forget, form attachments or commit crime? You'll use scientific evidence to explore **why people think, feel and act the way they do**, and carry out practical investigations of your own.

BIG IDEAS

The mind
Memory, thinking and the biology of the brain.

Behaviour
Social influence, attachment and why people act as they do.

Research methods
Design investigations, analyse data and judge the evidence.

Issues and debates
Nature or nurture, free will or determinism, and the ethics of research.

At least 10% of marks involve maths skills, at the level of higher-tier GCSE.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 **Introductory Topics in Psychology**

Social influence, memory, attachment, and clinical psychology and mental health: why people conform and obey, how memory works and fails, how early relationships shape us, and how mental health is defined, explained and treated.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Psychology in Context**

Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods: the main schools of thought, the brain and nervous system, and how psychologists design studies, analyse data and test evidence.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 **Issues and Options in Psychology**

Issues and debates, from gender and culture bias to free will and nature versus nurture, plus three option topics. At Ilsley you study **Relationships**, **Schizophrenia** and **Forensic Psychology**.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're curious about why people behave the way they do.
- You enjoy science and are comfortable working with data.
- You can write clear, well-argued essays.
- **Worth knowing:** it's a science, so expect experiments, statistics and evaluating evidence. There's no coursework: you sit three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **A Psychology degree**, leading to work as a psychologist in a range of specialisms.
- **Careers** in teaching, social work, counselling, healthcare, business, management, sport and research.
- **Mental health and wellbeing** roles, plus HR, market research, advice work and play therapy.
- **Skills employers want:** understanding people, analysing evidence and communicating clearly.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Language, GCSE Sciences and GCSE Mathematics**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Listen to the *Speaking of Psychology* podcast from the American Psychological Association, and read *Psychology Review* magazine and the BPS *Research Digest* to keep up with the latest research.

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Notice it. Question it. Explain it.

Sociology is the study of society, people and their behaviour. Why do some pupils do better than others? Who does the housework? Who breaks the rules, and who makes them? You'll explore **how social structures and institutions shape every one of us**, and learn to debate the issues in the news with evidence.

BIG IDEAS

Theories

Functionalism, Marxism, feminism and interactionism: different lenses on the same society.

Inequality

How class, gender and ethnicity shape life chances, from the classroom to the courtroom.

Research methods

How sociologists gather evidence, and how far sociology can be called a science.

Social change

How families, belief and crime are changing in a modern, global world.

No previous Sociology needed: for most students it's a completely new subject.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 Education with Theory and Methods

What school is for and who it serves, why achievement differs by class, gender and ethnicity, life inside the classroom, and education policy. Then **Methods in Context**, applying research methods to education, plus the theory and methods debates at the heart of the subject.

33⅓% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 Topics in Sociology

Families and Households: changing relationships and family diversity, who does what at home, childhood, and population change since 1900. **Beliefs in Society:** religion, science and ideology, churches, sects and new movements, Christian and non-Christian traditions, and whether religion is fading or changing shape.

33⅓% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Who commits crime and why, patterns by class, gender and ethnicity, the media and crime, green, state and global crime, and how society controls and punishes. Plus sociological theory: modernity and postmodernity, objectivity and value freedom, and sociology's role in social policy.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You're curious about society, current affairs and why people live as they do.
- You enjoy discussing issues and sharing your views, backed up with evidence.
- You can write clear, well-argued extended answers.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. You sit three 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13, mixing short answers and essays.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in sociology, criminology, social policy, social work, politics, anthropology and law, or combined with psychology or English.
- **Careers** in social and market research, law, policing, social work, teaching, journalism, health and business.
- It pairs well with Psychology, English, History, Religious Studies, Politics and Business.
- **Skills employers want:** arguing with evidence, weighing up both sides and questioning data.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE English Language and in two humanities subjects, including Religious Studies**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Plan and carry out **your own research project**, keep up with **Sociology in the News**, and explore suggested TED Talks on society and inequality.

A LEVEL SPANISH

Hear it. Speak it. Live it.

A Level Spanish takes you far beyond the phrasebook. You'll explore **the culture, society and politics of the Hispanic-speaking world**. You'll debate real issues in Spanish, study a novel and a film in depth, and research a question of your own. By the end you'll listen, read, write and speak with real confidence.

BIG IDEAS

Society
Family and traditional values, the Catholic Church, equal rights and life online.

Multiculturalism
Immigration, racism and how different cultures live side by side.

Artistic culture
Modern idols, Spain's regional identities and cultural heritage, from Machu Picchu to the Alhambra.

Political life
Franco's dictatorship, the Spanish monarchy, Latin American dictators, youth and protest.

Everything is studied through authentic Hispanic sources, from news and online media to film and literature.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

50% EXAM · 2 HRS 30

PAPER 1 **Listening, Reading and Writing**

Respond in Spanish to authentic recordings and texts on all four themes. You control your own audio, so you can replay each extract as often as you need. Then translate one passage into English and one into Spanish.

20% EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Writing: Literature and Film**

Two essays in Spanish, one on a novel and one on a film, written without the book or film in front of you. At Ilsley you study Laura Esquivel's *Como agua para chocolate* and Guillermo del Toro's *El laberinto del fauno*.

30% SPEAKING 21–23 MINS

PAPER 3 **Speaking**

Discuss one of two stimulus cards on the course themes, then present and discuss your **Individual Research Project**: a question of your own choice about the Spanish-speaking world, researched from sources in Spanish.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy Spanish and want to become genuinely fluent.
- You're curious about Spain, Latin America and the wider world.
- You like forming your own opinions and debating them.
- **Worth knowing:** accuracy matters, so you'll need to read, listen and watch in Spanish independently every week.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **Spoken by more than 500 million people** in Spain, South America, the United States and even the Philippines.
- **One of the top five languages for business**, with linguists in demand across many industries.
- **University degrees:** Spanish is a respected academic subject and combines well with almost any degree.
- **Skills for life:** confident communication, critical thinking and an understanding of other cultures.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **grade 5 in GCSE Spanish (Higher tier)**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Help younger students with their speaking each week, get support to organise work experience abroad, and keep your Spanish growing through films, music, podcasts and the news.

LEVEL 3 SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Move it. Coach it. Lead it.

This course is not just about being able to play sport. It gives you the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress to **higher education, an apprenticeship or employment** in sport, leisure or fitness. It is equivalent to one A Level.

BIG IDEAS

Body systems
The body's short- and long-term responses to physical activity.

Coaching
Planning and leading sports and activity sessions.

Sport in the UK
How sport is organised and the organisations involved.

Skills for life
Planning, communication, adaptability and leadership.

The three mandatory units make up two-thirds of your grade.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

25% EXAM · 1 HR 30

UNIT 1 **Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity**

Mandatory. Written paper, 70 marks: multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

25% INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

UNIT 2 **Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership**

Mandatory. Assessed in school and moderated by OCR.

17% EXAM · 1 HR

UNIT 3 **Sports Organisation and Development**

Mandatory. Written paper, 60 marks, including questions that draw on Units 1 and 2.

33% INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

UNITS 8 AND 17 **Organisation of Sports Events · Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation**

Two optional units, about 17% each. Assessed in school and moderated by OCR.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You want to understand sport, leisure and fitness, not just play.
- You're involved in sport or physical activity, in or out of school.
- You're confident with data, graphs and formulae.
- **Worth knowing:** about 40% exams, 60% assessed in school. Each exam can be resat twice.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** such as Sports Coaching, Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Science, Sport Development and Sport Business Management.
- **Apprenticeships and work** in the sport and leisure industry.
- **UCAS tariff points**, and it sits well alongside A Levels such as Biology or Physics.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths, plus **a Merit in Cambridge National Sport Science or Sport Studies, or grade 5 in GCSE PE**, and evidence of involvement in sport.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

University visits, coaching qualifications, sports industry speakers and a sports industry visit.

A LEVEL THEOLOGY

Ask it. Weigh it. Defend it.

Does God exist? Why is there suffering? How should we live? Theology takes on the questions that matter most. You'll study **philosophy of religion, ethics and the development of Christian thought**, weighing up thinkers from Plato and Aquinas to Freud and Bonhoeffer, and building arguments that are your own.

BIG IDEAS

Philosophy of religion
Arguments for God, religious experience, the problem of evil and religious language.

Ethics
Ethical theories put to work on euthanasia, business, sex and conscience.

Christian thought
How Christian beliefs about God, Jesus, life and death have developed.

Faith and society
Pluralism, gender, secularism and liberation theology today.

60% of the marks are for analysis and evaluation, so building a strong argument matters most.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 1 **Philosophy of Religion**

Plato and Aristotle, and the soul, mind and body. Then the arguments for God's existence (**design, cosmological and ontological**), religious experience, the problem of evil, the nature of God, and whether religious language can be meaningful.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 2 **Religion and Ethics**

Four ethical theories, **natural law, situation ethics, Kantian ethics and utilitarianism**, applied to euthanasia and business ethics. Plus meta-ethics, conscience in Aquinas and Freud, and sexual ethics.

33⅓%
EXAM · 2 HRS

PAPER 3 **Developments in Christian Thought**

Augustine on human nature, death and the afterlife, knowledge of God and the person of Jesus. Then Christianity in action and in society: **Bonhoeffer**, pluralism, gender and feminist theology, secularism, and liberation theology and Marx.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

- You enjoy asking big questions and don't settle for easy answers.
- You like debating and can back up your views with reasons and evidence.
- You're curious about what people believe and why, whether or not you're religious yourself.
- **Worth knowing:** there's no coursework. You sit three 2-hour exams, answering three essays from a choice of four on each.

WHERE CAN IT TAKE ME?

- **University degrees** in law, politics, international relations and philosophy.
- **Careers** in law, business management and the civil service.
- **Debating skills** that carry straight into politics.
- **Skills that transfer:** analysis, evaluation and extended written argument, valued across further and higher education.
- It pairs well with Politics, Sociology and Psychology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five grade 5s at GCSE, including English Language and Maths. No previous study of Theology needed.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Educational conferences and talks from people working in the field. Keep thinking at home: watch *The Good Place* on Netflix and listen to *The Panpsycast* podcast.

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC

SIXTH FORM

EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE

Centred on you.
Embrace what's next.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A COURSE?

Come to our open evening, or get in touch with the Sixth Form team.

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