



Sacred Heart Sixth Form

Course Information and Entry
Requirements for September 2026

Choosing Appropriate Courses:

The aim of Sacred Heart's Sixth Form is to develop in each one of you an inner confidence, a sense of self-worth, drive and aspiration and the courage to try new challenges and explore your own potential. We are ambitious for you, and we want you to leave us ready to make the world a better place and take up the best careers, apprenticeships or university places. Whatever your gifts, talents and unique interests, there is a suite of subjects for you to follow.

To ensure you have the best opportunities once you leave Sacred Heart, we want you to choose courses where you will be successful and achieve the best grades.

Your GCSE results will give a very good indication of how you will succeed in Sixth Form, therefore, we require you to have achieved a particular average point score (APS) to study qualifications in the purple, green or yellow bands (shown on the next page). Your APS is calculated as an average of your GCSE results which will be provided to you on results day.

Most subjects also require a particular GCSE grade requirement in either the subject you want to study, or for English, Maths or Science.

These grade requirements have been put together based on attainment of a 'C' grade at A-Level and are shown on the next three pages.

Remember to consider the subjects similar to the ones you were most successful at GCSE as you will be more likely to be successful in these subjects at A-Level. If you are unsure between two courses, we allow you to begin the Year with 4 A-Levels to allow you to make an informed decision before deciding on the final 3 A-Levels.

Entry Requirements:

The full list of entry requirements for each course is shown on the next page.

Subjects are arranged into coloured bands and have entry requirements as stated below:

To study **all purple band courses**, you need an Average Point Score of 6.5 or more, plus the subject grades shown in the table below:

To study **all green band courses**, you need an Average Point Score of 5 or more, plus the subject grades shown in the table below:

To study **all yellow band courses**, you need an Average Point Score of 3.5 or more, plus the subject grades shown in the table below:

Combining Subjects from Different Bands:

If you would like to combine some subjects from different coloured bands, the APS requirement is shown below:

Purple and Green: APS 6 (plus the subject grade requirements)

Green and Yellow: APS 4.5 (plus the subject grade requirements)

Subject	1. APS Band	2. Grade Requirements					
		Eng Lang	Eng Lit	Maths	Science	Subject	Other
Biology	APS of 6.5 or more			6	7 in Biology or 7,7 in Trilogy		
Chemistry				6	7 in Chemistry or 7,7 in Trilogy		
Physics				7	7 in Physics or 7,7 in Trilogy		
Maths				7			
Computer Science				6		6	
French		5				7	
Spanish		5				7	
Economics	APS of 5 or more	5		6			
Psychology*				5	5,5		
Business		5		5			
Sociology		5 in Lang or Lit					
Politics		5 in Lang or Lit					
Eng Lang		5					
Eng Literature		6				6	
Geography		5		5		5	
History		5				5	
Music		5					Perf 4+, Music Theory 3+
RS		5				5	
Art - Ceramics	APS of 3.5 or more					5 in Art, Ceramics or Textiles	
Art - Fine Art							
Art - Textiles							
Applied Law		4 in Lang or Lit					
Film Studies		4					
Children's Play, Learning & Development		4 in Lang or Lit					
H&SC		4 in Lang or Lit				L2 Merit (if studied)	
English Lang & Lit Combined		4 in Lang or Lit					
Food Studies		4 in Lang or Lit				GCSE Food Prep 5 or Hospitality - Dist	
Dance		5				5	Extra-curricular Dance
Digital Media		5 in Lang or Lit					

Drama		5				5	Extra-curricular Drama
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****Psychology has an APS of 5.5. This will not be lowered if you choose to study a yellow band subject too.***

Applied Law

Level 3 Technical

What does the subject involve?

You will explore how civil disputes are resolved, both in the courts and by alternative means. You will examine the making and working of precedent and its application in the law of negligence. You will research how laws are made and interpreted, who advises and decides on the outcome of criminal cases and the punishments that can be imposed if laws are broken specifically looking at non-fatal offences.

You will examine the law related to specific crimes, including homicide (murder and manslaughter) and offences against property (theft, robbery, burglary, criminal damage and fraud). You will explore the police procedures for dealing with such offences. You will explore the requirements of a valid marriage and civil partnerships, the laws governing the breakdown of relationships, as well as how disputes over children are resolved by the courts.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

Coursework 47% and 53% exam

Why should I opt for this subject?

The Level 3 qualification in Law will:

- Develop employability skills specific to the law profession as well as those that are transferrable to other professions. These include critical thinking, communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing along with self-management, resilience and self-monitoring and development.
- provide transferable knowledge and skills that prepare you for progression to higher education such as, the ability to learn independently, ability to research actively and to be able to give presentations and being active group members.
- give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life and to allow access to employment opportunities in the legal sector.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

The Level 3 Applied Law course is equivalent to one A-Level and therefore carries equivalent UCAS points to enter higher education. This is also a popular qualification to support progression to employment directly or via an Apprenticeship.

Art: Ceramics - Three-Dimensional Design

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

If you are imaginative, hardworking, have a real interest in developing your 3D making skills and your creativity at the same time, A-Level Ceramics is the course for you! The course is structured so that in addition to learning new skills, you continue to develop the skills you have already learnt in your GCSE Art course. You will work with new construction techniques, research a range of traditional and contemporary artists and experiment with different methods of glaze application. We make numerous visits to local and national galleries.

Assessment:

Exam Board: AQA Art and Design: Three-dimensional Design

Component 1: Coursework 60%, Coursework themes for study are developed by student, with teacher advice.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (Exam) 40% Exam work is in response to a brief set by the exam board. Work is presented in the form of sketchbooks, larger scale development work and a final piece (15 hour Controlled Test).

Why should I opt for this subject?

We live in a visual age where creativity drives Design, Engineering, Architecture and Visual communications. You will develop your practical, creative and imaginative skills as well as challenge yourself to interpret themes through ceramics which are personal to you. You will be more knowledgeable about the work of artists and be able to analyse the work of others using technical vocabulary, expressing your own judgements about art. You will also develop your passion for the subject while having fun along the way!

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

More than 190 British Universities and Colleges offer around 120 different subjects in Art and Design at degree and Higher National Diploma level. The many career options available to you include, Architect, Fashion Designer, Engineer, Interior Designer, Ceramicist, Graphic Designer, Film Maker, Medical Model maker, Theatre Designer, Retail Buyer, Computer Animator, Art Therapist, Multi-media Designer, Photographer and Packaging Designer. The editorial and creative writing skills developed will serve those interested in the media.

Art: Fine Art

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Art and Design is a fantastic course to study if you are creative and have a real interest in developing your practical skills and using your imagination. The course is structured so that in addition to developing new skills, you can continue to build on the knowledge that you gained through your GCSE Art course. You will learn new techniques including how to develop images in the dark room, photography, video, installation and make creative links to artists and contextual themes. We visit local galleries and national galleries.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Art and Design: Fine Art

Component 1: Coursework 60%, Coursework themes for study are developed by student, with teacher advice.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (Exam) 40% Exam work is in response to a brief set by the exam board. Work is presented in the form of sketchbooks, larger scale development work and a final piece (15 hour Controlled Test).

Why should I opt for this subject?

We live in a visual age where creativity drives Design, Engineering, Architecture and Visual communications. You will develop your practical, creative and imaginative skills and challenge yourself to interpret themes in a visual way, personal to you. Knowledgeable about the work of artists, you will analyse work using a technical vocabulary, expressing your own judgements about art. Join us and develop your passion for the subject while having fun along the way in your own studio space!

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

More than 190 British Universities and Colleges offer around 120 different subjects in Art and Design at degree and Higher National Diploma level. The many career options available to you include, Architect, Engineer, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Ceramicist, Graphic Designer, Film Maker, Medical Model maker, Theatre Designer, Retail Buyer, Computer Animator, Art Therapist, Multi-media Designer, Photographer and Packaging Designer. The editorial and creative writing skills developed will serve those interested in the media.

Art: Textile Design

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Textile Design is a fantastic course to study if you are creative and have a real interest in developing your practical skills and using your imagination. The course is structured so that in addition to developing new skills, you can continue to build on the knowledge that you gained through your GCSE course. You will use specialist equipment and facilities to explore a range of materials, including pattern cutting, fabric manipulation, print and digital work. Critical analysis skills are developed by completing designer reports and making links to your own work. We visit local galleries and national galleries.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Art and Design: Textile Design

Component 1: Coursework 60%, Coursework themes for study are developed by student, with teacher advice.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (Exam) 40% Exam work is in response to a brief set by the exam board. Work is presented in the form of sketchbooks, larger scale development work and a final piece (15 hour Controlled Test).

Why should I opt for this subject?

This course will develop your creativity and originality. Your ability to question and challenge, solve problems and provide an opportunity to develop integrated knowledge, skills and understanding of the creation of fashion design and illustration, a working knowledge of a range textiles techniques, links to broader areas of fashion, such as marketing, promotion and styling.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

More than 190 British Universities and Colleges offer around 120 different subjects in Art and Design at degree and Higher National Diploma level. The many career options available to you include; Fashion or Interior Designer, Buyer, Advertising or Marketing Executive, Journalist, Illustrator, Stylist, Teacher or Lecturer. The editorial and creative writing skills developed will serve those interested in the media sector of the industry.

Biology

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Biology is the science of life and its study will provide deeper understanding of the human body, animals, plants and the natural environment and the increasingly important field of genetics and DNA technology. You will also develop hands-on practical experience to allow you to become confident and competent in a laboratory setting.

Topics studied at in Year 12 include cell biology, biochemistry, human health and disease and the variety of life. In Year 13 you will also study genetics, DNA technology, respiration and photosynthesis, ecology, nerves and hormones and homeostasis.

It requires and develops an ability to apply mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar contexts. It requires a firm commitment to achieve the highest grades, even for the most able of students.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Biology

3 exams (2 hours each)

Why should I opt for this subject?

The study of A level biology develops a sound knowledge of a wide range of biological topics and a range of skills including, practical, ability to analysis data, comprehension, extended writing, and independence. The students will also develop their math's skills and be able to solve problems in a methodical manner. Success in biology requires good literacy skills and good math's skills.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Biology is listed as a key facilitating subject by the Russell Group of universities. Exciting degree courses that lead on from Biology A level include microbiology, cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, animal sciences, nursing, pharmacology and many more. Careers related to biology include, nursing and medicine, veterinary sciences, biomedical science, environmental sciences, conservation, biotechnology, pharmacology, food science, nutrition, speech therapy, physiotherapy, and teaching. Equally, biology would also support you in other non-science related university choices because of the range of transferable skills you will develop during the course.

Business

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

This A level Business course introduces you to all you need to know about working in business, providing a solid foundation for further study. With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker within key business areas such as marketing, human resource management and finance; you will learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA GCE Business

Three 2 hour written exams at the end of year 2

Why should I opt for this subject?

Students who take Business:

- Often also study Accounting, Computing, Economics, Modern Languages or Mathematics. But students committed to the arts or sciences should also consider taking Business Studies in this cost – centred world.
- Will often enjoy assembling data and assessing it, investigating facts and using deduction, putting over their point of view fluently and working as a team to achieve results.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

If you'd like to study business, finance or management at university. A – level Business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are also transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you'll find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, you'll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that's the case, you'll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

Chemistry

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Chemistry explores the structure of the material universe; all that we can see, touch, taste or feel. It develops a number of conceptual and mathematical models for how and why everyday substances interact and behave as they do. At every step, students are encouraged to explore and understand these models through practical laboratory experience.

Chemistry is a subject that appeals to creative thinkers with a keen analytical and logical mind. It requires and develops an ability to apply mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding to previously unseen, but "real-world" problems. It requires a firm commitment to achieve the highest grades, even for the most able of students.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA

3 exams (2 hours each)

Why should I opt for this subject?

Whilst developing your problem-solving skills, challenging your memory and testing your practical ability to the limit, Chemistry will provide you with an insight into how matter interacts on a very technical level. It will help you to appreciate how everyday molecules are designed; from such seemingly mundane substances as mayonnaise, to the more complex ideas underpinning the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, the mathematics underlying pH buffers, and some of nature's elegant solutions to chemical problems. Being comfortable with Mathematics will benefit your study of Chemistry.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

A good result in 'A'-level Chemistry will show that you are highly skilled at logical thinking, information processing and can apply a wide range of technical detail to a variety of real-world problems. It is especially required for the vast majority of courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine - but is equally useful to those wishing to peruse careers in Engineering, or Environmental Science based topics. It is an excellent 'second choice' subject for students who will need to demonstrate the very highest levels of ability; for University admissions into Law or Mathematics, for example.

Children's Learning, Play & Development

Level 3 Technical

What does the subject involve?

This qualification is for students interested in learning about the early years sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is intended as an Applied General qualification and is equivalent in size to 1 A level.

Assessment

Students taking this qualification will study the following three mandatory units:

- Children's Development
- Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Play and Learning.

Students will complete 50 hours of work experience in the sector, plus one optional unit from:

- Keeping Children Safe
- Children's Physical Development, Care and Health Needs
- Working with parents and others in Early Years
- The Early Years Foundation Stage

Why should I opt for this subject?

The early years sector in England is made up of over 80,000 settings, with 1.3 million childcare places for children under five. This ranges from childminders and nannies, to nurseries, crèches and preschools. Alongside the care provision, the sector has further career paths for students interested in working with children. Degree courses in speech therapy, social work, special education and playworker offer additional opportunities in the sector.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education to ensure it supports progression towards higher study. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

Because the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, students will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many courses. The courses available will depend on the other subjects chosen, but for students interested in a course linked to the sector the following are possibilities:

- BSc (Hons) in Paediatric Nursing, when taken alongside, for example, Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and A level Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies, when taken alongside, for example, A levels in English and Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Primary Education, when taken alongside, for example, A levels in English Literature and History. This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment via higher education; however, this qualification will also be relevant for those choosing to progress directly to employment through an Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

Computer Science

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Computers pervade every aspect of modern life and Computer Science is understanding, in detail, how these computer systems work. The microprocessor that lies at the heart of every computing system is found everywhere, from the PC on your desktop to tablets, smart phones, cars and microwave ovens. Modern society simply could not function without computers, but few people really understand how it all works. An A-Level in Computer Science will give you a deep insight and understanding into how it all fits together, from the microprocessor, to memory, storage, operating systems, network architectures as well as Legal, Ethical, Moral and Social Issues, and how to use high-level programming languages to create efficient algorithms. By the end of the A-Level you will have an excellent understanding of how computer systems function in an ever-changing technology-based world.

Assessment

Exam Board: OCR Computer Science

2 exams (2hrs 30mins each) (80%) Coursework project (20%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

If you enjoy using computers and you want to know more about how they work and how they can be used, studying Computer Science would be a good choice. The A Level in Computer Science is varied, interesting and offers challenges to help you develop your knowledge. You'll need to have a logical mind and enjoy breaking larger problems down to create efficient solutions. You'll need to enjoy working independently on a project, and be prepared to contribute to class discussions, and work with other people in designing computer systems. A large proportion of the course will involve using a number of programming languages to solve problems and programming computer systems.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

This course is designed to give a broad introduction to Computer Science and aims to prepare candidates for further study in higher education, further training or employment. Candidates who achieve these qualifications may be prepared to enter a variety of higher education courses in Computing related subjects such as: Computer Science; Software Engineering; Web Design, Information Communication Technology; Information Systems; Multimedia. However, a good grade in Computer Science at A level is valued by universities and employers as it requires the development of analytical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are key skills for further studies or employment in any field.

Dance

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

This practical, explorative and creative subject is designed for students with a strong passion and talent for dance. It allows students equal access to both choreography and performance elements of the course. Through workshops with professional artists, theatre visits and technique classes, you will learn the craft of choreography whilst developing and securing your physical technique. Although the assessment requires a significant amount of written work, the course is largely practical and offers a unique approach to learning, allowing you to express and develop your areas of interest using past and current dance practitioners and styles.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Dance

2 Exams Written (50%) Practical (50%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

This course will develop your dance performance and choreography skills. In addition, through the study of dance, anatomy, diet and nutrition, safe practice and healthy lifestyles you will gain insight into the career of a professional dancer and the skills and attributes required.

You will develop your analytical, interpretive and appreciation skills through a range of live performances, genres and styles. Through practical units you will develop your own flair and creative style allowing you to express and develop your own dance ideas whilst improving your technical and performance skills. This approach to study will provide you with a range of transferable skills in articulating thoughts, exploring ideas, communication skills and providing you with the ability to work individually and as part of a group situation in a practical setting.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

A Level Dance provides excellent preparation for a Dance performance/Choreography degree or Dance school training. The skills developed through this course are relevant to the careers paths of A-Level Dance students and can include performance work, choreographer, and roles within the health and fitness industry, journalism and teaching.

Digital Media

Level 3 Technical

What does the subject involve?

Embark on a thrilling journey into the heart of the digital age with the OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Digital Media qualification! This course is a goldmine of opportunities for the creatively inclined and technologically savvy. Immerse yourself in the vibrant worlds of graphic design, web development, video production, and animation. Each unit is a step towards mastering the tools and techniques that will make you a sought-after professional in the digital realm. Picture yourself bringing ideas to life with cutting-edge software, collaborating on projects that set social media trends, or designing websites that captivate audiences worldwide. With hands-on projects that mirror industry standards, and assessments that polish your practical skills, this course is your launchpad to an exciting career or advanced studies. Embrace the digital media landscape with confidence and creativity – your future as a digital innovator starts here!

Assessment

Exam board: OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Digital Media

3 written exams

2 internal assessments

(Depending on the units)

Why should I opt for this subject?

The Digital Media course equips students with vital practical and theoretical skills for careers in graphic design, web development, video production, and animation. It merges creativity with technical know-how through engaging theory and hands-on projects, emphasizing the strategic use of digital platforms in marketing and communication. Students will also hone soft skills such as project management, time management and teamwork. Assessments across coursework, projects, and exams ensure real-world readiness, paving the way for professional roles and advanced studies in digital fields.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

After an A-level in Digital Media, students can pursue higher education in specialized fields such as Digital Media, Graphic Design or Digital Marketing, or jump directly into careers like social media management, content creation, or start their own digital-focused business. The skills gained also enhance other careers, providing a competitive edge in the digital-centric professional world.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

This practical, intellectual and artistic subject is designed for students who enjoy reading and watching plays and taking part in drama, as a performer or director. Through various visits you will be shown the amazing diversity in theatre and will learn to analyse, interpret and create imaginative and compelling performances, whilst becoming a more competent theatre practitioner. Whilst this A level is rigorously academic, the teaching approach is largely practical and offers a unique approach to learning. It is an active and creative course which aims to nurture your enthusiasm for and interest in theatre, both as an audience member and as a participant.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Drama & Theatre Studies

Exam (40%)

Practical performance (30%)

Coursework (30%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

This course will develop your performance and directorial skills. In addition, through the study of plays and live productions you will explore and increase your understanding of a wide range of historical, sociological and ethical issues. In practical units, the process of creating a performance promotes negotiation, debate and research skills. This multidisciplinary approach to study will equip you with a range of transferable skills in articulating thoughts, exploring ideas, sharpening communication skills and providing you with the ability to work within a group situation both in a practical and academic setting.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Drama and Theatre Studies provides excellent preparation for a Drama degree or Drama school training. This course is recognised by top universities and employers as a course which will enable you to progress to a wide range of degree options including English, Engineering, Law, Film, Teaching and Nursing. The subject combines especially well with other Arts, Humanities and English courses. Past students who have taken this A Level have secured places at Cambridge, Durham, Queen Mary's Warwick and top drama schools, finding careers in theatre

Economics

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Economics is a social science that attempts to explain how the actions and decisions of firms, consumers, workers, and government affect the operation of the economy. It plays a huge role in our daily lives; it has links to international affairs and politics and is a subject that is often debated and discussed.

It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting; and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions. It requires an ability to analyse and includes topics such as supply and demand, growth, inflation, globalisation, and poverty.

Assessment

Exam Board: OCR Economics 3 exams,
2 hours each:

Paper One: Microeconomics

Paper Two: Macroeconomics

Paper Three: Themes in Economics

Why should I opt for this subject?

Economics will provide an individual with numerical, analytical and evaluative skills. These will help you to think in a complex and precise way. How to analyse problems and communicate your findings effectively? These skills are valued in a wide range of careers. In short, it is important to study Economics because it is an attempt to understand how society makes decisions. You can analyse absolutely anything - be it a policy decision or a relationship decision - with the tools of economics.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in many careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but your qualification in Economics could also be valuable support in a career like marketing, law, journalism or teaching. Students who take Economics also often study Law, Mathematics, Geography, History, Politics, Philosophy and Languages. Of course, if you go on to specialise in Economics, there are dedicated courses at university or college.

English Language

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

The English Language course allows students the opportunity to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The English Language will be explored as both a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on language as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition.

Across 2 years, students will be given the opportunity to consider large scale public discourses about change and variety, drawing on regional, ethnic, national and global English use. They will investigate ways in which language is acquired by children and how it is constantly developing to meet the cultural, technological and political demands of society.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA English Language

80% examination, 20% coursework

Why should I opt for this subject?

A study of English Language at A-Level develops skills of analysis, as students become confident in the use of various linguistic methods to deconstruct any text to investigate meaning. Students learn to be judicious in their observations of various everyday texts, considering how language can be used to manipulate readers, or to reinforce particular ideologies.

English Language students are able to engage confidently with several debates surrounding language use, drawing upon their knowledge of various linguistic theorists to support their arguments.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

As well as being a strong foundation for those wishing to study Linguistics at University, the skills of critical thinking, communication and analysis learnt within English Language work as an ideal base for future studies in Humanities or Social Sciences at degree level. The editorial and creative writing skills developed through coursework will serve those who are interested in a career in journalism or within the media. The study of how language is learnt, and how it functions within society, makes this subject a great complement to the study of Psychology and Sociology.

English Literature

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

This historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context and works from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced. The focus of this course is to encourage students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. In line with this approach, students follow a two-year course of study that allows them to engage with poetry, prose and drama both diachronically (produced across a very broad time base) and synchronically (produced within a clearly defined time period). Connected by the theme of 'Love Through the Ages', students will have the opportunity to engage with literature from the pre-1900 era. A focus on the shared contexts of texts will be explored through Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA English Literature A

80% examination, 20% coursework

Why should I opt for this subject?

The study of English Literature will enable you to gain knowledge of the literary heritage as well as providing an opportunity for you to develop excellent oral and written communication skills, the chance to express your own ideas and opinions and the ability to analyse and construct a persuasive argument. Furthermore, you will have the chance to read widely and discuss a variety of challenging, interesting and thought-provoking texts within an exciting and vibrant teaching and learning environment.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

English Literature is particularly effective in equipping students with the skills they need for a large number of competitive courses and in increasing a student's chances of getting on those subjects. A challenging and exciting course, Literature will complement any future studies in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law faculties at University. It is a popular single honour BA degree option and can be studied at many institutions as a joint honours subject (eg English and History).

English Language & Literature (Combined A Level)

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

The combined English Language and Literature course allows students to explore elements of both subjects, with a focus on stylistic analysis of fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will study a range of multi-modal texts, exploring how stories are told and used, and how language is used to create narratives in a range of genres, including poetry, prose, drama, and non-fiction texts. This course differs from the single subject A Levels as it aims to explore connections between the two fields of study. There is also a significant creative writing component, which allows students to apply their knowledge through re-creating the 'lost voices' of literary texts. Using literary and linguistic concepts and methods, students gain insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity. Students develop skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own processes of production.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA English Language and Literature

80% examination, 20% coursework

Why should I opt for this subject?

The variety of assessment styles used, such as re-creative writing, commentary writing, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of transferrable skills. These include the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment. This accessible course is for any student who is interested in studying English to a higher level and wants to explore a variety of different aspects of the discipline.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

The ability to confidently analyse and engage with a wide variety of texts will be invaluable to anyone pursuing a career linked to communications, such as journalism or public relations. The editorial and creative writing skills developed throughout this course, both in the examination and the coursework, will serve those who are interested in a career in journalism or within the media, as well as anyone interested in pursuing a career in creative writing.

Film

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

In Film Studies the focus is on learning new practical skills and practising analysing texts. This course explores the origins of cinema, film theory and technology as well as allowing you to study modern films. If the practical side of Film Studies appeals to you, there is the option of producing a short film for your coursework. If you would prefer to focus on writing then you also have the option of developing a screenplay and producing a digital storyboard.

Assessment

Exam Board: Eduqas Film Studies

Exam (70%), Practical (30%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

Indulge your passion for creativity and analysis in Film Studies. This wide and varied course enables you to delve into film from different genres, styles, countries and eras. From early silent movies and the earliest forms of documentary right up to modern experimental films, you will get the chance to study lots of films from different cultures and contexts.

When you have completed your preparation for the exam, the focus of the coursework is entirely your own choosing. If you are a fan of classic horror movies, you may wish to create your own. If you prefer comedies, you may choose to film your own short version. The choice is yours and that is what makes Film Studies such an exciting course to study.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

The balance of creative and analytical skills means that Film Studies will complement a variety of courses with similar skills sets; it could also help you to acquire evidence of additional interests and experiences outside your studies. However, if film is your passion, then many Russell Group universities have specialised film courses: practical, technical and theoretical. The field of film and broadcasting has many varied career paths: from editor, camera operator, photographer, art director to journalism, content manager, editor, or work in film and picture research and archiving. Many of our former students have gone on to study specialised film courses.

Food Science & Nutrition

Level 3 Diploma

What does the subject involve?

The purpose of this course is for learners to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs. Learners will develop an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.

Assessment

Exam Board: WJEC

Year 12 – Unit 1 50% Written Exam 50% Controlled Practical task

Year 13 – Unit 2 and Unit 3 - 100% Controlled Task - No Exam in Year 13

Why should I opt for this subject?

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Food is a good course for any further degree. Students do well and therefore gain good entry grades for any undergraduate course. The science aspect also shows universities your ability to understand scientific principles and apply them. It is particularly relevant for careers related to Dietetics, Health Visiting, Nutritionists, Nursing, Teaching, Nursery Nursing, Public Health Work, Environmental Health, Hotelier, Caterer, Food Producer/Buyer, Food Technologist, Supermarket Buyer, Advertiser, or marketing executive. The food industry remains one of the most prolific employers of graduates, with degree courses available throughout the country, including Northumbria, Teesside and Sheffield Hallam.

French

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

French aims to develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learnt in a wide range of contexts. Students gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society in more depth, using a wider range of complex language.

Students will be studying the following topics:

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends (Year 12)
2. Artistic Culture in the French-speaking world (Year 12)
3. Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (Year 13)
4. Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues (Year 13)
5. Literary texts and cinema (Across 2 years)
6. Grammar (Across 2 years)

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA French

Listening, Reading and Translation (50%), Writing (20%), Speaking (30%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

French will allow students to develop a wide range of communication skills that can be applied to other aspects of everyday life. Students become more aware of cultural values and modern topical issues within France. Key skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing continue to be developed to a more complex level thus enabling students to express themselves using a more sophisticated and advanced range of language. We aim to develop a lasting appreciation of language and learning, the ability to comprehend French in a wide range of contexts, the ability to communicate in French, a useful knowledge of an insights into French-speaking cultures, both contemporary and historic and valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language at A-Level will enhance all elements of future prospects. With a modern language, university options will widen, as will post university prospects in employment. Employers look for potential employees with a range of skills in communication, which are acquired by studying a language at a higher level.

Geography

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Geography is a modern and engaging subject which gives students an understanding of the complex range of conflicts and issues affecting our planet.

Topics in Year 12 include tectonic processes and hazards, coastal landscapes and change, globalisation and diverse places. Year 13 topics includes water and energy security, climate change futures, superpowers and global development. There is also an independent non-examined assessment project based on fieldwork and research completed throughout the two years of study. There will be a number of fieldwork days in the UK and a residential trip.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel Geography

3 Exams and 3,000 – 4,000 word fieldwork report (20% of A Level)

Why should I opt for this subject?

Geography will develop:

- Knowledge of geographical concepts and processes;
- Skills to analyse, interpret and evaluate information and different viewpoints and apply this to unfamiliar situations;
- Ability to investigate questions and issues, interpreting data and reaching conclusions;
- High levels of engagement with the current news agenda; ☑ Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Geography will enable you to progress to a wide range of degree options including Geography, Climatology, Geology, Earth Sciences, Social Sciences, Leisure and Tourism, Business and Education.

The wide range of skills you will develop will enable progression into many careers, and graduates of Geography are some of the most employable. The list of jobs is endless.

Health and Social Care

Level 3 Technical: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (360 GLH)

What does the subject involve?

This qualification aims to provide an introduction to study of the sector and is for the student interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is intended as an Applied General qualification and is equivalent in size to one A level.

Assessment

Students will complete the following mandatory units:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs.

One option unit that supports their progression to specialised degree programmes, and which covers the biological and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector.

Optional units include:

- Sociological perspectives
- Psychological perspective
- Additional needs
- Physiological disorders

Why should I opt for this subject?

The health and social care sector comprises two sub sectors; health care and social care. Health care encompasses all hospital activities, medical nursing homes and GP services, for example. The social care sector includes residential nursing care, residential nursing facilities, residential care facilities, domiciliary care and social work. Students are able to progress into work in the sector through degree programmes in nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy, for example. There are more than 300 distinct career paths in this sector.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education to ensure it supports progression towards higher study. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

Because the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, students will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many courses. The courses available will depend on the other subjects chosen, but for students interested in a course linked to the sector the following are possibilities:

- BSc (Hons) in Paediatric Nursing, when taken alongside, for example, Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and A level Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies, when taken alongside, for example, A levels in English and Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Primary Education, when taken alongside, for example, A levels in English Literature and History.

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment via higher education; however, this qualification will also be relevant for those choosing to progress directly to employment through an Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

History

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

In History at A-Level we aim to broaden both historical knowledge and skills. The periods covered centre on the Tudor period in England and early Communist Russia. These periods of British and European History were times of significant change in government and society. In addition, you will study a fascinating range of people and events and complete an independent Historical Enquiry.

This course is a linear A-Level and divided into three main units of study. The topics covered are 'Tudor England, 1485-1603' and 'Revolution and Dictatorship, Russia 1917-1953'. You will also complete a Historical Enquiry where you will study 'US Civil Rights c1865-c1992' then choose a key area or theme from this period to focus on in more depth.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA History

2 Exams and 1 Historical Enquiry (3,500 – 4,500 words)

Why should I opt for this subject?

The skills and knowledge developed through A-Level History are highly transferable. They can be used to support other A-Level subjects, particularly other Humanities such as English and Religious Studies, and in study or work beyond sixth form. The ability to use a range of source material and interpretations of the past to construct a balanced argument is fundamental to the subject and valuable in a variety of subjects or careers. In our information rich society being able to critically evaluate different sources and opposing interpretations is increasingly important.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Apart from studying History at degree level, the historical skills developed at A-Level are also useful for those interested in degrees or careers in law; journalism; the media; education, including museum work; historical tourism; business; accountancy and public services.

Mathematics

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Mathematics is an exciting and challenging subject which continues to develop at a rapid rate across many research areas. It has a natural elegance and beauty. Taking a real-world problem and creating and applying mathematical models to aid understanding is often hugely satisfying and rewarding.

Students studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics courses have an opportunity to explore ideas in Pure Mathematics and their use in Applied (real-life) contexts.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel

Examined at the end of Year 13

Why should I opt for this subject?

Mathematics encourages students to:

- Develop a knowledge of mathematical processes;
- Develop an ability to reason logically;
- Recognise how a real-life situation can be represented mathematically;
- Develop skills to be able to work independently and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Form and solve problems using a range of mathematical skills and strategies.
- Develop the ability to present solutions to complex problems, clearly and concisely both verbally and in written form.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Mathematics is a valued subject by employers and universities because of the broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and flexible thinking. The generic nature of mathematics means that almost all industries require mathematicians. Mathematicians work in business, finance, industry, government offices, management, education and science. This leads to careers that are exciting, challenging and diverse in nature. Studies have also shown that people with

Mathematics A-Level also tend to earn more on average than people without it!

Music

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

"Music can change the world because it can change people" (Bono, 1983)

Studying music gives you the opportunity to develop unique skills. You will study performance and improve your abilities in playing or singing. You will also develop skills in writing your own music. These creative and practical skills will be further enhanced through academic study of various aspects of music history. You will encounter many different musical genres including the Western Classical Tradition, Music for Media, Music for Theatre and Popular Music.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Music

Performance Coursework (35%)

Composing Coursework (25%)

Appraising Music Examination (40%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

A Level Music is a qualification that is highly respected by the best universities and uniquely develops both practical and academic ability. The course is essential for those wishing to read music at university, and many of our past pupils have ended up on the most highly respected music degree courses in the country. It is also a great option if you play an instrument or sing and would like to develop many of the key transferable skills that all employers look for. If you are passionate about music, then this is the course for you.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Studying music will help you to develop both creatively and academically. Regardless of whether you continue to study music at a higher level, you will gain many transferable skills that will apply to many degree courses and employment options. If you go on to study music at university you could become a professional performer, composer or musicologist. However, music graduates go into many different fields: careers as diverse as broadcasting, law, the sciences, publishing, teaching and lecturing, finance, arts administration and work in the charitable sector.

Physics

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Physics is the fundamental science, its laws and concepts underpin and explain the complexities of the world around us. A level Physics gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas, to develop descriptions of the physical universe. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you.

It requires a firm commitment to achieve the highest grades, even for the most able of students, but with the support of your teachers it will provide you with both challenge and reward as you successfully navigate the course.

Throughout the course, you will need your imagination and creativity but also reasoning and experimental skills and, at least, a liking of Maths. Search for 'Feynman Fun to imagine' on YouTube!

Assessment

Exam Board: OCR A A-Level Physics (H556) - [AS and A Level - Physics A - H156, H556 - OCR](#)

3 Exams in the summer of Year 13

Why should I opt for this subject?

Physics will help you develop skills and understanding, to question the world and technology that surrounds you, challenging your understanding of these areas and how they work.

Even if you do not decide to work in physics, studying it still develops useful and transferrable skills for other careers. You develop research, problem solving and analytical skills, alongside teamwork and communication. Universities and business regard all of these very highly.

The Domain of Science you tube channel navigate you through their map of Physics and the many areas studied at A Level and beyond - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZihywtixUYo>

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Physics is a highly respected A level. A good grade in A level Physics demonstrates to an employer that you have analytical and mathematical skills that you can apply to real life situations. An A level in Physics leads to many different degree courses and jobs. Most physicists are employed for their mathematical reasoning, communication and thinking skills rather than specifically their physics qualification. There are many possible career paths that it will create for you, for example:

Engineering, Medicine, Forensic Science, Astronomy, Cosmology, Electronics, Power generation, Finance and many more. The Institute of Physics (IoP) has details of university qualifications, careers and salaries which will give you further information. <https://www.iop.org/careers-physics>

Politics

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Politics will provide you with an understanding of the political environment of our society today and you will become far more knowledgeable about government, democracy and participation, political parties and ideas, voting behaviour, electoral systems, how laws are created and about how political views are formed etc. It also involves the study of American politics and government and will lead to a detailed understanding of the political relationship that the UK has with the US. A-Level Politics develops a great understanding of political processes, systems, ideologies and institutions.

Assessment

Exam Board: Edexcel Politics

Three exams (2 hours each)

Exams are based on extended writing in response to essay questions (60% of exam questions are extended responses worth 30 marks).

Why should I opt for this subject?

Politicians make decisions that affect every aspect of our lives, so it is important to know the political processes that exist to make the laws and policies that impact on our daily lives. We live in interesting times and studying politics will help you to understand today's political environment and how it has evolved. Politics will develop your skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation which are essential to all A-Level and degree courses. It will encourage you to be more critical in your thinking; to be able to assess the value of arguments and explanations; to develop a strong argument and it will enable you to explore ideas in great depth. It will encourage a greater respect and understanding of democracy and political participation.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Politics is a respected academic subject that is valued by universities and employers. It is an extremely useful qualification in a number of careers such as politics, law, journalism, research, the civil service, social policy, international relations, teaching and lecturing, social work etc. Politics is a very popular university degree course, and it can be combined with sociology, history, economics, philosophy, law, international relations etc.

Psychology

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Psychology is the scientific study of experience, the human mind and behaviour.

Psychology seeks to understand and explain how we think, act and feel. As Ben Ambridge, a senior lecturer in Psychology at the University of Liverpool, states in his book 'Psy-Q', "There is literally no aspect of the human experience that cannot be investigated, in some way or other, using the methods of experimental Psychology". This subject enhances and enriches the fields of mental health treatment, performance enhancement, self-help and many other areas affecting health and daily life.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Psychology

Three exams (2 hours each)

Exams contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing in response to essay questions.

- At least 25–30% of the overall assessment will assess skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to research methods.
- At least 10% of the overall assessment of Psychology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above. These skills will be applied in the context of A-Level Psychology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics.

Why should I opt for this subject?

You should opt for this subject if you want to develop a greater understanding of the human mind and behaviour from a scientific perspective. Taking Psychology will help you to develop knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures and apply this knowledge. You will develop critical thinking skills as you analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence. You will gain knowledge and understanding of Psychology through studying a broad range of topics including social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology, key approaches and research methods.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

A level Psychology is useful for many degree subjects including, Law, Nursing, Medicine and Teaching and can be studied as a subject in its own right. There are a range of areas that you can specialise in if you choose to continue to study this subject at university such as clinical, experimental, forensic, educational, sport and occupational Psychology. Along with these options the study skills that you gain will teach you how to manipulate data and conduct your own research whilst helping you understand the behaviour of others which will be useful in a range of work settings.

Religious Studies

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Religious Studies features a variety of relevant and contemporary themes, such as the ideas concerning the existence of God, life after death, religious experiences, religion and science and gender and sexuality. The course offers the opportunity to develop an interest in the study of Religion and its relation to the wider world. It will appeal to confident essay writers who want to gain critical and evaluative skills that are sought after by respected further education providers and employers.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA A Level Religious Studies

Two 3-hour exams

Why should I opt for this subject?

- What happens when we die?
- Who has the right to life?
- Can you prove God exists?
- Is science better than religion?
- Are we truly free?
- What is morality?
- Should abortion be legal?

If you have ever asked any of these questions, Religious Studies at A-Level is the course for you. We look at the works and ideas of some of the greatest thinkers the world has known. We reflect on key, contemporary issues and recent developments in the study of religion, philosophy and ethics.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

This highly regarded A-Level provides an excellent training platform for many courses at a further education level. For example, it will develop your linguistic, literary, historical and philosophical understanding. Students also develop the skill of reasoning and reflection in relation to some of the serious issues that face our modern technological society. These skills can be applied in an almost limitless range of professions. Business leaders, politicians, lawyers, doctors, journalists, teachers and social workers are among those that found Religious Studies gave them the skills and human understanding needed to succeed in their profession

Sociology

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour and explores how society influences us to become the people that we are. We study topics and themes such as crime, families, politics, education, religion, media, identity, power, social class, age, gender and ethnicity. It is a fascinating subject for people with questioning minds as it looks beyond what we consider to be 'normal' and encourages students to 'get behind the scenes'. Sociology develops a greater understanding about the world we live in and answers a lot of big questions.

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Sociology

Three exams (2 hours each)

Exams contain mainly extended writing in response to essay questions (80% of the exam questions are extended responses worth 10, 20 or 30 marks).

Why should I opt for this subject?

Sociology develops a greater appreciation of social, political, cultural and economic issues and you will become more knowledgeable about the society you live in. It will develop your skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation which are essential to all A-Level and degree courses. Sociology will encourage you to be more critical in your thinking; to be able to assess the value of arguments and explanations; to develop a strong argument and it will enable you to explore ideas in great depth. It will encourage a greater respect and understanding of people, opinions and cultures.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Sociology is a respected academic subject that is valued by universities and employers. It is an extremely useful qualification in a number of careers such as law, journalism, teaching and lecturing, social work, police, nursing, probation work, research, the civil service etc. Many students go on to study sociology at university, often combining it with subjects such as philosophy, politics, psychology, history and geography and other popular degree routes include criminology, politics, primary education and nursing.

Spanish

Level 3 Academic

What does the subject involve?

Spanish aims to develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learnt in a wide range of contexts. Students gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on aspects of contemporary society in more depth, using a wider range of complex language. Students will be studying the following topics:

1. Aspects of Hispanic society: Current Trends. (Year 12)
2. Artistic culture in the Hispanic world. (Year 12)
3. Multiculturalism in Hispanic society. (Year 13)
4. Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (Year 13)
5. Literary texts and cinema (Across 2 years)
6. Grammar (Across 2 years)

Assessment

Exam Board: AQA Spanish

Listening, Reading and Translation (50%), Writing (20%), Speaking (30%)

Why should I opt for this subject?

Spanish will allow students to develop a wide range of communication skills that can be applied to other aspects of everyday life. Students become more aware of cultural values and modern topical issues within Spain and Latin American countries. Key skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing continue to be developed to a more complex level thus enabling students to express themselves using a more sophisticated and advanced range of language. We aim to develop a lasting appreciation of language and learning, the ability to comprehend Spanish in a wide range of contexts, the ability to communicate in Spanish, a useful knowledge of an insights into Spanish-speaking cultures, both contemporary and historic and valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment.

What could I do with this subject after sixth form?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language at A-Level will enhance all elements of future prospects. With a modern language, university options will widen, as will post university prospects in employment. Employers look for potential employees with a range of skills in communication, which are acquired by studying a language at a higher level.