

Abraham Darby Academy

Sixth Form Offer 2010

Level 3 courses

AS/A2

Most students will choose to study three/ four AS subjects in Year 12, continuing with them in Year 13 to A2 standard. For the most able students, it may be possible to take further AS Level subjects. It is expected students will reduce to three A2 Levels; four A2 Levels will be encouraged by the most able.

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Food Technology
- Geography
- German
- History
- ICT
- Law
- Music
- Mathematics
- PE
- Physics
- Product Design (3D)
- Psychology
- Religious Studies

OCR National Level 3 - Business

- OCR National Level 3 - ICT

(These subjects offer an attractive alternative to the more traditional academic A-level. Learning is assessed by way of case studies and reports although there are also written examinations. There is a twelve unit course (double award), equivalent to two A-levels, and a six-unit course (single award), equivalent to one A-level)

- BTEC National Award in Applied Science – Level 3
- BTEC National Award in Sport – Level 3
- BTEC National Award in Performing Arts – Level 3

(These courses offer an alternative to traditional academic A-levels. Learning is assessed by way of case study and reports. Assessment is through one hundred per cent coursework. The BTEC National Award is equivalent to one A-level and is a six-unit course).

- Levels 2 Package, including – GCSE English, GCSE Maths, OCR National ICT / Business

Additional course packages

ASDAN CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) equivalent to AS level

Critical Thinking

Adult Literacy /Adult Numeracy

Spanish GCSE

German GCSE

Photography – GCSE Art and Design

Compulsory (non-exam)

Recreation and Leisure / Community Service / Volunteering

Mentoring programme – IAG

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Art, Craft & Design

Why study Art, Craft & Design?

The Art, Craft & Design course has been designed to develop students as artists and designers. From an early stage students are encouraged to create work in their own individual style through workshop sessions in class time and critical study assignments at home and during study periods. Students explore a wide range of techniques, some may be new but others will be known but explored to a greater depth. The range of Artists, Designers and Craftspeople students will study is broad, ranging from traditional to contemporary. Students will explore the work as well as the context it was produced within and also any moral or social issues that may arise.

Art is a part of everyday life, the things we see, hear and read have all been designed by somebody, somewhere. This subject enables the student to develop a greater awareness of Art as a visual language in today's modern society.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least a C grade at GCSE or a Distinction level at BTEC.

What skills will I develop?

This course will enable you to:

- develop your enjoyment and skill base through the variety of workshop style sessions
- be creative with your ideas and the freedom to explore more individual concepts
- explore and experience the Art world and make informed opinions and judgements about the work you study using the written word.
- Gain a better understanding of Art history and the influences of Art on culture and style.

What is the Course content and how is it assessed?

AS Level.

Unit 1 – Coursework Portfolio.

This consists of a selected body of presented work which should show the variety and skills each student is capable of. It should contain appropriate work showing the development of ideas from initial starting points as well as selected contextual references.

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment.

The emphasis of this unit is based on the development of ideas. You will be given a choice of 5 questions. Following a period of initial preparation students are required to undertake a supervised period of 5 hours where ideas should be developed further but not necessarily into a finished piece as the project can continue after the supervised time.

A2 Level.

Unit 3 – Personal Investigation.

This is a practical unit with a written element. Students are required to develop work in response to a theme, idea, issue or concept which will then lead to a final piece or pieces. The written element needs to be between 1000 and 3000 words.

Unit 4 – Externally set Assignment. You will be given a choice of 8 questions from which you will select one and create a body of work in response. Following a period of preparation time you will then produce a final piece/pieces in a supervised period of 15 hours.

What other subjects should I study?

Art compliments most subjects but it really suits the creative student who may benefit from studying Music, Dance or any Design Technology subject.

What opportunities does A level Art, Craft and Design offer?

Students with A-level Art will have the skills needs to progress on to Art College to do foundation or foundation degree level courses. Students may decide to go and study a specialist area within Art, for example sculpture or photography at a higher level – ready for progressing onto university. Art, Craft and Design provides a base for many different career paths – education, Art history, Media, Graphic Design, Fashion Industries, Product Design and many more.

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Business Studies

Why Study Business Studies?

No matter what you choose to do, one day you will have to get a job! This course will help you to understand how businesses operate. You may even have your own business, in which case, this course should provide you with knowledge about how real businesses are organised, raise capital and recruit staff.

What Grades Will I Need?

It is recommended that you have achieved a minimum of a PASS at Level 2 OCR National In Business or a C grade at GCSE.

What Skills Will I Develop?

You will develop independent learning skills.

You will be expected to give presentations to the rest of the group.

You will learn how to create more detailed exam responses than you needed for GCSE.

What Is The Course Content & How Is It Assessed?

The course is made up of 4 elements, 2 studies in Year 12 and 2 in Year 13.

In Year 12 the 2 Units are:

Unit F291: An Introduction To Business.

This unit covers many of the topics introduced at Level 2, e.g. types of business organisation and Human Resources. It also involves new areas of study such as:

Sources of Finance, Cash Flow, Market Research and Demand/Supply.

Unit F292: Business Functions.

This unit looks *in detail* at the functions of Marketing, Finance, HR and Production.

In Year 13 the 2 Units are:

Unit F297: Strategic Management

This unit looks at the business as a whole and how it can respond to external factors. It is about long term decision making using data analysis.

I additional unit from a choice of:

F 293: Marketing

F294: Accounting

F295: People in Organisations

F296: Business Production

Assessment:

At the end of Year 12 you will sit 2 exams. (One on Unit F 291 and one on Unit F292).

At the end of Year 13 you will sit 2 exams. (One on Unit F 297 and one on the optional unit).

What Other Subjects Should I Study With Business Studies?

Business Studies can be matched with any other subject as it provides a good understanding of how businesses operate. This knowledge will enhance your ability to gain employment at the end of your courses of study.

What Opportunities Does A Level Business Studies Offer Me?

There are two main routes after studying A level Business:

To continue your education at college or university where you can study business at degree level. You could also specialise in one particular field of business, e.g. Marketing, Accounting, H.R. Most universities offer business related courses.

To enter full time employment. Here there are many and varied opportunities. Employers will look favourably upon a candidate who has followed some form of business course as it will enhance their understanding of the workplace.

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Biology

Why study Biology?

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microbes to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least a C Grade at GCSE Science, preferably higher. The exam board recommends a Grade C in Maths, and a Grade C in English Language will also be expected. These are guidelines only and every student's application will be treated on an individual basis.

What skills will I develop?

Students should be able to recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge, organise and communicate information in a variety of ways

Students should be able to analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and apply it to unfamiliar situations

Students should be able to demonstrate and describe practical techniques and processes. They should be able to record observations and measurements with appropriate precision and analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methodology, results and impact of their own and others' experimental and investigative activities.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS

Cells, Exchange and Transport
Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health
Investigative and practical skills in AS Biology

A2

Populations and Environment
Cellular Metabolism and Control
Investigative and practical skills in A2 Biology

Written Exam Assessments
Practical Skills Assessment
Investigative Skills Assignment
Fieldwork

What other subjects should I study with Biology?

Biology is an excellent subject to take with other sciences or alongside Arts or Humanities subjects. Traditionally many students take Biology alongside other Science subjects, but it also complements Geography and PE.

What opportunities does A level Biology offer me?

Biology is a good choice for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting, or teaching. So whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

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Chemistry

Why study Chemistry?

The most important reason for studying Chemistry is that you found it interesting and enjoyable at GCSE. In summary, the challenges are substantial, the rewards significant and the career opportunities vast. Remember not many Chemists will have a career in a white coat and you could even end up as Prime Minister!

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You need at least a grade C in Science, preferably higher. The exam board recommends C grades in both Maths and English Language. Besides these GCSE entry requirements, it is also vital that students have an organised and methodical approach to their studies.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop and utilise a wide range of skills and knowledge. In the laboratory based part of the course, you will learn analytical techniques as well as carrying out practicals that demonstrate the theory. In addition, you will also become more scientifically literate, developing a critical eye on how science is reported in the media and an insight into the validity of arguments, including major issues such as Global Warming.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS

Structure Bonding and Main Group Chemistry
Organic Chemistry, Energetics, Kinetics and Equilibrium
Investigative and practical skills in AS Chemistry

A2

Periodicity, Quantitative Equilibria and Functional Group Chemistry
Transition Metals, Quantitative Kinetics and Applied Organic Chemistry
Investigative and practical skills in A2 Chemistry

Written Exam Assessments
Practical Skills Assessment
Investigative Skills Assignment

What other subjects should I study with Chemistry name?

Although Chemistry stands as a subject in its own right, it mixes well with Biology, Physics, Geography, Business Studies and Maths. Many students find Chemistry interesting and wish to study it further without necessarily wishing to take it beyond the Sixth Form.

What opportunities does A level Chemistry offer me?

Chemistry A Level can lead to many further courses and careers. As well as being a vital element in your Sixth Form curriculum if you are going onto study Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy or Veterinary Science, it is also a very useful qualification for Biochemistry and other Biological Sciences, Agricultural Science, Food Science, and Geological Sciences and different types of Engineering.

Chemistry is an academic, challenging subject and as such it is well respected by potential employers and universities.

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Economics

Why study Economics?

Economics provides you with a special way of thinking and the opportunity to discuss ideas which relate to society and the material issues of the day. You contribute to the performance of the economy via your spending and saving decisions, therefore you should build up an understanding of the economy and its impact on firms and citizens

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

It is not necessary for students to have studied GCSE Economics before commencing work on this AS/A2 course and no prior knowledge of economics is necessary.

To study Economics at A level you will need to have achieved 5 GCSE Grades at C or above, including English Languages and maths. You will need to have some capability in both numeracy and literacy.

What skills will I develop?

AS and A Level course encourage students to:

- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the study of the subject
- appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment
- develop an understanding of a range of concepts and acquire an ability to use these concepts in a variety of different contexts
- use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist
- develop skills, qualities and attitudes which will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS

Economics: Markets and Market Failure

Economics: The National Economy

A2

Economics: Business Economics and the Distribution of Income

Economics: The National and International Economy

Written examinations linked to each unit

What other subjects should I study with Economics?

This is an important subject on its own; however Economics can be linked with a range of subjects from the sciences, humanities and arts. Business Studies is a popular combination, as well as maths and languages.

What opportunities does A level Economics offer me?

Economists are in great demand in business, banking, finance and industry as well as in national governments and international organisations, with Economics being central to the modern world. You will find an A level in Economics a very useful and relevant qualification for many degree courses in Economics and related areas such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Law, Management and many other degree courses. It also opens doors to a wide range of careers. The course is highly regarded by universities not only because of its value as a social science but also because those who have taken it are better equipped to live in the adult world.

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English Literature

Why study English Literature?

English Literature encourages students to develop as independent, confident and reflective readers and writers, giving a variety of opportunities to explore the relationship of language and literature through a wide range of reading opportunities, critical reading of and response to both literary and non-literary texts, as well as writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. You will become a more critical reader and writer, being able to craft your work to suit different purposes and audiences. The ability to analyse and respond to a wide variety of texts is both challenging and stimulating as well as useful, no matter what career pathway you choose. The study of this subject caters for a wide range of learning styles.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least GCSE Grade C in both English and English Literature.

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to:

- develop your interest and enjoyment in literature by reading widely prose, poetry and drama texts
- gain an understanding of the traditions of English literature
- communicate your response to a wide variety of texts responding to different types and periods
- make comparisons between texts and study 'unprepared' texts
- make informed opinions and judgements about literary texts
- develop an ability to analyse reading and to communicate your ideas effectively in writing.
- gain an understanding of cultural, historical and other influences on texts.
- study both modern texts and texts from previous centuries.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS Level (Theme of war)

Unit 1 – Examination: (Question 1) Compulsory - An unseen extract which must be linked to wider reading (1 poetry text, 1 drama text, 1 prose text). These must cover the following periods – post 1990 and 1800-1945 and be written by both men and women.

(Question 2) Choice of two questions for each option (WW1 poetry). The questions are based on the set text from the option chosen but reference must be made to several poems from the anthologies.

Unit 2 – Coursework (Two pieces of coursework : 2000-2500 words) One prose text based on WW1 and one drama text based on WW1

A2 Level (Theme of Love across the Ages)

Unit 3 – Examination - Two compulsory questions: the paper will comprise four unseen extracts for close study, comparison and critical commentary.

Unit 4 – Coursework (an extended piece of coursework writing on three thematically linked texts).

What Other subjects should I study with English Literature?

English Literature is compatible with most other AS subjects. In particular, the Performing Arts subjects such as Drama and Music have much in common with English Literature as they are all about the close study and appreciation of artistic forms. However, Humanities subjects such as History, Geography and Religious Studies also make good partnerships with English Literature since the topics and learning styles are similar. Furthermore, English Literature provides an interesting contrast with Maths and the Science subjects since they are of different disciplines.

What Opportunities does A level English Literature offer me?

You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These are specialist skills which are valued by all universities as they are the skills required for almost any arts degree course. English Literature can be studied as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects. It could form a good basis for study in any arts-based subject in combination with, for example, History, Media Studies, Philosophy, Law, Politics, Journalism, Marketing, Education or Languages. Many students will also use their qualification to go straight into employment rather than into higher education

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French & German

Why study French / German?

Knowledge of a foreign language such as French or German is a very useful asset in today's world. It has important advantages when travelling to other countries or meeting people from other countries. Being able to communicate in another language helps develop relationships, social skills, and gives you more self confidence.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

At least a grade B at GCSE is required to be able to cope with the linguistic demands of A level.

What skills will I develop?

During the course students will develop the four skills of speaking, writing, reading, and listening to French/ German to an advanced level.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

The AS course will cover:

Media: TV, advertising and communication technology

Popular culture: cinema, music and fashion/trends

Healthy living/lifestyle: sport/exercise, health and well-being and holidays

Family/relationships: relationships within the family, friendships and marriage/partnerships.

The AS specification has 2 units:

Written Paper:

2 hours

Weighting:

70% of total AS/ 35% of total A Level marks

Listening, Reading and Writing: Candidates will answer a range of questions based on approximately 5 minutes of heard material and on a selection of written stimulus texts. They will also respond in writing to a question based on one of the AS topics.

Speaking Test

35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time)

Weighting:

30% of total AS/ 15% of total A Level marks

Speaking: Candidates will discuss a target-language stimulus card based on one of the AS topics and take part in a conversation covering three further AS topics.

A2 outline The A2 course will cover:

- Environment: pollution, energy and protecting the planet
- The multi-cultural society: immigration, integration and racism
- Contemporary social issues: wealth and poverty, law and order and the impact of scientific and technological progress
- Cultural topic: the study of a target language speaking region/community or the study of a period of 20th century history from a target language-speaking country/community or the study of a novelist/dramatist/poet from a target language-speaking country/community or the study of a director/architect/musician/painter from a target language-speaking country/ community.

What other subjects should I study with French/ German?

French/ German combines well with a number of subjects including English, Business Studies, History, and Geography.

What opportunities do A level French/ German offer me?

Students with an A level in a foreign language have a number of possible career and higher education opportunities. An advanced knowledge of a foreign language is always of great interest to prospective employers especially those involved with the travel industry or export links to other countries. French/ German can be studied at University either as a single subject or combined with other subjects.

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Food Technology

Why study Food Technology?

The specification has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, and food science and nutrition, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least GCSE Grade C in Food Technology.

What skills will I develop?

You will study the key areas that the food industry has to consider including:

- Qualities of food
- Processing of food
- Packaging and labelling
- Nutritional value and contribution to sustained good health
- Health and safety
- Additionally a key factor covered in this qualification is sustainability.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Overview of the assessment

Unit 1 AS Level portfolio of creative skills

The investigation, design and manufacture of a product of their choice. This is internally assessed and accounts for 60% of the AS and 30% of the A level GCE

Unit 2 AS Level Design and Technology in practice

Externally assessed with a 1 1/2 hour exam

This accounts for 40% of the AS and 20% of the A level GCE

Unit 3 A2 Level Food products, nutrition and product development

Externally assessed 2 hour paper

This accounts for 40% of the A2 and 20% of the A level GCE

Unit 4 A2 Level Commercial design

Students design and make a product of their choice for a commercial market

This is internally assessed and accounts for 60% of A2 and 30% of A level GCE

What other subjects should I study with Food Technology?

Any of the sciences have related links to this award and will compliment the subject content
Also Art and Design compliment the product design element of the specification.

What opportunities does A level Food Technology offer me?

The subject would lead on to a range of opportunities and qualifications within the food industry. These would include product development and service industry opportunities from catering to marketing and health and safety. In a changing world every one still has to eat and the pace at which products are produced and developed requires continual research and innovation.

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Geography

Why study Geography?

Do you care about the environment?

Do you want to know how it will change and how you can influence that change?

Do you wish to understand more about current events throughout the world?

Geography is a dynamic subject that helps students to make sense of our complex world. The A level course is the WJEC syllabus which extends some of the work covered at GCSE e.g. rivers and flooding and covers additional material e.g. plate tectonics and hazards.

It is hoped that students will be inspired by the world around them and gain enjoyment whilst deepening their knowledge and understanding of our planet.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least GCSE Grade C in Geography.

What skills will I develop?

The course encourages students to develop their understanding of a wide range of geographical issues. This is achieved through a variety of learning styles including individual research, working together on specific issue based topics, decision making, discussing controversial issues and making informed judgements about complex world problems. It has a good balance of human and physical aspects and focuses on the interactions within and between environments from local to global level.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Fieldwork is an essential requirement of the AS course. This will be assessed in the examination and at both AS and A2 students will be expected to write essays in answer to questions. At A2 they will be expected to draw together and apply their knowledge and understanding in a synoptic paper. They are also required to complete a research enquiry and a written paper on sustainability.

What Other subjects should I study with Geography?

Geography is compatible with most other AS subjects. However, Humanities and Social Science subjects such as History, Sociology and Religious Studies also make good partnerships with Geography since the topics and learning styles are similar. Furthermore, Geography provides an interesting link with Maths, Business Studies and the Science subjects.

What opportunities does A level Geography offer me?

It can provide the knowledge, understanding and skills for further study at Higher Education and for employment in a wide variety of career options including planning, environmental management, teaching, the caring professions, law and retailing.

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History

Why study History?

History will be a natural progression from GCSE History and is equally suitable either for those who are studying either predominantly Arts, or predominantly Science/Mathematical subjects. They should be imaginative, capable of self-motivated and regular study and reasonably interested in current affairs / politics which the course does much (directly and indirectly) to illuminate. They should enjoy reading and thinking critically about what they read.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

Students embarking on AS level History should have enjoyed their GCSE History course and have achieved at least a grade C in it. A Grade C in English Language will be expected as well. These are guidelines and every student's application will be treated on an individual basis.

What skills will I develop?

Students are required to explore the theoretical and methodological issues of history. They then apply these skills in the study topics from a wide range of alternatives. The study of History fosters the ability to grasp ideas and concepts, to ask pertinent questions, to select and appraise the evidence which allows them to be answered, to make fruitful comparisons and to argue cogently and persuasively.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

There are two study units in the AS course. The first area of study is concerned with looking at the history of Russia from 1894-1941. This covers the end of the Romanov Dynasty, the Russian Revolution and the developments made in Russia under the domination of Stalin. This part of the course is assessed with a one and a half hour essay paper.

The second area of study covers the reasons for the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1641. The focus of this part of the course is for students to be able to make use of documentary evidence and to assess its reliability and usefulness. This unit is assessed with a written examination lasting one and a half hours, where students are asked to use a variety of types of evidence to answer questions, as well as their own knowledge.

What other subjects should I study with History?

History is very popular and highly regarded, going well with other arts and social science subjects like English or Geography. History is also one of the most popular choices of scientists looking to add breadth to their Sixth Form studies.

What opportunities does A level History offer me?

History is an ideal qualification for those who want to enter the law, business and administration, the police service, the armed forces, journalism, leisure and tourism as well as teaching.

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Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Why study Information & Communication Technology (ICT)?

You will practise and refine your planning, research, evaluation and problem solving skills and develop an understanding of the impact of information systems on organisations' personnel, policies and practices. During the course you will have opportunities to work with highly skilled professionals from creative industries; take joint responsibility for project management and experience the benefits and demands of working collaboratively with others.

What topics will I study?

AS Level (Year 12) - The range of topics includes - data, information, knowledge and processing, software and hardware components of an information system, characteristics of standard applications software and application areas, spreadsheet and relational database concepts, applications software used for presentation and communication of data, the role and impact of ICT.

A2 Level (Year 13) - The range of topics includes - the systems cycle, designing and implementing computer-based information systems, networks and communications, applications and implications of ICT

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You need at least a grade C in ICT, preferably B Grade.

What skills will I develop?

You will be required to:

revise and learn your lesson notes continually in order to prepare for fortnightly tests

undertake regular and frequent background reading

complete practical ICT tasks in spreadsheet, database and website design

complete extended essays and give presentations

access a range of recommended on-line resources

These study methods will develop your subject skills, knowledge and confidence. They will also enhance your ability to articulate clear understanding of the facts and concepts studied.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS Level ICT – TWO major units of study – G061 & G062

Unit G061: Information, Systems and Applications examination paper (2 hours). It comprises a combination of questions. Some are short with clear structure and others require an essay response.

Unit G062: Structured ICT Tasks (coursework)

A2 Level ICT – TWO major units of study – G063 & G064

Unit G063: ICT Systems, Applications and Implications examination paper (3 hours). It comprises a combination of questions. Some require a short paragraph response others an extended essay.

Unit G064: ICT Project (coursework) – a major independent study requiring you to provide a comprehensive ICT solution for a 'real life' client.

What other subjects should I study with ICT?

ICT can be combined usefully with a wide range of other AS, A2 and BTEC options. ICT is often considered in a 'traditional' alignment with mathematics, business studies and science subjects but clearly, in the technological world, it can be associated effectively with many other academic and vocational areas. OCR AS and A2 ICT is an academic subject and accepted as such by universities.

What opportunities does A level ICT offer me?

ICT aims to help you develop broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the ICT sector. The course encourages you to demonstrate a practical capability in applying ICT and helps you to show knowledge and understanding of ICT systems by investigating their roles in organisations throughout society. Such capability and understanding is valued highly by a wide range of employers in our technological world. It is an appropriate base from which to study ICT related fields within higher education.

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Law

Why study Law?

Studying Law has an obvious appeal to anyone considering a career in the legal profession. However, it is important to realise that there are a whole range of careers outside of those such as a solicitor or barrister. Such careers include acting as a Crown Prosecutor, working in the courts service, national and local government law departments and specialist niche areas of law (land registry, competition law or taxation). Studying Law will also lead to an improvement in your communication skills and in your ability to structure arguments and organise your thoughts.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least Grade C in GCSE English Language. The exam board expect students to have adequate literacy skills evidenced by other GCSE subjects which require them to demonstrate a satisfactory level of literacy.

What skills will I develop?

- Developing knowledge and understanding of selected areas of the law of England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Developing an understanding of legal method and reasoning
- Developing the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules
- Developing the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority
- Encouraging a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

There are two study units. The first covers the English legal system. This involves describing civil courts and other methods of dispute resolution. Then the criminal process is covered including the organisation of prisons. The role of the legal profession is covered including detailed analysis of the roles of individuals in the legal system.

The second study unit is entitled Sources of Law. This covers the idea of precedent within the legal system, the role of the European Union. The unit also covers how Laws are framed with legislation.

The first unit is assessed in a two hour examination and the second unit in a one hour examination.

What other subjects should I study with Law?

Law can be matched with any other subjects especially from humanities and the social sciences. It can also be linked with maths and sciences.

What opportunities does A level Law offer me?

Students taking this option are clearly opening up further studies into the law and the legal profession. Knowledge of the law also has a very wide relevance into business, local and national government.

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Music

Why study Music?

If you enjoy performing, listening to and maybe composing music the Advanced Level Music course will be suitable for you. You will be required to perform, compose and analyse a variety of musical styles. Music will be studied as a practical, intellectual and creative subject. It will enable you to develop performing skills to a higher level, compose in a variety of styles and acquire a greater understanding of wider musical genres and appreciate how and why music was written.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You must be able to play or sing to a standard of at least grade 4 or 5 and you must have a good knowledge of traditional notation. It is useful (not essential) to have passed grade 4 or 5 theory. A GCSE grade C is expected, but it is possible to study Music A level without a GCSE qualification as long as the student has at least the above level of qualification.

What skills will I develop?

Performing – what's Involved?

5-6 minutes of solo/ensemble performance of approximately grade 5 standard. In Year 13 the performance is extended to 12-15 minutes of solo/ensemble performance of approximately grade 6 standard or above.

Composing – what's Involved?

One original composition lasting for at least 3 minutes. Can be in any style as long as you follow the brief. Completion of a CD sleeve note about your composition, using your notes but under exam conditions. In year 13 you complete another original composition for at least 3 minutes and the harmonisation of SATB in the style of J.S.Bach

Listening and Understanding – what's involved?

Listening to familiar music which will have been studied. Writing about the stylistic features of the set works. Analysing harmony from an unfamiliar score.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

The course has an examination elements (40%) as well as coursework (60%).

What other subjects should I study with Music?

Music will complement many other Level 3 courses such as BTEC Performing Arts, English, Mathematics, ICT, Art, History

What opportunities does A level Music offer me?

Whatever your musical tastes and background, advanced level music will ensure you become a more mature and appreciative musician. Many Universities and Colleges regard 'A' level music highly as it promotes discipline and commitment. A varied range of Music degrees and diplomas, as well as non musical qualifications can be studied appropriately after having followed this course.

Abraham Darby Academy

Mathematics

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is full of beauty and elegance. Mathematical patterns can be seen everywhere from the seeds in a sunflower, the spots on a dog to the design of a formula one racing car; it explains the laws of the universe and makes all our technology work.

It is a complex, creative, logical and intriguing subject that will develop a student's capacity to reason and problem solve. It will provide a platform onto which much can be built and give students a great start to the world of work or further education.

Universities and employers see Maths as a strong A Level to have, and of course, could studying anything else be this much fun?

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least GCSE Grade B in Mathematics.

What skills will I develop?

It allows students to develop their skills from GCSE and enhance their understanding of logic and reasoning. A lot of maths is about problem solving, so if you like to rise to the challenge of a previously unseen problem, this could be the course for you.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS Level (Year 12)

The course consists of three modules, C1, C2 and S1. C1 is the first of the core or Pure Maths modules and builds on the A and A* Grade work covered at GCSE, it is examined in January of the first year. C2 is the second Pure Maths module; it follows on from C1 and is examined in June. S1 is a Statistics module; it is studied throughout the first year and is examined in June. In total three examinations are taken which contribute to 100% of the final mark.

A2 Level (Year 13)

The second year of the course is of a similar makeup to the first. C3 and C4 are the Pure modules examined in January and June respectively. The third module is studied throughout the second year and is examined in June; this will either be a Decision Maths (D1) module or a continuation of the Statistics course with the S2 module.

What other subjects should I study?

A Level Mathematics is generally associated with subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Business Studies, Psychology, ICT, Computer Science, Engineering and Economics but the disciplines taught in Maths also ally themselves to Music, Art, Philosophy and Religious Education. Whatever else you choose in combination with Maths, it is difficult to think of any course/career where an A Level in Maths would not be welcomed.

What opportunities does A level Maths offer me?

If you go on to study at University an A-Level in Mathematics will open many doors for you, it is accepted on virtually all courses and is seen as highly advantageous by many. If you have any intentions of studying Science, Computer Science, Economics, Business Studies or Psychology it is almost a pre-requisite. Employers in all walks of life readily accept A-Level Mathematics as a desirable subject. A recent educational survey found that students with A-Level Maths generally go on to earn 10% more than their counterparts.

Abraham Darby Academy

PE

Why study PE?

The study of Physical Education encourages students to develop their knowledge of the body, the systems involved in everyday activity, the knowledge and understanding of performance, as well as the social and cultural issues within sport. Physical Education requires students to be independent learners and requires students to be inquisitive about sporting excellence and how it can be achieved. Physical Education has three main parts, theory, Practical and coursework. Students will be encouraged to develop their analysis skills to identify weaknesses develop training ideas and improve performance.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

It would be beneficial to have gained a C at Physical Education and Science. However it is not compulsory to have studied Physical Education GCSE.

What skills will I develop?

Students will become physically competent by developing:

- Develop skills and techniques required to perform efficiently
- Applying and adapting a wide range of skills and techniques in different types of physical activity.
- Apply their skills in different roles within Physical Education
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the factors that enable others to be physically active.
- Enable students to be informed and discerning decision-makers
- Understanding of the pathways available to become physically active
- Understand and critically evaluate how contemporary products and consumer-focused influences related to physical activity affect and inform young people's decisions about being involved in a range of physical activities.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

AS Level

Anatomy and Physiology

Acquiring Movement Skills

Socio-Cultural Studies relating to participation in physical activity

A2 Level

Historical Studies

Biomechanics

Exercise and Sport Physiology

Practical A level

Students will develop a variety of roles relating to physical activity, performer, leader/coach and official.

What other subjects should I study with PE?

Physical Education is compatible with many other subjects at AS level. In particular performing arts subjects such as Dance and Drama, Physical Education has a strong link with Science and a lot of the Anatomy and physiology overlap work done in Biology.

What opportunities does A level PE offer me?

Students with AS or A level Physical Education have a wide range of opportunities available to them in the world of industry or at higher education level. With wide range of transferable skills developed during the course students that have completed an AS or an A level in Physical Education are an attractive prospect for future employers and universities. Sport is a multi billion pound industry and an A level in Physical Education will certainly act as a stepping stone towards a career in any one aspect of the industry. Employment could be gained in education, the leisure industry, rehabilitation and physiotherapy and coaching.

Abraham Darby Academy

Physics

Why study Physics?

The course is designed so that you are able to –

- Progress smoothly from previous GCSE studies in Physics.
- Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Physics.
- Gain hands-on practical skills and data analysis skills.
- Appreciate How Science Works and its relevance beyond the laboratory.
- Study a further topic option.

Topics covered include:

- Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity
- Mechanics, Materials and Waves
- Fields and Further Mechanics
- Nuclear and Thermal Physics

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least a C Grade at GCSE Science, preferably higher. The exam board recommends C Grades in Maths and English Language. These are guidelines only and every student's application will be treated on an individual basis.

What skills will I develop?

Students should be able to recall and show understanding of scientific knowledge, organise and communicate information in a variety of ways

Students should be able to analyse and evaluate scientific knowledge and apply it to unfamiliar situations

Students should be able to demonstrate and describe practical techniques and processes. They should be able to record observations and measurements with appropriate precision and analyse, interpret, explain and evaluate the methodology, results and impact of their own and others' experimental and investigative activities.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Investigative and practical skills are developed and assessed throughout the course.

What other subjects should I study with Physics?

Physics is an excellent subject to take with other sciences such as Biology and Chemistry. We highly recommend that all students follow a Maths course as this helps with the skills necessary to be a successful Physicist.

What opportunities does A level Physics offer me?

The opportunities with Physics are endless! It is a good qualification for careers in environmental management, medical care, transport industry, communication, entertainment and education. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting, or teaching. So whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Physics a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

Abraham Darby Academy

Product Design (3D)

Why study Product Design?

It's a 3D world - think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its delicious curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect. And it's not a new phenomenon. Our fascination with 3D design goes back to flint arrow heads and earthenware pots.

As a 3D designer you are at the crossroads of a number of skills. Of course you need creativity, in order to imagine the shape and function of the object. But you'll also need to know about manufacturing processes, materials and marketing. 3D Design is an enormously satisfying career. You have an idea and - with the use of tools like clay or computers - it comes to life. Imagine how satisfying it must be for the person who designed the iPhone or Razor to hold the finished product in their hand.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

You will need at least GCSE Grade C in Resistant Materials, Graphics or Product Design.

What skills will I develop?

- Classifying materials and identifying, testing and comparing their application to product manufacture
- The implications of Health and Safety as an element of design activity
- Examination of alternative designs and redesigning existing products
- Use natural resources, materials utilisation, conservation, waste disposal/management, pollution, recycling
- Appreciation and understanding of the use of CAM for industrial production
- Moral, economic, social and environmental responsibilities of the designer
- Planning production procedures and methods.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

How is it assessed?

Written Exam:

2 x 2 hours

Weighting:

50% of total A Level marks

This paper is based primarily on Design and Manufacture. It is the Synoptic paper. Consisting of two sections with a choice of three questions from six. Candidates are required to answer one question from each section and also a final question from either section. This written paper will include sufficient synoptic assessment to test the candidates' understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject and their holistic understanding of the subject.

Coursework:

Aprox 100 hours

Weighting:

50% of total A Level marks

Written (or electronic) design folder, Revised Candidate Record Form and manufactured outcome(s), Candidates submit evidence of a single, substantial designing and making activity.

What Other subjects should I study with Product Design (3-D Design)?

3D Design goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in design you might also consider Art & Design, Business Studies or ICT as companion A Levels.

What Opportunities does A level Product Design (3-D Design) offer me?

Students with AS or A-level Product Design have a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These are specialist skills which are valued by all universities as they are the skills required for almost any degree course.

3D design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design. But what about computer generated cartoons? Or maybe CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising or engineering.

Abraham Darby Academy

Religious Studies

(Philosophy of religion / Religious ethics)

Why study Religious Studies?

The study of Philosophy and ethics encourages students to develop independent and critical thinking. It allows for the exploration of issues and questions that have been at the heart of civilisation since time began. It encourages students to look beyond their own ideas to new concepts and philosophical ideas, relating these to the wider world.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

Religious studies requires good literacy skills. You will need a GCSE Grade C in English. GCSE grade C in Religious Education is advisable.

What skills will I develop?

The course will enable you to

- Develop an interest in philosophy and ethics
- Gain an understanding of Greek and Jewish philosophers and influences
- Explore challenging questions relating to the existence of God and religious belief
- Explore ethical theories and issues relating to moral questions
- Develop thinking and reasoning skills
- Make informed judgements about beliefs
- Develop literacy skills

What is the course content?

AS LEVEL

UNIT 1: Philosophy of religion

- Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion
- Judeo – Christian Influences on philosophy of religion
- Traditional arguments for the existence of god
- Challenges to religious belief

EXAM: One and half hour

UNIT 2:

- Ethical theories
- Applied ethical topics

EXAM: One and a half hour

What other subjects should I study with Religious Studies?

It is compatible with any subject, especially English Literature, The Arts: music/dance / drama, Sciences: Physics / biology / psychology, Humanities: History

What opportunities does Religious Studies offer me?

There are a wide range of career opportunities, including Law, social work, medicine, journalism, tourism, teaching, Human Resources, management. It is accepted as a rigorous academic subject by all higher educational establishments and universities. It could, alongside other A levels, lead or support further study of Philosophy, law, psychology, English, management, social studies etc.

The study of this subject can open up many possibilities for future educational development or career.

Abraham Darby Academy

Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology represents our efforts to understand ourselves and why we do the things we do. Psychology at A Level provides an introduction to this complex and diverse field of enquiry.

What grades will I need at GCSE level?

Ideally you will need at least a Grade C in Maths and English Language. However, these are guidelines and every student's application will be treated individually.

What skills will I develop?

The course develops students' ability to understand, apply, and criticise theories. Furthermore, it will develop a critical awareness of the strengths and shortcomings of different means of investigation and how knowledge is interpreted in a field that is still developing.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

The specification aims to give students an introduction to the world of psychology by conducting research through a practical approach as well as learning about prime psychological studies and some of the classics in research studies. The specification also gives the candidates an awareness of the issues and debates in psychology.

The specification is suitable for students with no formal prior experience of the subject. The content is aimed at capturing natural interest and inspiring learning and at the same time developing understanding and knowledge at an advanced level in preparation for higher education.

At A2 students are offered the opportunity to learn about applied areas of psychology in chosen areas of interest, for example forensic psychology.

By the end of the course, students will have a wide knowledge of psychology, will have developed a sound understanding of issues, debates and perspectives in psychology and will have a good grounding in preparation for higher education and an awareness of how to apply psychology to their everyday life and the world around them.

What other subjects should I study with Psychology?

Psychology, being a science subject, can be taken alongside the other sciences. It also combines well with Arts, Humanities or Business Studies subjects. It also matches well with PE which has a psychological component.

What opportunities does A level Psychology offer me?

Both employers and Post 18 education establishments regard psychology favourably due to the skills you will have developed during the course. Psychology is an opening to a range of degree courses and vocational courses. It can link with other subjects such as Psychology and Crime Studies or Forensic Studies.

Abraham Darby Academy

BTEC Nationals

BTEC Nationals are qualifications that are designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare them for employment. The qualifications also provide career development opportunities for those already in work. Consequently they can provide a course of study for full-time or part-time learners in schools, colleges and training centres.

The family of BTEC Nationals includes Awards, Certificates and Diplomas which offer opportunities for nested provision and flexibility of delivery.

BTEC Nationals are designed to relate to the National Occupational Standards for the sector, where these are appropriate, and are supported by the relevant Standards Setting Body (SSB) or Sector Skills Council (SSC). Some BTEC Nationals form the Technical Certificate component of apprenticeships and all attract UCAS points that equate to similar-sized general qualifications.

Applied Science - Level 3 BTEC National Diploma

This course covers a wide range of practical and theoretical science at A level standard. Students will study Chemistry, Biology and Physics as well as some Mathematics, IT and other specialist forensic or medical units that will prepare them for a career in science. You will study 2 core units - *Fundamentals of Science and Scientific Practical Techniques*. You will also study additional specialist units. Some of the specialist units are:

- Scientific Principles and Methods
- Laboratory Work/ IT
- Criminology
- Mathematics
- Genetic Engineering
- Data Analysis
- Biological Forensic Science
- Chemical and Physical Forensic Science
- Traffic Accident Investigation
- Forensic Psychology / Photography

This course can be equal to 1, 2 or 3 A Level equivalents depending on course content and guided learning hours.

Sport – Level 3 BTEC National Award

The BTEC National Award has three common units that everyone will study and five specialist units. Core Units include - *The Body in Action, Health and Safety in Sport and Training and Fitness for Sport*.

As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career. 12 units will need to be covered on a two year rolling programme with decisions made on optional units by staff and students.

Specialist Units

- Sports Coaching
- Sports Development
- Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Team Sports
- Practical Individual Sports
- Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
- Sport and Society
- Leadership in Sport
- Exercise, Health and Lifestyle
- Working with Children in Sport
- Work-based Experience in Sport
- Principles and Practices in Outdoor Adventure

BTEC is a NQF level 3 qualification and equivalent to 1 A Level. It is targeted at students with a BTEC first diploma in sport/ GCSE PE or at least 5 GCSEs at Grades A-C. A sound practical ability is essential. BTEC National can be combined with other courses and particularly with AS and A2 level subjects. It is expected that students will contribute two hours of their free time each week to assist with Key Stage 3 lessons. This builds into the requirements of their course modules. BTEC National Certificates are valued by employers and higher education, opening doors direct to employment in Sports Centres or degree courses at university and college.

Abraham Darby Academy

Performing Art – Level 3 BTEC National Award

If you enjoy acting then this is the course for you! The course is assignment based with students following a range of options designed to suit their own particular needs.

The training is aimed at those wanting to follow a career in the Performing Arts as either a performer or administrator and with over 20 optional units on offer; the course can be tailored to suit individual preferences.

Rehearsal and performances form the backbone of the course.

There are compulsory units - *Principles of Acting* and *Performing to an Audience*. Students complete assignments based on the particular option studied and these are marked by the teacher and verified externally – there is no final examination. The course is a BTEC National Award and has the same status as one A Level and it is recognised by Colleges and Universities as an entry qualification.

Specialist Units

- Devising Plays
- Theatre in Education
- Theatre for Children
- Classical Theatre Performance
- Contemporary Theatre Performance
- Musical Theatre Performance
- Variety Performance
- Performing With Masks
- Developing Voice for the Actor
- Acting Auditions
- Applying Acting Styles
- Drama Improvisation
- Radio Acting
- Film and TV Acting
- Mime
- The Practice of Directing Theatre
- Approaches to Directing for Theatre
- Script Writing
- Storytelling as Performance
- Stand-up Comic Technique
- Singing Skills for Actors and Dancers
- Clowning
- Developing Physical Theatre
- Applying Physical Theatre
- Developing Movement Skills
- Movement in Performance

Further Information – www.abrahamdarbyacademy.org.uk

If you would like further information on any aspect of BTEC Nationals, please access Edexcel web site at: <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/btec>