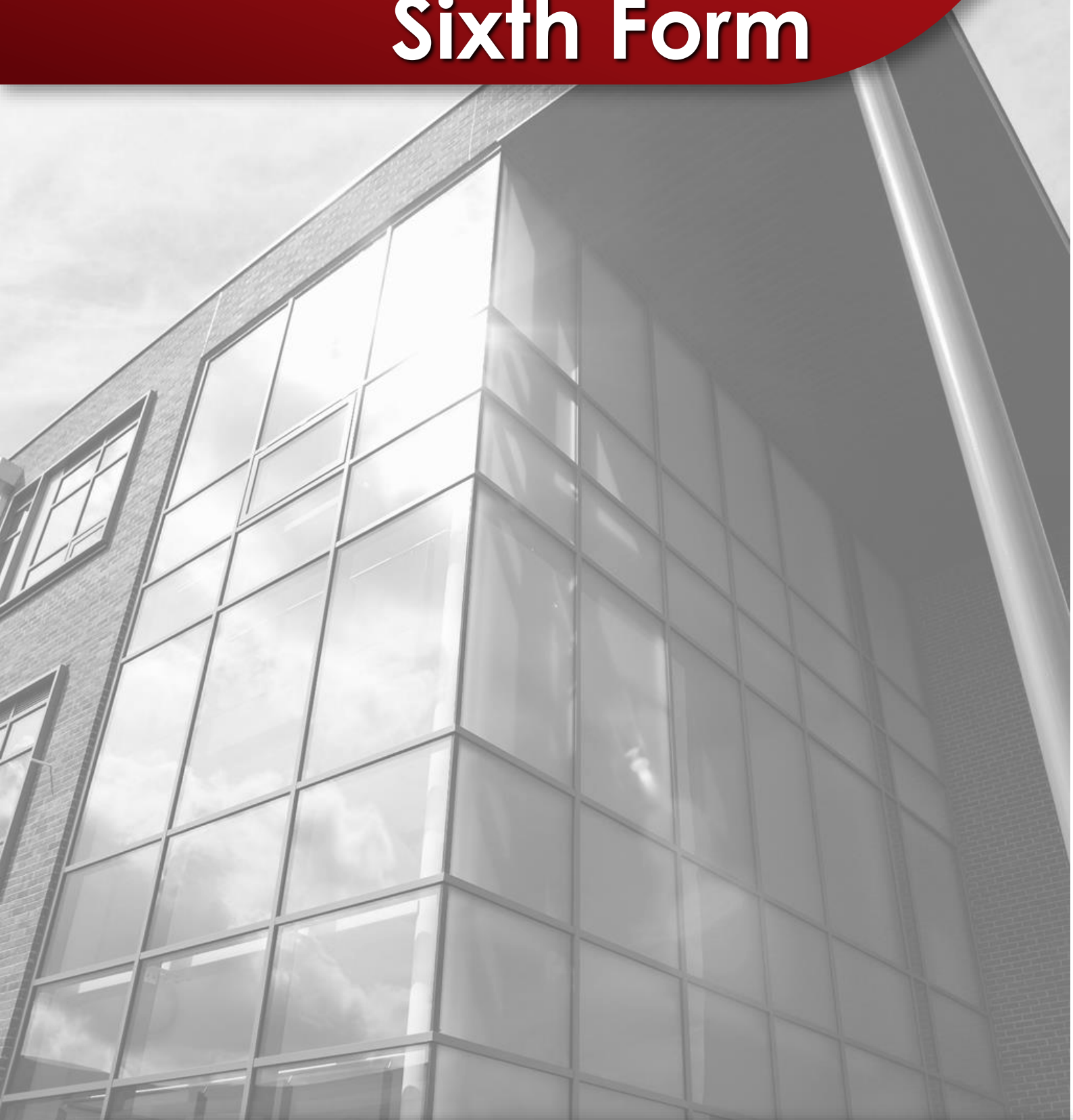




*DARE TO BE WISE*  
at  
DURHAM JOHNSTON  
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

# Sixth Form



**Course Guide | 2026 Entry**



## ***Welcome to one of the top Sixth Form Comprehensives in England***

Durham Johnston's Sixth Form is a school community of approximately 350 students. We are proud of our traditional, academic ethos and our outstanding track record of A-Level exam success which has received national recognition. We are an experienced and supportive staff team that has consistently proven successful in helping students to perform at their best, making the successful transition to university and the world of work. The majority of our students go on to study at university, gaining entry onto the most competitive degree courses in the UK. For those of our young adults where the traditional route of Higher Education is not their preferred destination, they too are very successful in securing places in Degree Apprenticeships, training contracts and employment.

Durham Johnston's Sixth Form students exemplify the very best of our school community. They work hard, achieve well, and leave us as socially-conscious, informed citizens. Whether it be through charitable fund-raising, volunteering and mentoring, weekly sixth form committee, the range of student societies or the school's House System, our young people flourish in an environment that nurtures the development of their character, their independent decision making and their academic capability.

We share the students' ambitions and are proud to help them in their preparation for life in university, employment and beyond.

***Sapere Aude – Dare to be wise***





# Sixth Form Course Details

This booklet tells you everything you need to know about the courses available in the Sixth Form at Durham Johnston. It should be read in conjunction with our guide to Life in the Sixth Form. Further details are available on our website. As well as A-Level courses we also offer the Extended Project Qualification (AQA) to develop your skills, super curricular enrichment and project management experience.

There is also a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities which we encourage students to take part in. As would be expected from a community working with young people, we seek to nurture, challenge and improve.

## Sixth Form - Key Dates for September 2026 Entry

6th October 2025	Sixth Form Open Evening
7th October 2025	Application opens
<b>5th November 2025</b>	<b>Application submission deadline</b>
26th June 2026	Option blocks, based on application choices, published
26th June 2026	<b>Sixth Form Induction Day – compulsory for applicants</b>
20th August 2026	GCSE results, registration and confirmation of places

**We accept applications throughout the year but those received by 5<sup>th</sup> November will be processed first, by the end of 2025.**

## Entry criteria

Students are required to achieve **five good passes (grades 9-4 in five GCSE subjects including Maths and English) with a minimum of three grade 6s achieved.**

In addition, there are entry requirements for each subject (see next page and following subject pages) as some A levels have minimum grades above the grade 6 threshold and may also require grade 6 performance in more than one qualifying GCSE.

The running of any course depends on level of demand in order that they can be timetabled. Note that the minimum entry requirement is not a target. GCSE grades go on UCAS forms and job applications with higher grades often used as a filter for selection. Students should aim as high as they can to attain the very best outcomes possible.

**We have no catchment area at post-16 and welcome applications from across County Durham and beyond.**



## Course entry requirements for courses running in 2026:

Subject	Specific subject grade(s)	Maths grade	English grade
<b>Art</b>	<b>6 in Art or Photography or by portfolio</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Biology	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology	5	5
Business	6 in Business (if taken - see course details)	5	4
Chemistry	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry	6	4
Classical Civilisation	5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	4	5
Computer Science	6 in Computer Science -See course details	6	4
Economics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	6	5
English Language	5 in English Language	4	5
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>6 in English Literature and Language</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Ethics & Philosophy	6 in a humanity e.g. History, Geography, RE (full course)	4	5
French	6 in French	4	5
Geography	6 in Geography (if taken - see course details)	5	5
German	6 in German	4	5
History	6 in History (if taken - see course details)	4	5
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics	7	4
Further Mathematics	8 in Mathematics (See course details)	8	4
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography if taken</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Music	<b>6 in Music or Grade 5 theory, plus at least Grade 5 ABRSM performance standard</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	6 in PE	4	5
Physics	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Physics	6	5
Politics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	4	5
Psychology	2 6s from Science, Maths or Humanities	5	5
Sociology	5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography if taken	4	5
Spanish	6 in Spanish	4	5

Subjects in **bold** are not available at AS-Level. The running of any course depends on level of demand in order that they can be timetabled.

We may also run additional A-Levels, dependent on student interest. For 2026, we may be able to run Criminology and Environmental Science. If you are interested in these subjects. Please indicate so on the application form.



## The A-Level curriculum at Durham Johnston

We focus on A-Levels since these are the established “Gold Standard” qualifications known and relied on by universities and employers. They work well for us in our students achieving outstanding grades and progress from GCSE. If you would like to look at details on other types of courses, sources of information are listed at the back of this booklet. Since the year 2000 students have generally taken four courses in Year 12 and then focused on three A-Levels during Year 13. However, around 10% of our students have taken four courses through to full A level and we expect this may continue. The advantages of the four course Year 12 are firstly that it boosts students’ UCAS points score and secondly but much more importantly, that it defers the decision of the final three A-Levels until the students have tried out the courses. We wish to retain this advantage, so students take four subjects in Year 12. At the end of Year 12 students will, if possible, take AS exams in the courses they may not continue. These exam entry choices will be made following December trial exams. In the courses where students are not taking the external AS, internal exams in the summer term will decide Year 13 course progression and inform UCAS predictions. It is possible to take just three A-Level courses, but it is important that they are the right three for you.

## Choosing your courses

This is a major step and one which deserves time and attention. The general advice is to choose subjects which you find interesting – when you go from about ten subjects to four and spend five lessons plus four to five hours homework each week on a course, it really helps to want to do it. Secondly, play to your strengths; universities will offer places on the basis of grades so look at how you have done so far, use teachers’ advice and look at what the courses involve. Thirdly be aware of any requirements of the courses or careers you may be interested in. At the very least, research entry requirements - websites such as UCAS are good for this (some examples are given on the back inside cover of this booklet) - and let us know on your application form so we can include it in your interview. The fourth subject is an opportunity to broaden your education. This might mean keeping on a real passion in Art, for example, but more often it is a chance to develop a relevant skill such as Maths or a language to support your university application and future employability. It is important to check that the AS qualification is available if you only intend to study the subject in Year 12.

## Preparing for your courses

You will be given guidance on this as time goes on but in general you should research carefully your choices and probably review them as you find out more from mock results etc. The best long-term foundation will be built by paying attention to media items linked to your courses and starting to develop your background reading. All of you need to be aware that GCSE results will be increasingly important in applications for university and for employment and you should be working hard from now on.

The details in this booklet are correct at the time of going to print. There may be further developments in curriculum, university admissions etc. which impact on our offer. We will keep applicants informed if this happens.





# Art and Design

Awarding Body **OCR**

*Note - certification in this course is not available at AS-Level*

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE Art, Design or Photography. Candidates who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A-Level Art and Design must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with Head of Department. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Art need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Durham Johnston Art Department is offering the two-year linear Art and Design A-Level, with the option of the AS qualification in year 12. The following titles are being offered:

- Art, Craft & Design (H600)
- Fine Art (H601)
- Graphic Communication (H602)
- Textile Design (H604)
- Three-dimensional Design (H605)
- Photography (H603)

## Assessment

Component 01: Personal investigation 60%

- A practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in response to a set theme. The portfolio may be presented in a format appropriate to the specialism and area of study chosen.
- A related study using words and illustrations demonstrating the context in which their portfolio exists, exploring the relevant genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the selected theme.

Component 02: Externally set task 40%

- Students can choose a starting point from any of the seven given themes for which they will generate an appropriate personal response for assessment. They will carry out preparatory work to research, plan and develop their ideas, before engaging in 15 hours of supervised time to complete their work.

## Careers and skills

A-Level Art is highly valued for careers in architecture, graphic design, illustration and advertising, fashion and textiles, film and TV, print making, 3D design, ceramics and jewellery, photography, art therapy, community and performance art.



# Biology

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Biology. If Combined Science, then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Biology papers 1 & 2 and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Biology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Biology A-Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand-alone AS-level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks).

Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A-Level.

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

## Assessment

In Year 12, two papers, 1½ hours each, assess any content from modules 1 to 4.

In Year 13, there are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all 6 modules (1½ hours)

For Year 13 at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

*Practical endorsement (Year 13 only)*

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This will be endorsed as pass or fail but will not contribute marks towards the A level. Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

## Careers and skills

Biology is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing and the health professions, scientific research, agriculture, veterinary sciences, pharmacy, environmental sciences, forestry and teaching.



# Business

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE Business (if taken), grade 5 in Maths and grade 5 in an English GCSE. It is not a requirement to have studied Business at GCSE level. Students who have not studied GCSE Business perform equally as well as those who have. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Business need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Year 12:

- Theme 1: Marketing & People
- Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Both units cover the following: external influences, marketing, operations, human resources and financial considerations.

Year 13:

- Theme 3: Business Decisions & Strategy
- Theme 4: Global Business

Year 12 themes are revisited in additional depth.

## Assessment

Year 12

- Paper 1: Marketing & People: 50% of total AS-Level, 1½ hour written paper.
- Paper 2: Managing Business Activities: 50% of total AS Level, 1½ hour written paper.

Year 13

- Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global Business: 35% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.
- Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions & Strategy: 35% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.
- Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment: 30% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.

## Careers and skills

There are few areas of work where Business does not have a part to play. Even in jobs that are technical, practical or artistic, it is useful to have an understanding of how the organisation operates, especially if you want to start climbing the management ladder. For those seeking employment, A-Level Business would be of obvious value for a wide range of careers in the business world. Universities offer a range of business-related degrees, with specialist routes in management, marketing, economics, finance, law, human resource management, information technology, European studies/languages and international business management.





# Chemistry

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Chemistry. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6, including grade 6 in Chemistry units 1 & 2.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Chemistry need to demonstrate potential for A Level success

## Course content

Chemistry A-Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand-alone AS-Level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks). Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry
- Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy
- Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry
- Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
- Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis

## Assessment

AS/Year 1: There are two papers:

- Breadth in Chemistry (1½ hours)
- Depth in Chemistry (1½ hours)

Both papers assess content from modules 1 to 4.

A-Level: There are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all six modules (1½ hours)

For Year 13, at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

Practical endorsement (Year 13 only):

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

This will be endorsed as pass or not achieved but will not contribute marks towards the A Level.

Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

## Careers and skills

Chemistry continues to be the central subject for medicine and many science-based courses. A qualification in Chemistry may lead to the following careers: chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, engineering, accountancy, law, nursing, veterinary science, pharmacology, environmental science, food and drug industries, geosciences, sports science, management consultancy and forensic science.



# Classical Civilisation

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 5 in a Humanities subject and grade 5 in English. There is no requirement to have studied any Classical subject or ancient language at GCSE. For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 Classical Civilisation need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success. Classical Civilisation is the study of the Greek and Roman worlds, combining elements of history, literature, art and philosophy. It does not involve any study of Greek or Latin language, though it can lead on to that at a higher level.

## Course content

- **The World of the Hero:** in-depth study of Homer's *Odyssey* (in Y12) and Virgil's *Aeneid* (in Y13). This component is solely focused on the study of literature in translation. 40% of total A-Level, exam 2 hours & 30 mins.
- **Culture & the Arts:** study of visual and material culture alongside literature in translation. Options include Greek Theatre and Roman Imperial Image. This component is studied in Y12, enabling you to take an AS if you wish. 30% of total A-Level, exam 1 hour & 45 mins.
- **Beliefs and Ideas:** study of an area of Classical thought, either through literature in translation or visual/material culture. Options include Greek Religion, Love and Relationships, Politics of the Late Roman Republic or Athenian Democracy. This component is studied in Y13. 30% of total A-Level, exam 1 hour & 45 mins.

## Assessment

All components are assessed by written examination. Questions include short answer questions, stimulus questions where you respond to a passage from a text or a source that you have studied and a choice of essays.

Studying two distinct but inter-related cultures which are both alien from and fundamentally linked to our own will give you a fresh insight into the politics, literature and thought of modern Britain and much of the intervening millennia.

## Careers and skills

The study of Classics develops a wide range of valuable skills – close reading of texts, analysing sources and evaluating evidence, communicating clearly and supporting an argument – which are essential for higher education and for a wide range of careers. Classicists can be found in many fields ranging from academia, museums, the arts and media to politics, law, advertising, retail and beyond.



# Computer Science

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths and Computer Science if taken. Students who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A-Level Computer Science must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with a member of the Computing department. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Computer Science need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It involves computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. Key content includes:

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices;
- Software and software development;
- Exchanging data;
- Data types, data structures and algorithms;
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues;
- Elements of computational thinking;
- Problem solving and programming;
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

Students will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

1. Analysis of the problem.
2. Design of the solution.
3. Developing the solution.
4. Evaluation

## Assessment

Year 12

- Paper 1 – Programming and the theory of computation – 75 marks. 1 hr 45 minutes (50%)
- Paper 2 – The fundamentals of computer architecture and networking – 75 marks. 1 hr 30 minutes (50%)

Year 13

- Paper 1 - Programming and the theory of computation – 100 marks. 2hrs 30 mins on-screen exam (40%)
- Paper 2 - The fundamentals of computer architecture and networking 2hrs 30 mins written exam (40%)
- NEA 75 marks (20%)

## Careers and skills

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computer Science and go on to a career in software and hardware development, IT systems management, Business, any type of science and many other areas.



# Economics

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 5 in an English GCSE plus grade 6 in a Humanity subject.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Economics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Year 12:

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure; supply and demand; the economic problem; government intervention in markets e.g. taxes and subsidies; examples of market failure such public goods and externalities
- Theme 2: The UK economy performance and policies; aggregate demand and supply; inflation; unemployment; the balance of payments; fiscal policy; monetary policy; conflicts between objectives and policies

Year 13:

- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market; the objectives of firms; the growth of firms; costs, revenue and profit; market structures; the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective; international economics; the financial sector; poverty and inequality; emerging and developing economies; role of the state in the macro economy

## Assessment

Year 12: The exam is based on two 1½ hour papers (covering themes 1 and 2).

Year 13: The exam is based on three 2-hour papers (covering all four themes). The papers consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended open-response questions – and make use of case studies.

## Careers and skills

Management, administration, banking, politics, teaching and accountancy. A pass in Economics is also a very good general qualification for many degree courses and for all careers. It is evidence that the candidate can think logically and analytically, write clearly and cope with numerical problems.



# English Language

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE Grade 6 in English Language.

For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 English Language need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Paper One: Language, the individual and society. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours

- Section A: Textual Variations and Representations. Two texts linked by topic or theme. Each text is analysed separately and then the final question requires comparison of the two texts.
- Section B: Children's Language Development - An evaluative essay on children's language development from a choice of two questions.

Paper Two: Language Diversity and change. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours.

- Section A: Diversity and Change. An evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change.
- Section B: Language Discourses. A question requiring a comparative analysis of how texts use language to present views on a contemporary language issue. This is then followed by a directed writing task linked to the same topic and ideas in the texts.

Coursework is 20% of total A-Level

- A language investigation is produced (2000 words). In addition, students will complete a piece of original writing with a commentary (1500 words in total).

## Assessment

Paper One: Language, the individual and society. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours

Paper Two: Language Diversity and change. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours.

Coursework is 20% of total A-Level

## Careers and skills

There is a wide range of possibilities: English Language is highly valued for careers in the media, police, business, law, social services, civil service and education. In fact, any career where language and communication skills are important. Many universities offer an English Language or Linguistics degree and all value A-Level English Language.



# English Literature

Awarding Body **AQA**

*Note - certification in this course is not available at AS-Level*

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 English Literature need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

English Literature is ideal for students who enjoy reading; the course covers a range of texts from F Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' to Shakespeare's 'Othello'. At Durham Johnston, we study AQA Specification A that has a historicist approach to the study of literature, working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced. An example of this is the unit on 'Modern Times: literature from 1945 to the present day', in which students study texts such as 'The Colour Purple', considering how readers would respond to it at the time it was published and now; as well as how it reflects common themes and motifs of the period or genre. Furthermore, English Literature provides good scope for independent thinking in that the Non-Examination Unit is a piece that students choose themselves. With guidance, students select two texts of their choice and create their own question. This leads to high engagement and highly engaging pieces of coursework.

## Assessment

Paper One: Love Through the Ages: 40% of total A Level, 3 hours.

- Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (closed book).
- Section B: Unseen poetry: comparing two unseen poems.
- Section C: Comparing two texts that have been studied in class (open book).

Paper Two: Texts in Context: 40% of total A Level, 2½ hours.

- Section A: Set Texts: One essay on a set text that has been studied in class (open book).
- Section B: Unseen Prose.
- Section C: Comparing two further set texts that have been studied in class (open book).

Non-Examination Unit: 20% of total A Level

- 2500 word essay comparing two texts of the student's choice; one of which must have been written pre-1900.

## Careers and skills

English Literature is excellent preparation for careers in the arts, journalism, or English teaching. The course develops skills in close reading, making presentations, structuring arguments, problem solving and working with others that are essential in many jobs including the law, banking, administration, marketing, advertising and any job where management skills are required.





# Ethics and Philosophy (Religious Studies)

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 5 in GCSE English and a grade 6 in a Humanities subject (Religious Education, History or Geography).

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Religious Studies need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Candidates focus on three components:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religious Ethics
- Developments in Religious Thought - Christianity

## Assessment

All components are assessed by written examination.

### Year 12

There will be an examination paper for each of the three components. Each paper, lasting 1½ hours, will consist of five questions. Candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 90 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

### Year 13

There will be an examination paper for each of the three components. Each paper, lasting 2 hours, will consist of five questions. Candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 120 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

## Careers and skills

Religious Studies develops a range of skills such as critical thinking, textual knowledge and evaluation. The subject will help you form incisive arguments, give you empathy for people whose beliefs and world views are different from your own, and help you to understand what it means to live in a culturally diverse world. The study of Religion, Ethics and Philosophy will be useful for a variety of careers and courses: teaching, law, management, lecturer, ministry, medicine, advertising, Civil Service, journalism, business, philosophy, politics, police, social work, writer and any other careers which involve working with people from different cultural and social backgrounds.



# French

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in French and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 French need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

In Year 12 the Advanced Level course in French enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

In Year 13 the course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary French society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

## Assessment

Year 12: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

Year 13: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

## Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



# Geography

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in geography, grade 5 in an English GCSE and grade 5 in Maths. However, it is possible to study A-Level geography without having taken the subject at GCSE as long as your other GCSE grades are strong, and you undertake some additional preparatory reading. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Geography need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Year 12/AS-Level

Topics studied:

- Coasts
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Changing Places
- Skills, Stats and Fieldwork

Year 13/A-Level

Topics studied:

- Carbon and Water Cycles
- Hazards
- Global Systems and Governance
- NEA (coursework)

Fieldwork

You will carry out 4 days of fieldwork during your A Level geography course. Two of those days will be in Year 12 and will consist of one visit to a stretch of coastline and one visit to an urban area. These visits are to enable you to develop fieldwork and data processing techniques.

## Assessment

Year 12/AS Level

- Component 1: Coasts and Urban. 1½ hours (50%)
- Component 2: Changing Places and Fieldwork/Skills/Stats. 1½ hour (50%)

Year 13 /A Level

- Component 1: Physical Geography. 2½ hours (40%)
- Component 2: Human Geography. 2½ hours (40%)
- Component 3: NEA (coursework) (20%)

## Careers and skills

Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geographers enter a very wide range of career areas and, put simply, there is no such thing as a geography job, there are jobs that geographers do. Studying geography provides you with valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. (Royal Geographical Association).



# German

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in German and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 German need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

In Year 12 German enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One film
- Grammar

In Year 13 the course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary German society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society. Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

## Assessment

Year 12: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

Year 13: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

## Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



# Government and Politics

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and a 6 in a humanity e.g. Geography or History is required. A genuine interest is the main requirement needed from students who take this course. A student who studies Government and Politics as an A-Level subject will be one who wants to understand current affairs in depth.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Government and Politics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Politics has three papers which focus on:

1. Government and politics in the UK
  - Constitution, Devolution, Parliament, PM, Cabinet and the Judiciary
  - Democracy, participation, elections, parties and pressure groups
2. Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
  - Constitution, Congress, President, Supreme Court
  - Parties, pressure groups, elections, participation
  - Comparative politics between the US and the UK
3. Political Ideologies
  - Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Anarchism.

## Assessment

Year 12

Two 1 hr 45 mins papers examining Government and Politics in the UK.

Year 13

Three 2 hour papers (one on each section) which consist of a combination of short answers and extended essay writing.

## Careers and skills

An A-Level course in Government and Politics is good preparation for anyone considering a degree in sociology, social studies, history, law, economics, business studies and public administration. It should also provide vital information for any student considering a career in journalism, law, social work and local or central government.



# History

Awarding Body **OCR**

**Note - Those studying History should expect to complete the full A-Level course. The AS-Level contains the same content as Year 12 History, but is examined differently & requires support beyond Y12 classes.**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in History if taken and grade 5 in an English GCSE. It is not absolutely essential for an exceptional candidate to have studied GCSE History before embarking on a study of the subject at A-Level. New students to the course should complete additional preparatory reading. For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 History need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Year 12: Students will study units 1 and 2 and start unit 3.

Year 13: Students will study units 3 and 4 and revisit units 1 and 2.

- Unit 1 (Y113) Britain 1930–1997. (Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951)
- Unit 2 (Y213) The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815.
- Unit 3 (Y319) Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992.
- Unit 4 (Y100) A final 4th module will involve independent research on the period 1945–1997. Students will complete a 4,000 word essay; this is an internally assessed unit.

## Assessment

Year 12: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

Year 13: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

## Careers and skills

This subject is ideal for any student intending to work in the academic field of history. It can also transfer well if students wish to be a lawyer, journalist, accountant, banker, manager, administrator, architect or civil servant. It is a highly regarded subject and provides excellent training in constructing an argument, debating, analysis, undertaking research and thinking critically.





# Mathematics

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

The course is specialised and demanding and therefore a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics should be regarded as the absolute minimum.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

There is a fixed content for AS and A-Level Mathematics. All students will study a mixture of pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics. Both AS and A-Level Mathematics are  $\frac{2}{3}$  pure mathematics,  $\frac{1}{6}$  mechanics and  $\frac{1}{6}$  statistics.

## Assessment

Year 12/AS

- Paper 1 - Pure and statistics (1½ hours)
- Paper 2 - Pure and mechanics (1½ hours)

Year 13/A-Level

- Paper 1 - Pure (2 hours)
- Paper 2 - Pure and statistics (2 hours)
- Paper 3 - Pure and mechanics (2 hours)

100% of the assessment is by examination. There is no coursework.

The use of calculators (including graphical calculators) is permitted in all exams. You will require an advanced calculator with built-in statistical distribution functions. The calculator you used for GCSE and the "advanced" calculators available in the shops will not be good enough.

A current non-graphical calculator which is suitable is the Casio Fx-991CW Classwiz, and is our preferred calculator.

If you are considering buying a graphical calculator instead, please seek advice from the Maths department before you make a purchase.

## Careers and skills

With numbers, statistics and computers so much part of modern life, an AS or A-Level in Mathematics is one of the most generally useful qualifications. A-Level Mathematics is essential for degree study in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics, and often required for courses in Computer Science, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Operational Research, Architecture and Accountancy. With statistics being widely used in many occupations this subject can be useful support for students of Geography, Social Sciences, Psychology and Biology. Other career areas where Mathematics is useful include banking, insurance, science of all types and the armed services.



# Mathematics

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 8 in Maths. The standard of this course is high. If you intend on studying Further Maths, you must also choose to study Maths. Further Mathematics students often choose to complete four A-levels but this is not assumed.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Further Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

AS-Level Further Mathematics is comprised of  $\frac{1}{3}$  Compulsory Pure Maths with  $\frac{2}{3}$  made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

A-Level Further Mathematics is comprised of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Compulsory Pure Maths with  $\frac{1}{2}$  made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

## Assessment

AS-Level Further Maths exams at the end of Year 12

- Compulsory Pure Maths (75 minutes)
- Additional Pure Maths (75 minutes)
- Mechanics (75 minutes)
- Statistics (75 minutes)

A-Level Further Maths exams at the end of Year 13

- Compulsory Pure Maths 1 (90 minutes)
- Compulsory Pure Maths 2 (90 minutes)
- Additional Pure Maths (90 minutes)
- Mechanics (90 minutes)
- Statistics (90 minutes)

## Careers and skills

The depth and breadth of study provided by A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics create a strong foundation for any career with a mathematical content such as science, engineering, banking, accountancy or insurance. The most selective universities may have a very strong preference for students applying to some courses to have taken Further Mathematics. These include Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science and Economics. Students should check UCAS for further details.



# Media Studies

Awarding Body **Eduqas**

**Note - certification in this course is not available at AS Level**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 4 in a GCSE English. No previous study of Media at GCSE is required. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Media Studies need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework

## Assessment

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences.

- Written examination: 2¼ hours at the end of Year 13. The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts - 35% of qualification.
- Section A: Media Language and Representation – two analytical questions on Unseen texts
- Section B: Media Industries and Audiences – two analytical questions on set texts

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

- Written examination: 2½ hours at the end of Year 13. This unit is completed in Year 12 and 13 - 35% of qualification. There are 3 extended essay questions based on the set texts studied for each module – TV, Magazines and Online Media

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework.

- To be completed by the end of autumn term in Year 13 - 30% of qualification.

## Careers and skills

Media Studies is a valuable and highly regarded qualification, leading directly to many media-based careers. The moral and ethical debates students engage with, and the analytical and investigative approach developed, are excellent training for a wide range of careers including law, politics, journalism, social services, civil service and teaching. Any area which requires critical thinking and excellent communication skills would be well served by a Media Studies student.



# Music

Awarding Body **Eduqas**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE Music. At the end of the course you will need to be able to perform to a standard approximate to grade 6, so an entry standard of Grade 4/5 is desirable on your instrument or voice. It is not necessary to actually perform graded pieces or to have undertaken graded exams. The grades are given here as a guide to the standard expected. We can provide instrument/singing lessons in school if required.

GCSE Music is understandably desirable, however a combination of strong performance skills and ABRSM Theory to around Grade 5 would be a suitable alternative we can consider.

## Course content

The Eduqas Music A level provides an inspiring, highly enjoyable and educational course. It allows you to truly develop your musicianship, listening skills and understanding of music. Through the study of some amazing set works you will learn how to understand and analyse a wide range of music from classical and 20th century art music through to pop, jazz and musical theatre. You will be taught the art of musical performance, and work with some exceptional musicians to develop a very personal performance programme. Finally, you will write your own compositions, in a style of your choosing, with inspiring guidance from very supportive tutors. It is possible to present a performance across multiple instruments/voice and styles. You will be taught to look way beyond the performance of the notes, with a strong focus on stage presence, interpretation and deportment.

## Assessment

Performance options:

35% of A level (10-12 minute programme) or 25% of A level (6-8 minute programme)

Composition options:

35% of A level (6-8 minutes in total) or 25% of A level (4-6 minutes in total)

Examination:

One listening examination (40%)

## Careers and skills

For those wishing to access the music industry, in particular applications to University Music degrees or music conservatoire, A level Music is the accepted pre-requisite. However, Music is also a very diverse subject, requiring significant commitment to the development of a wide range of skills, such as creative thought, analysis, and interpersonal collaboration and teamwork. Music can also provide a creative balance alongside more classroom/laboratory-based A level subjects, developing independent study and cultivating interpersonal skills through the examination of music as a communicative language.



# Physical Education

Awarding Body **AQA**

**Note – certification in this course is not available at AS-Level**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE PE and grade 4 in an English. In individual cases, alternative P.E. qualifications may be considered.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physical Education need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

The course builds upon the student experience from GCSE to enhance knowledge and increase understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in PE. The qualification looks to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work. Students will have the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles in sport such as performer, official and/or leader/coach. The content of the course will address current contemporary issues. Topics will include the impact of the use of ergogenic aids, technology and increasing commercialisation of sport.

## Assessment

Year 13 - Paper 1: Written 2-hour exam – 35% of A-Level. Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

- Section A – Applied anatomy and physiology
- Section B – Skill acquisition
- Section C – Sport and society

Paper 2: Written 2-hour exam – 35% of A-Level. Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity

- Section A – Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B – Sports psychology
- Section C – Sport and society and technology in sport

Practical performance - 30% of A-Level. Students assessed as a player/performer or in full sided version of one activity plus written analysis and evaluation of performance

## Careers and skills

Sports at all levels in civilian life and the Services, leisure and recreation industries, youth services, education and related fields such as some medical careers. The subject provides a useful background in the scientific study of the working of the human body and the growing leisure sector that is valuable for a number of courses in Higher Education.



# Music

Awarding Body **OCR**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Physics. If Combined Science, then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Physics units 1 & 2. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physics need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Year 12

Modules Physics A (H156):

- Development of practical skills
- Foundations of physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons

Year 13

Modules Physics A (H556):

- Development of practical skills
- Foundations of physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics

## Assessment

Year 12

Two 1½ hour written exams.

Exams sat in Year 12 do not count towards the full A-Level grades as it is a linear course.

Year 13

Two 2¼ hour exams and one 1½ hour written exam based on Year 12 and 13 modules. Students also need to pass a teacher assessed practical set of tasks.

## Careers and skills

Physics A-Level is a requirement of many science, and most engineering courses in higher education. Physicists find employment in many areas: e.g. astronomy, computing, aeronautics, the automotive industry, electronics, laboratory work, radiography, engineering, (electrical, mechanical, civil), communications, optical, forensic science, armed forces, music, entertainment, geophysics, energy and the environment and finance.





# Psychology

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths and 2 6s from Science, Maths or Humanities (e.g. R.E., Geography or History).

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Psychology need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

### Year 12

- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - looking at symptoms, causes and treatments of OCD, Phobias and Depression.
- Social Influence – the effects of conformity, obedience and minority influence
- Memory – theories of memory and forgetting, application to EWT and how memory can be improved
- Attachment – how childhood attachment affects adult relationships
- Approaches & Biopsychology – Theories in Psychology
- Research Methods – Scientific principles of how to carry out research in Psychology .

### Year 13

- Gender – theories of gender, gender identities including binary, non-binary, and gender incongruence.
- Schizophrenia – symptoms, theories and treatments of schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology – biological and psychological explanations of crime, offender profiling and treatment of offenders
- Approaches in Psychology – comparison of theories
- Biopsychology - Biological basis of behaviour, brain, CNS
- Research Methods – development of scientific principles
- Issues & Debates – nature/nurture, freewill/determinism, ideographic/nomothetic, holism/reductionism, gender bias and cultural bias and social sensitivity in psychological research.

## Assessment

AS-Level: Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

A-Level: Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

## Careers and skills

Psychology A-Level prepares you for a variety of careers including: child psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, educational psychology and sports psychology. With the increasing demand from employers for general and transferable skills there are many other excellent employment prospects for graduates. Psychology can be advantageous to a wide variety of other careers including: medicine, law, advertising, sales, social work, personnel management, careers guidance, police and broadcasting.



# Psychology

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths and 2 6s from Science, Maths or Humanities (e.g. R.E., Geography or History).

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Psychology need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

### Year 12

- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - looking at symptoms, causes and treatments of OCD, Phobias and Depression.
- Social Influence – the effects of conformity, obedience and minority influence
- Memory – theories of memory and forgetting, application to EWT and how memory can be improved
- Attachment – how childhood attachment affects adult relationships
- Approaches & Biopsychology – Theories in Psychology
- Research Methods – Scientific principles of how to carry out research in Psychology .

### Year 13

- Gender – theories of gender, gender identities including binary, non-binary, and gender incongruence.
- Schizophrenia – symptoms, theories and treatments of schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology – biological and psychological explanations of crime, offender profiling and treatment of offenders
- Approaches in Psychology – comparison of theories
- Biopsychology - Biological basis of behaviour, brain, CNS
- Research Methods – development of scientific principles
- Issues & Debates – nature/nurture, freewill/determinism, ideographic/nomothetic, holism/reductionism, gender bias and cultural bias and social sensitivity in psychological research.

## Assessment

AS-Level: Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

A-Level: Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

## Careers and skills

Psychology A-Level prepares you for a variety of careers including: child psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, educational psychology and sports psychology. With the increasing demand from employers for general and transferable skills there are many other excellent employment prospects for graduates. Psychology can be advantageous to a wide variety of other careers including: medicine, law, advertising, sales, social work, personnel management, careers guidance, police and broadcasting.



# Sociology

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in an English or 5 in a humanities subject (Geography or History).

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Sociology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

## Course content

### Year 12

- Work, Poverty and Welfare: The definition and measurement of poverty. The causes of poverty. The impact of the Welfare State on poverty. What is work?
- Education: Class, race, gender and educational achievement. The functions of education. The hidden curriculum. The impact of educational reforms.
- Sociological Methods: The main methods and sources used by sociologists and their relationship to theory, e.g. interviews, questionnaires and observation.

### Year 13

- Global Development: Different theories of development, Globalisation, Role of transnational corporations, Development in relation to industrialisation, Urbanisation, The Environment, War and conflict, Education, Health, Gender and population change as aspects of development.
- Crime and Deviance: The causes of crime. Perspectives on crime and deviance. Corporate and white collar crime. Crime statistics – how useful are they?
- Theory and Methods: This involves re-examining the material covered earlier plus issues such as:
  - values and objectives
  - the nature of social 'facts'
  - is Sociology a Science?
  - 'structural' v 'action' approaches to Sociology
  - 'consensus' v 'conflict' approaches to Sociology

## Assessment

Year 12: Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

Year 13 : Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

## Careers and skills

Social work, management, administration, the police service and teaching - in fact, any area where dealing with people is important and for many other careers. A pass in Sociology is evidence of the candidate's ability to write clearly, think analytically and to cope with a large amount of information.



# Spanish

Awarding Body **AQA**

## Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Spanish and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Spanish need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

## Course content

Year 12

A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

Year 13

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

## Assessment

Year 12

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

Year 13

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

## Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



## What our students say: this subject is great because...

<b>Art</b> Creativity, freedom of choice of what you want to explore and study, and I was also surprised by how deep and mind broadening the subject is.	<b>Biology</b> There are a lot of practicals in biology which help you understand the content a lot more as you're applying what you've learnt to a real-life situation.	<b>Business</b> I had never taken business before, so it was entirely new to me. However, it ended up becoming my favourite subject as I ended up learning the most from it as it is all around us. You notice more things day to day. The way it is taught by the teachers keeps you very engaged and interested.	<b>Chemistry</b> It helps further explain why things work which is both interesting and helpful to give more depth to other science subjects. You're given more freedom and trust with practicals which helps develop confidence with skills.	<b>Computer Science</b> It's challenging but the small class size means that you always have someone you can ask for help when you get stuck. Teamwork is really important.
<b>Economics</b> It allows me to understand the social and economic conflicts occurring around the world through simple fundamental chains of reasoning, authorizing me to use high depth theory to orchestrate the correct pivot for a specific financial state.	<b>English Language</b> English Language at A-Level is so different to GCSE level. You get to study language in a more in-depth and scientific way, covering a range of topics. You move from looking at written texts in Year 11 to seeing how areas such as accents and gender influence our language, as well as how children learn to write and speak! It is really interesting.	<b>English Literature</b> The content is very interesting, and the lessons have quite a lot of class debate within them, which I prefer because it helps you to examine separate viewpoints. It's great for a future career in something like law as you can really rationalise and support your arguments.	<b>Ethics &amp; Philosophy</b> I love the critical analysis side, how you're able to pick apart each theory. The teachers also make the lessons really engaging. Finally, as there are three different branches (DCT, Phil, and Ethics) that you study at the same time, you never get bored.	<b>French</b> French stops being about learning answers to questions such as what's your favourite food and becomes an exploration into different cultures and thought-provoking topics. You have to be more self-motivated, but this can push you to a higher level of proficiency in the language.
<b>Geography</b> The best subject for an insight into the world we are a part of as its various components explore so much - both physical and human. Fascinating to learn about and a great mix of elements to the course.	<b>German</b> The close-knit, small class makes learning German enjoyable and often easier than GCSE level when classes are bigger. It is the most rewarding subject that I study because gaining fluency in another language is one of the most challenging things you can do. Studying German at A-level makes this a lot easier.	<b>History</b> I love this subject, because every lesson I learn something new about the world and the people who were in it previously. It's so interesting to see the patterns we as humans cannot deter from and all of the artefacts we leave behind in our paths. By looking back at History, we can see how far we have come and how much we have left to accomplish.	<b>Maths</b> With maths, the main thrill comes from a question you struggle to answer but ultimately get it right with no help. The feeling of satisfaction is great.  <b>Further Maths</b> Further maths - it's an extra challenge that lends itself to normal maths (i.e. it makes normal maths genuinely easy).	<b>Media Studies</b> Such an interesting subject that is so different to all of the others. So enjoyable but academic at the same time. Allows you to get a good balance between practical and written work.
<b>Music</b> It goes way more in depth at A level, and you learn so many more techniques and appreciate the subject more as a whole. The small class size means you get a lot of one to one teaching and support.	<b>Physical Education</b> You get to learn a wide range of topics often linking to other subjects such as psychology. It is really interesting to learn things that you can then use in your own sport and exercise routines to improve your fitness, performance and health.	<b>Physics</b> It is my favourite subject because every aspect of it has real world applications in your day-to-day life that you don't always get to observe unless you know how it works.	<b>Politics</b> The politics syllabus is relevant and up to date. I find it fascinating to learn about how the government works and to gain insight into what I've seen on the news.	<b>Psychology</b> I found myself really thinking about the behaviours of everyone around me - including myself. The skills learnt are a perfect balance of creativity and logic. The theories were interesting to try and apply to everyday life.
<b>Sociology</b> It teaches you a wide perspective on society, and can go down a degree in it and opens a good range of doors, for example for me education.	<b>Spanish</b> There's a much bigger focus on the history and culture of Spain making it even more interesting than GCSE. The Spanish film and literature elements of the course were really enjoyable.			



## **SIXTH FORM STUDENT AGREEMENT**

**In accepting a place in the Sixth Form students agree to the following:**

1. Set a good example to other students by maintaining the highest standards in work and conduct in all areas of school life
2. Make the most of every lesson by preparation, participation and consolidation
3. Make full use of private study periods in school
4. Complete all independent work and submit it by the required time
5. Attend all form periods, lessons and private study periods on timetable
6. Provide a written explanation from parents/carers of any absences
7. Act with courtesy and treat others with respect to effect the smooth running of the Sixth Form
8. Participate in and contribute positively to the school community.

## **SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT**

**For each course, you will receive:**

1. Course details/specifications;
2. A chronology of what you'll be taught and when;
3. Details of coursework deadlines and internal exam dates;
4. A programme of assessment;
5. Clear deadlines and support for each assessment;
6. Assessments marked and returned with feedback with clear deadlines;
7. Target setting with concise feedback from assessments;
8. Guidance on how to catch up on missed work;
9. File monitoring to ensure organisation and coverage of content;
10. Appropriate resources to support your progress.

## **SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM EXPECTATION**

**In each course we expect you to:**

1. Bring files/resources to every lesson;
2. Catch up on missed work in good time;
3. Request work in advance of scheduled absence;
4. Act on academic advice given to support your progress;
5. Be honest with your teacher and ask for help if you do not understand something;
6. Plan your working week including homework and part-time work;
7. Use Private Study to prepare or consolidate learning;
8. Read every day in Form Time, Private Study or at home;
9. Make use of super curricular support and opportunities;
10. Ask for help with meeting deadlines and making improvements.

**We ask a lot of you and in return we offer a gold standard,  
Sixth Form comprehensive education.**





# DURHAM JOHNSTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

— DARE TO BE WISE —

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**Registered Charity No. 516935**

*We believe that all the information in this booklet was correct when it was printed. However, we are a dynamic school, constantly improving our policies and practices.*

