



DUNOTTAR
SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2027

WELCOME TO

SIXTH FORM

Choosing what to study after your GCSEs is one of the first big decisions you will make for yourself, and one of the most exciting. Whether you have been at Dunottar since Year 7 or are getting to know us for the first time, thank you for considering our Sixth Form. This booklet introduces every course we offer and, I hope, gives you a real sense of what the next two years could look like.

We are a Sixth Form small enough to know you well and ambitious enough to take you further than you expect.

Life in the Sixth Form is different from anything that has come before. You study fewer subjects, all chosen by you, in small groups where discussion and debate are the norm and your teachers know exactly how you work. You take more responsibility for your own learning and are given more freedom in return. You also become the most senior students in the school, with the chance to lead, to be role models for younger pupils, and to shape school life in a way that is simply not possible lower down.

The opportunities widen rather than narrow. There are more than 25 subjects to choose from, and alongside your A Levels you can take the Extended Project Qualification or a Level 3 qualification in Sports Leadership. Trips, fieldwork, and gallery visits bring your subjects to life, and you can carry on with the sport, music, drama, and co-curricular life you love, or try something entirely new.

Our leavers go on to leading universities, to degree apprenticeships, and straight into careers, and they arrive with more than their grades. Two years of being stretched, and supported, by teachers who know you builds confidence, independence, and a clear sense of direction. That is the advantage a Dunottar Sixth Former carries into the world beyond school.

It starts with choosing your subjects. The best choices are the ones that suit you: subjects you enjoy, subjects you are good at, and subjects that keep open the doors you may



want to walk through later. Most of our students take three A Levels, which is what most university offers are based on, together with an enrichment option, while others combine two A Levels with an Alternative Academic Qualification. We will tailor a programme around you, and where a fourth subject such as Further Mathematics is the right choice, we will help you plan for it.

You will not be making these decisions alone. Our FO:CUS programme (Future Options: Career and University Strategy) begins now, in Year 11, and stays with you until you leave us. Through regular reviews and one-to-one guidance meetings, we make sure that your subjects, your enrichment, and your applications keep pointing in the direction you want to go.

Nothing needs to be decided yet. Talk to your family and your teachers, read the pages that follow, and if there is anything you would like to discuss, please contact me at school or by email at d.jackson@dunottarschool.com. If you are joining us from another school, our admissions team will be glad to guide you through the application process at admissions@dunottarschool.com.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form in September 2027.

Mr D Jackson, Assistant Head (Sixth Form)

ACADEMIC

COURSES

Your Sixth Form programme is built around you: the subjects you choose and the way you combine them.

BUILDING YOUR PROGRAMME

Most students take three A Levels and an enrichment option. Others take two A Levels and an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) or a BTEC. The two routes can be combined, and we will help you find the mix that suits you.

AAQs and BTECs are Level 3 qualifications equivalent in size to one A Level. They are graded and carry UCAS points in the same way, and suit students who prefer coursework and applied learning alongside written examinations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study three A Levels, students are expected to achieve at least six GCSEs at grade 6 or above. Those choosing Mathematics or a science need a grade 7 in that subject.

To study an AAQ or BTEC, students need at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Mathematics, and a grade 4 in any GCSE subject required for that course.

We offer the flexibility to combine your subject choices, creating a programme that includes both A Levels and alternative qualifications.

Please contact us to discuss your subject choices. We want you to follow the pathway that suits you best, and we can tailor your programme accordingly.

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**Courses are dependent on viable numbers opting for the subject.*

The background of the slide features a dark blue overlay. In the upper right, there is a faint image of a classical building with columns and a pediment. In the lower left, there is a faint image of tall, thin grass or reeds.

COURSE INFORMATION

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN AND 3D DESIGN (AQA AND OCR)

At Dunottar we offer two Art A Level subjects:

Art, Craft and Design (AQA) and Three-Dimensional Design (OCR).

WHY STUDY AN ART OR THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN?

If you are considering any sort of practical career in the creative industries, A Level Art is vital. If you intend to do any art-based degree, be it Architecture, Fine Art, Graphics, Photography or Fashion among others, an Art A Level is the main means by which you produce a portfolio of work; an entry requirement for all Art and Design based courses. They are practical subjects which will further develop your technical skills, they will expand your creativity and imagination; key elements of the courses are personal development and independent learning.

COURSE OUTLINE - ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

All of the arts subjects are a mechanism for the visual exploration of ideas, meanings and feelings at a personal level and in the wider context of social, historical, and cultural connections. The area of study is broad enough to enable you to explore and develop your understanding of the formal elements in a variety of media. As an Art and Design student you will endeavour to work independently, having the freedom to develop and communicate meaning through exploration and experimentation. You will be expected to research and record ideas thoroughly to develop informed opinions and critical judgements about your own work and that of other artists. You will develop a strong command of recording techniques

through the expressive use of materials and processes. Structured sessions at the start of the course provide a solid foundation in observational drawing and use of processes. Coursework is based on a theme you select, such as 'collections', with sustained visual research underlying your personal responses. The written component (1,500–3,000 words) explains your work and ideas and analyses the artists and designers who have shaped your response to the theme.

During the course, you will visit traditional and contemporary galleries and exhibitions to build your awareness of the cultural, historical, and social context of artworks. These visits will also give you ideas for developing your own projects.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

This course is completed over two years and is assessed through non-exam assessment (NEA) and an externally set task from OCR.

Component 1: Coursework/personal investigation (60% of A Level)

Initially students work on a series of technical and material-based short projects to enable them to develop their skills and understand the formal elements as a means of creating their own visual language through experimentation. Students then work on a 'personal investigation' and select a focused

project using at least two related disciplines, chosen from fine art, textiles, three-dimensional design, and photography. They complete a critical and contextual study and explore their ideas in their own practical studio work. Written notes are used to form the basis of the extended piece of writing (1,500–3,000 words).

Component 2: Externally set task (40% of A Level)

The final project is based on a starting point from a paper provided by AQA. Time is allocated for preparation, experimentation and refinement of ideas culminating in a 'timed test' of 15 hours.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities leading from the visual arts are numerous. The creative industries are among the fastest-growing and most successful in the United Kingdom.

There are many exciting future applications for the knowledge and skills gained via any Art A Level. These include set design, animation, video game design, graphic design, web design, advertising, architecture, exhibition design, special effects for film, illustration, product design, furniture design, journalism, museum curation, stage and film make-up, textile and fashion design, photography, art dealing, concept art, art history, and logo design.

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN AND 3D DESIGN CONTINUED

COURSE OUTLINE - THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

The Three-Dimensional Design course covers the parameters of the Art A Level while placing emphasis on the process of designing and creating 3D models and products. The course offers a balance between critical analysis, gaining inspiration from artists, designers and craftspeople, and the practical element of creating responses and modelling with varied materials.

Students learn the design process from initial concept to final prototyping, including sketching,

model-making and using CAD software. They explore different materials and their properties, with an emphasis on using workshop machinery.

Communication skills are developed by translating design ideas through technical drawings, maquettes and presentations. This helps students build a portfolio of design work that showcases a range of skills and ideas.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN - HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

This is completed over two years and is assessed by non-exam assessment (NEA) and an externally set task.

Component 1: Coursework/personal investigation (60% of A Level)

Students should be able to explore, research and acquire techniques and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of approaches specific to Three-Dimensional Design.

Students will demonstrate how they solve problems by designing or creating products which have a decorative or functional role. Their work may include one-off experimental pieces, traditional crafts, industrial designs for mass production, and initial prototype models. Students will work in one or more of the design disciplines, which could include jewellery, design for television, games or film, stage or set, environmental, construction or architectural design, body ornament and product design. Students will have a variety of techniques available including laser cutting and mixed-media applications.

They complete a critical and contextual study and explore their ideas in their own practical studio work. Written notes are used to form the basis of the extended piece of writing (minimum of 1,000 words).

During the course, students visit traditional and contemporary galleries and exhibitions to build their awareness of the cultural, historical, and social context of artworks. These visits also give them ideas for developing their own projects.

Component 2: Externally set task (40% of A Level)

The final project is based on a starting point from a paper provided by OCR. Time is allocated for preparation, experimentation and refinement of ideas culminating in a 'timed test' of 15 hours.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COURSE

- Learn to use equipment such as the laser cutter and workshop machinery
- Develop the ability to experiment with and explore materials such as acrylic, wood, metals, clay and plaster
- Develop techniques such as construction and architectural modelling
- Develop an understanding of artists and designers and their purpose

BIOLOGY

(AQA)

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

Saving threatened species, studying microbes, curing diseases? Today's world offers many challenges to a biologist. Which ones are you interested in? With exciting advances in areas such as genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, the environment, and marine science, there has never been a better time to study Biology.

The department is well resourced, and we make the subject as hands-on as possible. Students spend a day at Wakehurst learning about gel electrophoresis and the Millennium Seed Bank, and visit Biology Live to hear leading British biologists talk about their current research.

We also make use of our beautiful grounds to study ecology and biodiversity through sampling.

COURSE OUTLINE

YEAR 1	YEAR 2
• Biological molecules • Cells • Organisms exchange substances with their environment • Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	• Energy transfers in and between organisms • Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments • Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems • The control of gene expression

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Three written examinations (2 hours each).

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks, 30% of A Level
Sections 1–4	Sections 5–8	Sections 1–8
76 marks short and long answer questions 15 marks extended response questions	76 marks short and long answer questions 15 marks comprehension question	38 marks short and structured questions, including practical techniques and calculations 15 marks critical analysis of given experimental data 25 marks one essay from a choice of two titles

FURTHER READING

The Body by Bill Bryson, *The Gene: An Intimate History* by Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, *Hello World* by Hannah Fry and *Why Elephants Have Big Ears* by Chris Lavers.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you are considering a career in medicine, genetics, forensics, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, biochemistry, psychology, sports science, conservation, or journalism, a Biology qualification gives you many skills and increases your career options, so you can adapt as the world changes around you.

BUSINESS

(AQA)

WHY STUDY BUSINESS?

A Level Business offers an engaging and practical insight into how organisations operate, compete and grow in an increasingly dynamic global marketplace. Students will explore how entrepreneurs identify opportunities and turn ideas into successful businesses, while developing a deep understanding of key business functions such as marketing, finance, operations and human resource management. The course also examines the importance of leadership, strategic decision-making and the impact of external factors such as economic change, legislation and technological developments.

Students will apply business theories to real organisations and contemporary issues, using case studies from the UK and around the world. They will analyse financial performance, evaluate strategic options and investigate how businesses achieve growth, profitability and competitive advantage.

Business develops a wide range of transferable skills that are highly valued by universities and employers. Students will strengthen their critical thinking, problem-solving and strategic decision-making abilities while developing commercial awareness and confidence in handling numerical and financial data. The course also enhances research, communication, presentation and teamwork skills, enabling students to construct well-supported arguments, evaluate complex information and make informed recommendations. As a result, Business provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and future careers.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on three two-hour written examinations at the end of Year 13, covering all areas of the course. Questions include multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and essay-based tasks. Many questions use real business case studies, requiring students to apply their knowledge to practical situations. Students are rewarded for strong analysis, evaluation and the ability to make well-supported judgements.

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Considers business objectives and forms of a business and stakeholders. Introduces key business areas of management and business culture.	Studies the interaction between business and the external environment. Investigates strategic decision-making.
Topics	Topics
1 Business and objectives 2 Forms of business and stakeholders 3 Marketing management 4 Financial management 5 People management 6 Operations management 7 Managing business culture	8 Business and society 9 Business and the external environment 10 Strategy 11 Change

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Level Business provides an excellent foundation for university study, apprenticeships and careers across a wide range of industries. Students frequently progress to degrees in Business Management, Marketing, Accounting and Finance, Economics, Human Resource Management, and International Business. The analytical, numerical and decision-making skills developed are also highly valued in subjects such as law, politics and the social sciences.

The course also prepares students for degree apprenticeships in areas including business management, finance, marketing, human resources and project management. Business develops commercial awareness, leadership and problem-solving skills that are highly sought after by employers. As a result, students are well equipped for careers such as business analyst, marketing executive, accountant, financial adviser, human resources manager, project manager, management consultant, or entrepreneur.

BTEC BUSINESS

(PEARSON)

WHY STUDY BTEC BUSINESS?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business is designed to equip individuals with the skills, knowledge and understanding required for a range of roles in organisations.

BTEC Business offers an engaging and practical insight into the world of business, exploring how organisations operate, from small local enterprises to large global companies. Students investigate the different functions within a business, including marketing, finance, operations and human resources, while researching and comparing contrasting organisations to understand what contributes to their success.

The course encourages students to develop initiative, independence of mind and the confidence to examine complex business problems. Through a range of investigative activities and real-world business contexts, students gain an appreciation of the perseverance, adaptability and decision-making required to manage successful organisations.

Alongside valuable business knowledge, students develop a wide range of transferable skills including communication and presentation, teamwork and leadership, research and analysis, problem-solving and decision-making. They also build financial literacy, commercial awareness, organisation and independent learning skills, helping to prepare them for university, apprenticeships and a wide variety of future careers.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

Over the two-year course you will cover three mandatory units and one optional unit.

UNIT 1: Exploring Business	UNIT 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign	UNIT 3: Personal and Business Finance
Explore different types of businesses, ownership structures and organisational objectives.	Learn how businesses use market research to understand customers and identify target markets.	Understand personal finance, including financial products, budgeting and sources of financial advice.
Investigate how businesses respond to internal and external factors that affect performance.	Develop knowledge of the elements of a successful marketing campaign and their importance in achieving business objectives.	Learn how businesses manage money and complete financial documents such as cash flow forecasts and statements of income.
Analyse the role of stakeholders and the key factors that contribute to business success through real-world case studies.	Create, justify and evaluate a marketing campaign for a business scenario as part of the controlled assessment.	Develop numerical, analytical and decision-making skills through a range of personal and business finance scenarios.

The final unit is chosen from Market Research, The English Legal System, Recruitment and Selection Process, and Investigating Customer Service.

Assessment combines coursework, controlled assessments and external examinations. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills through reports, presentations, business proposals and practical business tasks.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

With content closely aligned with what employers and universities are looking for, this qualification provides an excellent foundation for higher education, apprenticeships and careers in a wide range of business-related fields. Students can progress to degree courses such as Business Management, Marketing, Accounting and Finance, Human Resource Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship, as well as apprenticeships in areas including Business Administration, Marketing, Human Resources and Finance. The course develops valuable transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork and business decision-making that are highly valued by employers. It also prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, management, sales, entrepreneurship and business development across the public, private and charitable sectors.

CHEMISTRY

(AQA)

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question “what is the world made of?” and it is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

At the heart of Chemistry, like all sciences, are practical activities. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including: measuring energy changes in chemical reactions, tests for identifying different types of compound, different methods for measuring rates of reaction, studying electrochemical cells, preparation of organic solids and liquids and many more.

COURSE OUTLINE

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Physical Chemistry	Physical Chemistry
Including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier’s principle.	Including thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant K_p , electrode potentials and electrochemical cells.
Inorganic Chemistry	Inorganic Chemistry
Including periodicity, Group 2 (the alkaline earth metals), and Group 7 (17) (the halogens).	Including properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution.
Organic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry
Including introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis.	Including optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography.

FURTHER READING

Chemistry: A Very Short Introduction by Peter Atkins, *The Elements: A Very Short Introduction* by Philip Ball, and *Molecules: A Very Short Introduction* by Philip Ball.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 30% of A Level

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Possible degree options taken by students who have an A Level in Chemistry are:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Pre-clinical medicine
- Mathematics
- Pharmacology

Studying a Chemistry-related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including

- Analytical chemist
- Chemical engineer
- Clinical biochemist
- Pharmacologist
- Doctor
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Toxicologist
- Chartered certified accountant
- Environmental consultant
- Higher education lecturer
- Patent attorney
- Science writer
- Secondary school teacher

COMPUTER SCIENCE (OCR)

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science gives students the chance to develop computational thinking skills, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. It is an intensely creative subject which can provide students with real satisfaction when something they have built from a blank page works; it also helps to develop patience, resilience and problem-solving skills when a program refuses to run as expected.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course consists of the following components:

- Computer Systems
- Algorithms and Programming
- Programming Project

The Algorithms and Programming component includes problem-solving and programming as well as the use of algorithms to describe problems. The main programming language used is Python; students enjoy the independence of creating their own programming project in Year 13.

TOPICS ON THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS PAPER

- How does the processor inside a computer work and what affects the performance of a processor?
- What different input and output devices can be used to solve problems?
- How do operating systems work?
- How can we program using different web technologies such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript?
- How is data represented in a computer, for example in binary and hexadecimal?
- How can we solve problems with Boolean logic?
- What are the ethical, moral, and cultural issues surrounding technology, such as the use of artificial intelligence, the monitoring of people's behaviour, and the environmental impact of technology?

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

A LEVEL PAPER 1 Computer Systems	A LEVEL PAPER 2 Algorithms and Programming	PROGRAMMING PROJECT
Written Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 140 marks 40% of A Level	Written Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 140 marks 40% of A Level	Write-up of programming project 20% of A Level

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Computing skills are the foundation of numerous professional careers in many dynamic sectors, such as technology, business, finance, health and the games industry. The A Level course is an excellent preparation for students who want to go on to study Computer Science at a higher level and will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

(EDUQAS)

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

OSCAR WILDE

WHY STUDY DRAMA AND THEATRE?

Throughout the two years, you will gain a deep knowledge and understanding of key theatrical movements in history, explore a range of theatre practitioners, styles and genres, as well as developing your skills as a theatre practitioner in your own right. During the course, you will have to consider your approach to play texts as an actor, director, and designer, making informed and creative decisions based on your historical, political, cultural and artistic understanding of the plays studied. You will learn to reflect, always finding opportunities to critique and refine your work. You will consider the purpose of theatre as a whole, and reflect on the world that theatre presents back to us.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Theatre Workshop (20%) Non-exam assessment (NEA), internally assessed and externally moderated Students will be assessed on either acting or design. Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Students must produce: • A realisation of the performance or design • A creative log	Text in Action (40%) NEA, externally assessed by a visiting examiner Students will be assessed on either acting or design. Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC: 1. A devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1). 2. An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner. Students must realise their performance live for the visiting examiner. Students choosing design must also give a 5–10-minute presentation of their design to the examiner. Students produce a process and evaluation report within one week of completion of the practical work.	Text in Performance (40%) Written examination, 2 hours 30 minutes Sections A and B Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the two complete texts chosen must be taken into the examination. Two questions, based on two different texts, one written pre-1956 and one written post-1956. Section A • <i>The Winter's Tale</i>, William Shakespeare • <i>Rutherford and Son</i>, Githa Sowerby • <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>, Lorraine Hansberry • <i>Father Comes Home from the Wars</i>, Suzan-Lori Parks • <i>Home, I'm Darling</i>, Laura Wade • <i>Company</i>, Stephen Sondheim (2018 revival) Section B • <i>The Bacchae</i>, Euripides • <i>Blood Wedding</i>, Federico García Lorca • <i>The Arsonists</i> (The Fire Raisers), Max Frisch • <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>, Wole Soyinka • <i>Brief Encounter</i>, Noël Coward, adapted by Emma Rice • <i>Small Island</i>, Andrea Levy, adapted by Helen Edmundson Section C <i>The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage</i>, Philip Pullman, adapted by Bryony Lavery

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities include lawyer, television presenter, director, writer, dramaturge, actor, entrepreneur, business owner, designer, critic and many more.

ECONOMICS

(AQA)

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

Studying A Level Economics provides students with a fascinating insight into how individuals, businesses and governments make decisions in a world of limited resources. The course explores how markets operate, why prices, wages and interest rates change, and the factors that influence economic growth, unemployment and inflation. Students will develop a strong understanding of both microeconomics and macroeconomics, while examining the impact of globalisation, international trade and government policy on national and international economies.

Economics is highly relevant to the world around us, encouraging students to analyse current economic issues, investigate contemporary debates and apply economic theories to real-life situations. Through the use of case studies, statistical data and examples from the UK and global economies, students learn to evaluate different viewpoints and assess potential solutions to major economic challenges.

The subject develops a wide range of valuable skills, including critical thinking, data interpretation, problem-solving and quantitative analysis. Students also strengthen their research, communication and essay-writing abilities while learning to construct logical, evidence-based arguments. These transferable skills are highly regarded by universities and employers, making Economics an excellent choice for students considering a wide variety of future careers.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

Over this two-year course, you will study areas and topics drawn from both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

MICROECONOMICS

- The economic problem and economic methodology
- Individual economic decision-making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

MACROECONOMICS

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

Assessment is completed through three two-hour written examinations taken at the end of Year 13, covering all areas of the course. Students will answer a range of question types, including multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and extended essay questions. Success in the examinations depends on the ability to apply economic knowledge, interpret data, analyse issues and evaluate policies. Marks are awarded for demonstrating clear judgement, strong analysis and well-supported evaluation.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Level Economics opens the door to a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and careers. The subject is highly respected by universities for its strong analytical, mathematical and evaluative focus, making it excellent preparation for degrees in Economics, Finance, Accounting, Business Management, Politics and International Relations. It also complements subjects such as Mathematics, Business, Geography, Politics, and the sciences.

Students are well prepared for degree apprenticeships in areas such as finance, accounting, banking, investment management, data analysis, consultancy and commercial management. The course develops valuable skills in problem-solving, data interpretation, research and decision-making that are highly sought after by employers.

Career opportunities include economist, financial analyst, investment banker, accountant, management consultant, data analyst, actuary, risk analyst, policy adviser, civil servant, market research analyst and business analyst. Economics provides a strong foundation for any career involving analysis, strategy and informed decision-making.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

(OCR)

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Employers value the strong communication skills that an A Level in English Literature teaches. You will develop your collaborative skills, critical thinking skills and creative thinking skills. You will also develop the skills of working independently, demonstrating tenacity and resilience. You will research, synthesise, contextualise and adapt your ideas. Employers love these skills.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

English is about you: your ability to think about the world around you, to form critical opinions and to express yourself. As an English student, you will study the past and apply it to the present and the future.

At Dunottar, you will study for the OCR A Level in English Literature, which has three components.

- Drama and poetry pre-1900: exam assessed, worth 40% of A Level
- Comparative and contextual study: exam assessed, worth 40% of A Level
- Non-exam assessment (NEA) coursework, worth 20% of A Level

The texts might vary from year to year because we want to keep the teaching as fresh and lively as possible. You will have two English teachers, who will share their individual expertise with you. So far, the drama and poetry pre-1900 texts have been *The Tempest*, *A Doll's House* and poetry by Christina Rossetti. In recent years, the Comparative and contextual study unit has focused on Gothic texts (*The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories* paired with *Dracula* or *Frankenstein* or *The Wasp Factory*) or dystopian literature (*The Handmaid's Tale* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*). The coursework texts have also been varied. For example, with the comparative task, students have compared *A Streetcar Named Desire* with *Property* or *The Kite Runner*. For the second coursework task, students have the option to write an analysis of a poem from Carol Ann Duffy's *The World's Wife*, or write an original poem in the style of Duffy.

INDEPENDENT READING

An A Level in English Literature is easy to fit into your lifestyle as an independent reader. What could be more enjoyable than reading novels for pleasure, knowing that this is part of your A Level? To take your understanding of the texts to the next level, the school also subscribes to emagazine, published by the English and Media Centre (EMC). The British Library's website is also a fascinating source of relevant articles.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

An A Level in English Literature combines well with a wide range of A Level subjects, including more technical STEM subjects. It helps students keep both their options and their minds open.

Choosing English Literature is useful for a wide range of careers. Former Dunottar students have gone on to become a BBC news presenter and reporter, a strategy consultant, an IT consultant, an entrepreneur, and a solicitor, among many other careers.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

(WJEC LEVEL 3 AAQ)

WHY STUDY FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION?

The WJEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Food Science and Nutrition (Extended Certificate) is designed for 16–18-year-olds who are passionate about food science, nutrition and health.

If you are interested in understanding the science behind food production, dietary health and how nutrition affects wellbeing, this qualification is a great fit for you. It blends academic knowledge with practical application, helping you develop valuable real-world skills while building a solid academic foundation.

This qualification is especially beneficial if you are looking to continue your education at university and pursue careers in areas such as dietetics, food science, nutrition consultancy, public health or food product development. It provides in-depth knowledge on key topics such as food safety, the role of nutrients in the body and how to create innovative food products. By focusing on applied learning, it equips you with the research, analytical and practical skills needed for university and beyond.

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT 1: Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages (mandatory)	This unit will provide you with an in-depth understanding of the properties and functions of nutrients, the impact of food production on nutritional value and how dietary requirements vary across different life stages. These topics are directly relevant to human nutrition and food science degrees. You will be assessed through a written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of qualification, 80 marks
UNIT 2: Developing Practical Food Production Skills (mandatory)	You will apply theoretical knowledge in a hands-on environment, learning advanced food preparation techniques while considering nutritional value and dietary needs. These skills mirror practical elements found in undergraduate laboratory-based and practical food science modules. You will be assessed through a non-exam assessment (NEA): 9 hours 30 minutes, 25% of qualification, 100 marks
UNIT 3: Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety (mandatory)	This unit is particularly relevant if you intend to pursue a career involving food technology, quality control and food safety management as it introduces fundamental concepts related to foodborne illnesses, hazard analysis and industry standards. These topics are widely covered in food science and public health degrees. You will be assessed through a written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 25% of qualification, 80 marks
UNIT 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems (optional)	You will develop research and investigative skills, mirroring scientific methodologies used in university-level courses. You will learn how to formulate hypotheses, design and conduct experiments and analyse results. You will be assessed through NEA: 12 hours, 25% of qualification, 100 marks

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Completion of this qualification can support progression to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Public Health Nutrition
- BSc Food Science
- BSc Nutrition and Dietetics
- BSc Food Science and Technology

GEOGRAPHY

(AQA)

“There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable.”

DR RITA GARDNER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE RGS-IBG

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

A Level Geography gives students the scope to become independent thinkers. It offers an opportunity to develop and formulate responses and to research and investigate different attitudes, responses or sides to a topic or theme. It engages and involves the learner by using topical and current case studies to allow coverage of issues on a variety of different scales. This gives A Level geographers well-developed research skills, which are invaluable in higher education.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

Physical Geography Paper (2 hours 30 minutes) 40% of the A Level	Water and the Carbon Cycle, Glacial Systems and Landscapes and Hazards	Students explore these topics through contemporary themes at a range of scales, connecting them with their own experience and with what they see in the media.
Human Geography Paper (2 hours 30 minutes) 40% of the A Level	Global Systems and Global Governance, Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments	
Independent Investigation 3,000–4,000 words 20% of the A Level	Four days of fieldwork, some of which will lead to an independent investigation	The investigation teaches students to research, analyse, and synthesise information and data, to question its validity, and to weigh opposing viewpoints against real-world examples. They learn to make well-informed decisions and to solve problems, both independently and as part of a team.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Geography teaches important life skills and a critical way of thinking about the world. Careers that draw directly on the subject include meteorology, climate science, surveying, international development, flood research, air pollution monitoring, catastrophe risk analysis, coastal management, and GIS analysis. Geographers' skills are also valued in law, the media, education, accountancy, and engineering.

HISTORY (OCR)

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is a popular subject at A Level and the skills learned at GCSE will provide a solid foundation for further study in this subject. History will appeal to those students who wish to improve their analytical skills, enjoy investigation and discovery, enjoy debate and like putting forward a well-argued case.

The History Department at Dunottar has a strong tradition of excellent examination results, and students benefit from experienced and well-qualified teachers, good resources and small classes. We offer contrasting periods of History so that students gain real breadth. This is particularly valuable for those who go on to study History at university, as many former students have done at a variety of Russell Group universities.

COURSE OUTLINE

In Year 12 students focus on the Tudor period from 1485 until 1558 alongside Italian history in the late nineteenth century and the dictatorship of Mussolini. These topics are built on in Year 13 with the addition of the study of 100 years of Russian history and a compulsory coursework option.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

A Level	CONTENT OVERVIEW	ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE
Unit group 1 25% of A Level 1 hour 30 minutes	England 1485–1558: the Early Tudors A period that follows England's development from the turbulence of the Wars of the Roses and the establishment of the Tudor dynasty under Henry VII. It considers the religious upheaval, political and social changes brought about by Henry VIII and his chief ministers. The source-based enquiry topic focuses on the mid-Tudor regimes of Edward VI and Mary I, through a thematic approach which encompasses issues relating to the stability of the monarchy, religious change, rebellion and unrest.	Students answer: one period study essay from a choice of two. One document-based depth study. Paper total: 50 raw marks
Unit group 2 15% of A Level 1 hour	Italy 1896–1943 Students will learn about Liberal Italy in the years 1896 to 1915 and consider how far there was political, social and economic development. The impact of the First World War and the rise of Mussolini will then lead on to an in-depth study of life in Fascist Italy and a consideration of how far foreign policy in the 1930s and the alliance with Hitler led to Mussolini's downfall in 1943.	Students answer: both parts from one of the two questions set: One 'mini-essay' and one period study essay. Paper total: 30 raw marks
Unit group 3 40% of A Level 2 hours 30 minutes	Russia and its Rulers 1855–1964 A thematic study of 100 years of Russian history is undertaken focusing on the impact of war, economic and social developments, the role of government and opposition and the treatment of national minorities. Tsar Alexander II, the Provisional Government and Khrushchev will be considered in greater depth. Overall, students will gain an understanding of how Russia experienced both reform and reaction under both Tsarist and Communist rule.	Students answer: two theme questions from a choice of three, all covering 100 years. One interpretations question. Paper total: 80 raw marks
Unit group 4 Coursework Personal study 20% of A Level	This takes the form of a topic-based essay of 3,000–4,000 words on a subject chosen by the student, incorporating all of the skills developed in the other units that make up the course. Topics chosen by students over recent years have included the Vietnam War, Hitler's dictatorship, the American Civil Rights Movement and Elizabeth I's failure to marry.	Centre-marked, board-moderated. Assessment total: 40 raw marks

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although often studied alongside other Arts subjects, History can also be taken by those students taking a more scientific route. In terms of future career pathways, History can lead to careers in teaching, law, journalism, and heritage, and the skills it develops are respected by employers in many other fields.

HUMAN BIOLOGY

(OCR LEVEL 3 AAQ)

WHY STUDY HUMAN BIOLOGY?

The OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology (Extended Certificate) will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will help prepare you for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the medical science sector.

COURSE OUTLINE

The qualification is made up of individual units. Each unit has its own assessment and those assessments can happen at different points during the year. This unitised, flexible approach means learning and achievements can be recognised in bite-sized chunks, rather than all at the end of the course.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

UNIT TITLE	ASSESSMENT	MANDATORY OR OPTIONAL
Fundamentals of human biology	Examination, externally assessed	Mandatory
Health and disease	Examination, externally assessed	Mandatory
Genetics	Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
Biomedical techniques	NEA	Mandatory
Nutrition and metabolism	NEA	Optional
Human reproduction	NEA	Optional
The brain	NEA	Optional
Drug development	NEA	Optional

Students take the four mandatory units and two of the four optional units

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications, such as A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education, Psychology, and Sociology, this qualification supports entry to degrees including

- Biological Sciences
- Human Biology
- Life Sciences
- Biomedical Science

MATHEMATICS

(EDEXCEL)

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

The main reason for studying Mathematics at A Level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity and the fact that you know when you are right. Solving a problem brings a sense of excitement and satisfaction. It is useful in a variety of careers and is probably one of the most marketable of A Level subjects.

Sixth Form Mathematics classes at Dunottar are taught in small groups and students are encouraged to participate and share in discussions. The Mathematics staff are well qualified and approachable, so if there are any difficulties they can be ironed out as they arise. We often enter a team in the Senior Team Maths Challenge, which is much enjoyed by the participants.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

A LEVEL PAPERS 1 AND 2	A LEVEL PAPER 3
Pure mathematics	Statistics and mechanics
Two written exams, 2 hours each 100 marks each Two-thirds of A Level in total	One-third of A Level
Topic 1: Proof Topic 2: Algebra and functions Topic 3: Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane Topic 4: Sequences and series Topic 5: Trigonometry Topic 6: Exponentials and logarithms Topic 7: Differentiation Topic 8: Integration Topic 9: Numerical methods Topic 10: Vectors	Section A: Statistics Topic 1: Statistical sampling Topic 2: Data presentation and interpretation Topic 3: Probability Topic 4: Statistical distributions Topic 5: Statistical hypothesis testing Section B: Mechanics Topic 6: Quantities and units in mechanics Topic 7: Kinematics Topic 8: Forces and Newton's laws Topic 9: Moments

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics provides a sound foundation for students wanting to go on to university to study Mathematics or any subject which uses Mathematics including Physics, Engineering, Economics and Computing. Other university courses which recommend an A Level in Mathematics include Law, Medicine, Business, Architecture, Biology, Biochemistry, Physiology, Land Economy, Geography, Geology, Psychology and Veterinary Medicine.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)

WHY STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Any student choosing Further Mathematics will love the challenge of taking on a problem and looking at it from different perspectives. They will be curious, tenacious, methodical and logical in their approach, and take pride and gain satisfaction from not only reaching the solution but also being able to guide others through their approach; often there are multiple routes through a problem, some being more time-efficient or elegant than others. Studying Further Mathematics consolidates and reinforces the Mathematics A Level content and is a useful subject for anyone considering studying for a degree in Mathematics, Physics or Engineering.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Further Mathematics consists of four equally weighted, externally examined papers. The choice of Papers three and four will be made in consultation with the students who take this option.

PAPER 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1

PAPER 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 75 marks (25% of A Level each).

Content Overview

Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations

Assessment Overview

- Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content
- Students must answer all questions
- Calculators can be used in the assessment

PAPER 3: Further Mathematics Option 1

1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 75 marks (25% of A Level)

Content Overview

Students take one of the following four options:

- Further Pure Mathematics 1
- Further Statistics 1
- Further Mechanics 1
- Decision Mathematics 1

Assessment Overview

- Students must answer all questions
- Calculators can be used in the assessment

PAPER 4:

Further Mathematics Option 2

1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 75 marks (25% of A Level)

Content Overview

Students take one of the following seven options:

- Further Pure Mathematics 2
- Further Statistics 1
- Further Mechanics 1
- Decision Mathematics 1
- Further Statistics 2
- Further Mechanics 2
- Decision Mathematics 2

Assessment Overview

- Students must answer all questions
- Calculators can be used in the assessment

MEDIA STUDIES

(EDUQAS)

WHY STUDY MEDIA STUDIES?

A Level Media Studies encourages students to become critical and independent thinkers by examining how messages are constructed and understood through different media content. The course uses contemporary case studies across platforms such as television, film, advertising, social media, and video games to analyse media at both local and global levels. Students develop essential skills in research, analysis and media literacy to help them navigate and make sense of today's complex media landscape. The subject also offers hands-on experience in media production, fostering creativity, collaboration and reflective thinking. Media Studies promotes cultural awareness and enables students to engage thoughtfully with the media shaping everyday life.

FURTHER READING

Recommended reading includes *Media Studies: A Student's Guide* (McDougall) and *Media Regulations* (Lunt and Livingstone). Students are also encouraged to explore academic journals, industry blogs and podcasts, and media news outlets to stay current and deepen their understanding of key media theories, practices and debates.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences Exam	Analysing Media Language and Representation • Advertising • Marketing • Music video • Newspapers
	Understanding Media Industries and Audiences • Advertising • Marketing • Film • Newspapers • Radio • Video games
COMPONENT 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth Exam	Television in the Global Age Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media Media in the Online Age
COMPONENT 3: Cross-Media Production Non-exam assessment (NEA)	An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Level Media Studies opens up a wide range of higher education and career pathways by providing a strong foundation for further study in media, film, journalism, communications, advertising and digital marketing. The subject also supports careers in broadcasting, public relations, publishing and content creation across television, radio and online platforms. The practical and analytical skills gained, such as critical thinking, research, teamwork, and media production, are highly transferable and valued in many industries. Media Studies prepares students for both creative and strategic roles in an increasingly media-driven world.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH AND SPANISH (AQA)

"To have another language is to possess a second soul."

CHARLEMAGNE

WHY STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

- Languages give you a sense of achievement and stretch your mind
- A new language opens up a whole new culture: when you learn a language you also learn how other people live and find out about the world through their eyes
- Employers value language skills, and language graduates are highly employable
- You learn key skills such as how to form an argument, structure an essay, and present yourself
- Smaller classes allow for increased discussion, creativity and independent learning
- We have native speakers who lead individual conversation classes and provide extra support

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT: FRENCH

A LEVEL PAPER 1	A LEVEL PAPER 2	A LEVEL PAPER 3
Current trends and issues in French-speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, aspects of political life, grammar.	Students will study either one text and one film or two texts from a set list.	Individual research project
Written Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 100 marks 50% of A Level	Written Exam: 2 hours 80 marks 20% of A Level	Oral Exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) 60 marks 30% of A Level

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT: SPANISH

A LEVEL PAPER 1	A LEVEL PAPER 2	A LEVEL PAPER 3
Aspects of Hispanic society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism in Hispanic society, aspects of political life in Hispanic society, grammar.	Students will study either one text and one film or two texts from a set list.	Individual research project
Written Exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 100 marks 50% of A Level	Written Exam: 2 hours 80 marks 20% of A Level	Oral Exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) 60 marks 30% of A Level

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There will be a range of opportunities open to you where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills and knowledge of contemporary society. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages which include a year abroad; others choose to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language A Level will improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches. Whether you are interested in continuing your studies or working at home or abroad, a language course is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

(EDEXCEL)

WHY STUDY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Music Technology A Level is an engaging and creative course that explores how music is created, recorded, and produced in today's digital world. It is ideal for students who enjoy working with both music and technology and want to develop practical skills alongside their musical understanding.

Throughout the course, students gain hands-on experience using industry-standard software and equipment, learning how to record, edit, sequence, and mix music. They work with a range of styles, developing the ability to shape and refine sound with confidence and creativity. In addition to the practical work, students build strong listening and analytical skills by exploring how music is structured and produced. This helps deepen their overall understanding of music and develops a critical ear.

The course encourages independence, problem-solving and attention to detail through mostly project-based work. It offers a dynamic and rewarding way to engage with music, blending technical skills with creativity in a modern and relevant context.

COURSE OUTLINE

The Music Technology A Level course is structured around three key areas, which are explored across the different components of the course in a clear and progressive way.

AREAS OF STUDY

1: Recording and Production Techniques	Students develop practical skills in recording, editing and producing music for both technical accuracy and creative effect. This includes learning how to capture sound, use mixing techniques, and shape recordings using industry-standard software. As the course progresses, students also explore sound creation and sequencing, alongside analysing how professional recordings are arranged, mixed, and mastered.
2: Principles of Sound and Audio Technology	This area focuses on understanding how sound works and how audio technology is used in both practical and theoretical contexts. Students develop knowledge of key concepts such as acoustics, signal flow, and audio equipment, and apply this understanding when listening to and evaluating real recordings, as well as in exam-based scenarios.
3: Development of Recording and Production Technology	Students explore the historical development of music technology, tracing how recording techniques have evolved from early mono and analogue systems of the 1930s to the advanced digital technologies used today. This helps students understand the context behind modern production techniques and the influence of technological change on music.

Together, these areas provide a balanced mix of practical skills, technical understanding, and historical context, supporting students in developing a well-rounded knowledge of music technology.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Studying Music Technology at A Level opens the door to a wide range of creative and technical pathways. The course provides a strong foundation for further study in music, audio production, and media, while developing practical skills that are highly valued in today's digital industries.

Students gain experience in recording, editing, and producing sound, alongside skills in critical listening, problem-solving, and project management. These support progression into areas such as:

- Music production and studio engineering
- Film, TV, and game composition and sound design
- Digital music creation, including DJing and electronic production
- Sound engineering and live sound
- Broadcasting, podcast production, and audio editing

Overall, Music Technology equips students with both the creative and technical confidence to pursue a range of exciting opportunities in a rapidly evolving industry.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

(EDEXCEL) CONTINUED

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

COMPONENT	% CONTRIBUTION	ASSESSMENT
Component 1: Recording	60 marks, 20%	Non-exam assessment (NEA): externally assessed One recording, chosen from a list of songs provided by the exam board Students record all the parts themselves and mix the track together Total time must be between 3 and 3½ minutes Logbook must also be completed
Component 2: Technology-based Composition	60 marks, 20%	NEA: externally assessed One technology-based composition chosen from briefs set by the exam board. Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects must be used. Total time 3 minutes Logbook must also be completed
Component 3: Listening and Analysis	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 75 marks, 25%	Paper consists of two sections: A and B Section A: Listening and Analysis (40 marks) – 4 questions, unfamiliar recordings (10 marks each) Section B: Extended Written Response (35 marks) – 2 essay questions. One comparison question (15 marks) and an essay question (20 marks)
Component 4: Producing and Analysing	Written/practical examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (plus 10 minutes setting-up time) 105 marks, 35%	Paper consists of two sections: A and B Students will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element. Students will correct and combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix. Section A: Producing and Analysing (85 marks) – 5 questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written and practical tasks. Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA)

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

The Physical Education course covers a variety of subject areas, making it an engaging and wide-ranging course to study. It complements many other subjects at A Level including Physics (analysis and mechanics of movement and levers), Biology (pulmonary function, transport of blood gases and energy systems), Psychology (learning theories, aspects of personality and group cohesion), History (the historical, social and cultural factors influencing the development of sport and recreation) and Sociology (equality, discrimination, stereotyping, inclusiveness and prejudice).

In addition to this, the course covers other areas of interest including nutrition for elite performers, specialised training techniques, and ethical issues, to name a few.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The course is linear and therefore the two examination papers will take place at the end of the two-year course.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What is assessed

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A Level

Questions

- **Section A:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- **Section B:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- **Section C:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

What is assessed

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A Level

Questions

- **Section A:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- **Section B:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- **Section C:** multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Non-exam assessment (NEA): Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What is assessed

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full-sided version of one activity

Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance

How it is assessed

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- 90 marks
- 30% of A Level

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Studying Physical Education at A Level can lead to a number of exciting and rewarding career paths such as physiotherapy, sports journalism, sports analytics, sports nutrition, coaching, sports psychology, and many more. Courses at university generally cover sports science, teaching, and sports management, but there are also opportunities to specialise further, for example in sports technology and sports journalism.

PHYSICS

(AQA)

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

Physics is a fascinating subject that seeks to understand the universe we live in. Physicists have been responsible for some of the most ground-breaking and influential discoveries throughout history. Humanity's knowledge of nature has allowed us to land on the Moon, develop global, near-instant communication systems, and harness the energy resources of the planet and the Sun to fuel our modern society.

Studying Physics allows us to learn about this journey of discovery and the uses of these revolutionary ideas in society, while developing our knowledge of how nature works and our ability to solve problems.

A Level Physics delves into the depths of the big topics in Physics. Much of this understanding of nature is described by mathematics and so at least 40% of the marks in the examinations will be mathematics-based. A Level Mathematics is by no means mandatory; however, prospective students must have a strong GCSE Mathematics grade in order to access the material.

COURSE OUTLINE

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Measurements and their errors Particles and radiation Waves Mechanics and energy Electricity	Further mechanics and thermal physics Fields Nuclear physics One option from: Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points, Electronics

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A Level	Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A Level
Sections 1–5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)	Sections 6.2 (Thermal physics), 7 and 8	Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis. Section B: Students enter for <u>one</u> of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13
60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content	60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content	45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic

PHYSICS

(AQA) CONTINUED

FURTHER READING

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson, *How to Teach Quantum Physics to Your Dog* by Chad Orzel, *Six Easy Pieces* by Richard Feynman and *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Physics is commonly required or preferred by universities for many courses and is well regarded.

An A Level in Physics provides many opportunities in a variety of careers. These include engineering, medicine, architecture, electronics, telecommunications, software engineering, aerospace engineering, radiography, meteorology and computer science.

POLITICS

(EDEXCEL)

WHY STUDY POLITICS?

Studying Politics at A Level is a stimulating experience which thrives on discussion and debate. Students are expected to express opinions and consider issues from a wide range of perspectives. This creates an engaging environment in which we explore questions such as whether referendums are the best way to make decisions and what we actually mean when we discuss democracy.

Politics is an academic subject which develops intellectual skills such as the ability to analyse and evaluate information and to identify competing ideologies and views. Essay writing is a vital component and by the end of the course all students will achieve a high degree of competence in their ability to structure written work, to express points lucidly and to ensure balance in their arguments.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

We follow the Edexcel Politics course, which has three components.

Dunottar is one of a small number of schools that teach the Global Politics option for Component 3, rather than the Comparative option of the American Political System. We believe that in a time of globalisation and interdependence, when issues such as the environment, terrorism, and finance affect every country, the Global option is both more relevant and more interesting to students of politics.

COMPONENT 1	COMPONENT 2	COMPONENT 3
British Politics including participation, political parties, voting behaviour, electoral systems and the media. Core Political Ideas which includes conservatism, liberalism and socialism.	UK Government , including the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the executive. One further political idea , chosen from anarchism, feminism, ecologism, nationalism and multiculturalism.	Global Politics including sovereignty and globalisation, political and economic global governance, human rights and environmental governance, and regionalism.

Assessment: Three written papers, one for each component, at the end of the course.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Politics allows you to become an effective local and global citizen with a greater understanding of how power works and how it can work for you. Who holds power, and how it is used, is key to understanding both our own society and the wider world. Politics is the way in which we strive to solve conflicts which arise from different points of view and ideologies. It is the route through which people seek to resolve issues and create better societies. As a student of politics, you will develop your ability to identify and weigh up arguments, to find ways through disagreement and to have an appreciation of how different solutions might benefit some rather than others. You will gain a wider and deeper understanding of world affairs and how they impact on your daily life.

Politics blends well with a wide range of other A Level subjects such as Business and Economics, History, Sociology and English. It does not only appeal to social science students, and can add a creative and analytical element for those following a Mathematics and sciences route. For anyone considering a career in the professions, Politics A Level is a useful subject which develops sought-after skills. From law, journalism and the media, to Parliament or even being a future Prime Minister, the career paths are varied and interesting.

PSYCHOLOGY

(AQA)

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

What can you change about a situation to make people more likely to obey you? Why do we forget things? Do people become criminals because of their genes or because of their environment? Do humans learn behaviour the same way that dogs do? These are just a few of the questions A Level Psychology students will explore at Dunottar.

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour in a given context. The focus is on understanding how the brain and our environment affect our behaviour. The department follows the AQA specification which explores topics such as human memory, abnormality, social influence, sleep, child psychology and abnormalities such as schizophrenia. Crucially, research methods and data-handling techniques used by psychologists are also a core focus.

COURSE OUTLINE

A Level Psychology encourages students to critically evaluate scientific research and the theories that arise from it.

We look to apply theories to real-life situations, such as understanding why eyewitness testimony is flawed and which treatments are the most effective for psychological disorders such as OCD, phobias, and depression.

Students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of Psychology outside the classroom, by keeping up with current research in magazines such as *The Psychologist* and through books, documentaries, and wider reading.

PAPER 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology	PAPER 2: Psychology in Context	PAPER 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
Social Influence	Approaches in Psychology	Issues and Debates
Memory	Biopsychology	Child Psychology: Cognition and Development
Attachment	Research Methods	Schizophrenia
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health		Forensic Psychology

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The assessment consists of three two-hour exams in the summer of the second year.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Psychology is currently one of the most popular subjects to study both at A Level and at university. It complements science subjects such as Biology and Chemistry as well as the humanities. Psychology is highly regarded by employers; people who study it have experience in logical analysis of data as well as the ability to empathise with others. A Psychology degree opens the door to a wide variety of careers. Of those who continue studying on to university level, only a relatively small percentage actually choose to become psychologists. The rest embark on a range of people-related careers including management, advertising or human resources.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS) (OCR)

Socrates once said: *“I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing.”*

If you are interested in a stimulating learning environment that encourages you to think deeply about life’s big and meaningful questions, and explore major issues that affect everyone, then this could be the right choice for you.

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)?

If you enjoy lively debate, exploring challenging ideas, and examining key issues in society, this course is for you.

Religious Studies pushes you to question assumptions about existence, morality, knowledge, and the human condition. Rather than giving you definitive answers, it often leaves you with deeper questions, encouraging enquiry and independent thought. The subject critically examines religion and belief systems, including their influence on moral thinking. You will explore arguments for and against the existence of God, engaging with the ideas of great philosophers, while learning to act as both judge and jury in your own thinking.

This course promotes scepticism and reflection, not just towards traditional authorities or experts, but also towards your own beliefs and assumptions. You will explore key philosophical, theological, and ethical theories and learn how to analyse and evaluate them critically.

COURSE OUTLINE

Religious Studies offers an intellectually engaging A Level that helps you understand moral, ethical, and cultural issues. The course develops a wide range of valuable skills, including:

- discussion and debate
- logical reasoning
- critical analysis and evaluation

These are highly transferable skills that benefit university study, careers, and life in general.

KEY QUESTIONS EXPLORED

- Why are we here?
- Does the existence of evil disprove the existence of God?
- Can we philosophically prove the existence of a divine being?
- Is modern society sexually immoral?
- Can making money be ethical? If so, why are so many companies immoral?
- Is religion a force for good or evil in the modern world?

Through Religious Studies, you will develop the ability to construct and structure arguments, identify weaknesses, and express yourself logically and precisely.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

A LEVEL PAPER 1	A LEVEL PAPER 2	A LEVEL PAPER 3
Written exam: 2 hours Philosophy: the study of God, metaphysics and logic.	Written exam: 2 hours Ethics: the study of moral action, how to make correct decisions and what it means to be ‘good’.	Written exam: 2 hours Developments: The study of theology within the modern world and the place of religion in history and today.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Level Religious Studies is engaging, academically rigorous, and excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses. It pairs well with any other A Level subject. The study of philosophical, theological, and ethical theories provides a deep understanding of themes relevant to politics, law, medicine, education, human rights, journalism, and religion.

SOCIOLOGY

(AQA)

Sociology is the study of society, the 'social world'. It looks beyond the day-to-day and asks what society is really like, why it functions as it does, and for whose benefit. Sociology asks you to understand and apply key concepts such as power, gender, ethnicity, and culture to important and topical issues such as education, crime and deviance, and religion, which shape the world we live in.

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is a rigorous academic subject that is also rooted in the real world. Studying Sociology A Level enables you to develop critical thinking skills, to analyse and interpret the world around you. Students achieve excellent results, helped by specialist teaching and small, supportive classes. Many have gone on to study Sociology at prestigious universities, either on its own or in combination with another subject.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

A LEVEL PAPER 1	A LEVEL PAPER 2	A LEVEL PAPER 3
Education with Theory and Methods	Families and Households Beliefs in Society	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level	2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level	2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A Level

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sociology A Level goes well with most subject combinations and complements humanities and social science subjects such as History, Geography, Business, Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics), Politics, and Psychology.

Sociology is about contemporary society and the people who live in it and is therefore an ideal subject for many future career paths given that many jobs require interaction with people.

BTEC SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE (PEARSON)

WHY STUDY BTEC SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE?

BTEC Sport and Exercise Science offers a practical, hands-on approach to learning that connects directly to real-world careers in sport, health and fitness. Alongside subject knowledge, the course develops valuable skills such as teamwork, communication and problem-solving through engaging coursework and applied learning.

It also provides in-depth knowledge of topics such as anatomy, physiology, and sports psychology, which are essential for careers in physiotherapy, personal training, sports coaching, or even sports science research. With strong links to the sports industry and opportunities for progression to university or employment, BTEC Sport and Exercise Science is an ideal choice for students passionate about sport who want to turn their interest into a successful and rewarding career.

COURSE OUTLINE

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport and Exercise Science

Unit number	Unit title	Type	How assessed
	Mandatory units		
2	Functional Anatomy	Mandatory	External
3	Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology	Mandatory	External
6	Coaching for Performance and Fitness	Mandatory Synoptic	Internal
	Optional units (students complete one)		
7	Biomechanics in Sport and Exercise Science	Optional	Internal
8	Specialised Fitness Training	Optional	Internal
10	Physical Activity for Individual and Group-based Exercise	Optional	Internal

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Students will be assessed through examinations and set tasks. Examples of the assessments:

Unit	Type
Unit 2: Functional Anatomy	• Written examination set and marked by Pearson • 1 hour 30 minutes • 60 marks
Unit 3: Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology	• A task set and marked by Pearson and completed in a single session of three hours under supervised conditions • Written submission • 60 marks

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The qualification can lead to:

- BSc Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside A Levels in Biology and Psychology
- BSc Biology, if taken alongside A Levels in Biology and Mathematics

The background of the slide features a photograph of a multi-story building with classical architectural elements, such as columns and a pediment. In the foreground, there are tall, thin plants with small, dark flowers. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The title 'ENRICHMENT OPTIONS' is centered in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. It is flanked by two horizontal dotted lines, one above and one below the text.

ENRICHMENT OPTIONS

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

COURSE OUTLINE

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an opportunity for Sixth Form students to engage fully with an idea they are passionate about, which may build on one of their A Level subjects or be something completely different that has sparked their interest

The EPQ allows students to carry out an independent research project with support from a supervisor and a taught programme of skills to help them complete their project successfully.

The project can either be in the form of a written report (essay) of 5,000 words or the production of an artefact (with a 1,000-word accompanying report). Students are also required to complete a Production Log and deliver a presentation to an invited audience.

BENEFITS OF THE EXTENDED PROJECT

- Teaches project management and greater responsibility for learning
- Develops study skills
- Prepares students for university or the workplace
- Adds value to a university application
- Allows students to pursue an interest beyond their A Level studies
- Develops critical thinking skills
- Builds presentation skills

IDEAS FOR EPQ TOPICS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Protest songs | • The impact of social media |
| • The impact of smoking on the NHS | • The effect of music on the brain |
| • Animals and medical research | • Fracking |
| • Writing a play | • Creating a magazine |
| • Coding | • Fashion |
| • Film-making | |

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS PROJECTS

- Is criminal behaviour purely the result of social or biological influence?
- Have athletes reached their full potential in terms of breaking world records?
- Could the character of Sherlock Holmes exist in the 21st century?
- To what extent has social media had a negative impact on the ability of 11 to 18 year olds to communicate face to face?
- How has sustainable architecture changed design?
- A comparison of global expansion at Tesco and Zara

Remember, the 'P' in EPQ is for passion as well as project.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP

LEVEL 3 (HSL3)

COURSE OUTLINE

This qualification is designed to use sport to help young people develop and hone leadership skills while helping themselves and others stay physically active through delivering coaching sessions.

By undertaking this nationally recognised qualification, you will learn and be able to demonstrate important life skills such as effective communication and organisation, while learning to independently lead purposeful and enjoyable sport and physical activity sessions for younger people, their peers, older generations and within the community.

The course involves both guided and peer-to-peer learning and supervised leadership to ensure you develop all the skills you need to successfully complete the course.

YOU WILL COMPLETE UNITS WHICH INCLUDE

- Developing leadership skills
- Planning, leading and evaluating a sports/physical activity event
- Leading safe sport/physical activity sessions
- You will also complete two additional units which involve planning, leading and evaluating sport/physical activity sessions for specific groups of people (for example, in the community, with disabled people, or with older people)

ONCE QUALIFIED YOU WILL

- Understand the key elements and differences of leading, coaching and teaching
- Understand the safeguarding of participants and how this affects an event
- Understand the effects of sport/physical activity on children
- Be able to deliver a sport/physical activity session to older people, disabled people, and young children in the community
- Independently plan, deliver and evaluate sport/physical activity sessions
- Be more employable, with stronger skills and an improved CV

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

There is no examination. The assessment methods include:

- Practical observation – video/photos can be used to support this
- Questioning of underpinning knowledge – via worksheets
- Plans and evaluations completed during the course

A total of 16 UCAS points are available.

Sports Leaders UK have created over one million leaders through their qualifications. This is what their previous students have said:

- ✓ 98% improved their communication skills
- ✓ 96% learnt to work in a team
- ✓ 94% believed they were more employable
- ✓ 78% said it helped get their first job
- ✓ 87% were inspired to get more people engaged
- ✓ 83% wanted to do more in the community



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