

What will I learn?

3.1 Physical chemistry

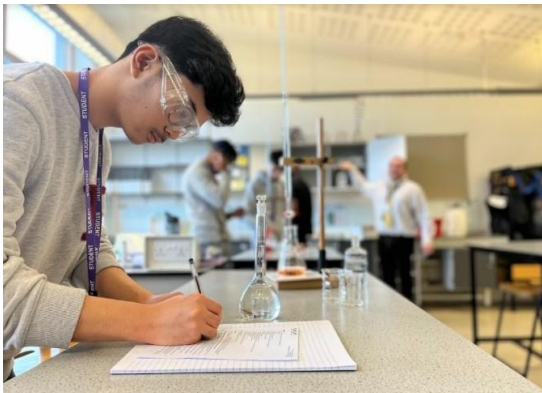
Atomic structure
Amount of substance
Bonding
Energetics
Kinetics
Chemical equilibria and
Le Chatelier's principle
Oxidation, reduction and
redox equations

3.2 Inorganic chemistry

Periodicity
Group 2 and 7

3.3 Organic chemistry

Alkanes, Halogen, Alkenes, Alcohols, Organic analysis



Highlights

A-level chemistry is a great choice for students considering careers in the health and clinical professions, including medicine, veterinary science, nursing, dentistry and forensic science. Studying chemistry will also prepare students for industry careers, such as those within the pharmaceutical or petrochemical sectors. Additionally, the varied skills learnt through studying Chemistry are respected across most career paths. Students who have completed A Level chemistry have moved on to scientific university degrees around the UK and beyond, including medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacology, and physiology.

ASSESSMENT

Examination and practical assessment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and
at least a grade 6 in Chemistry

ECONOMICS	A LEVEL
	Edexcel A

What will I learn?

Over the two years of A Level study, students taking Economics A Level will critically approach and analyse economic models and develop different methods of enquiry. Students will gain good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years.

Units include:

Students will be introduced to microeconomic issues and macroeconomic issues. Students will acquire competence in quantitative skills and become familiar with various types of statistical and other data which are commonly used by economists.

Highlights

Throughout the course, students will also be presented with real life scenarios and the current disagreements that exist between economists and the controversies that this has caused. Students should be encouraged to develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry. They should appreciate that value judgments play an important role in economic decision making. They should understand the methodology of economics and the role of evidence whilst recognising that economics is a social science and that people’s behaviour is not necessarily rational or predictable.

ASSESSMENT Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Maths and English

ENGLISH LITERATURE	A LEVEL
	OCR

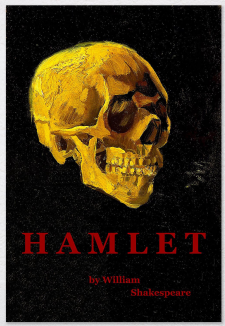
What will I learn?

If you enjoyed your GCSE English Literature course and want to develop your knowledge in this area, then this is the course for you! The aim of this course is to enable students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:

- Think critically about literature.
- Read widely and independently, both including and beyond set texts.
- Engage creatively with a range of themes and issues relevant to contemporary readers and audiences.
- Examine texts by looking through a contemporary and critical lens, applying feminist, religious and other approaches, and exploring the contextual and historical impact of various forms of literature.
- Studying texts in the genre of Tragedy and the Gothic, as well as looking at the presentation of conflict in literature.
- Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' critical interpretations of them.

Units include:

- Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 - this unit focuses on Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, as well as *Selected Poems* by Christina Rossetti and *A Doll’s House* by Henrik Ibsen.
- Comparative and contextual study - this unit focuses on Gothic Literature, including *Dracula* and *The Bloody Chamber*, including critical analysis of various Gothic texts.



Highlights

A Level English Literature is a widely recognised and popular A Level choice and valuable for access to many degree courses. Many students take English degrees. Others find the skills of analytical reading, accurate and coherent writing and insightful use of knowledge developed through the course useful in careers such as Journalism, Law, Business, Teaching and Marketing.

ASSESSMENT	Examination and Coursework
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in English

FILM STUDIES	A LEVEL
	WJEC

What will I learn?

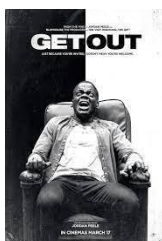
Film is one of the most powerful and influential forms of media in the world. Over the last century, it has had the ability to tell stories to global audiences that both challenge and celebrate individuals and communities, changing social, political and ideological views.

During the two-year course, you will:

- gain a deep insight into the medium of cinema through close textual study of 11 films. analysing British Film, European Film, Hollywood, and documentary.
- examine cinematography, sound, mise-en-scene and editing
- understand how films are shaped by political, social and cultural ideology
- examine and analyse the signature style of film auteurs.
- create your own 4-5 minute short film and evaluate the choices that you have made.

Highlights

Film Studies is well regarded by universities because of the need to build essay based arguments around your interpretation, analysis, and application of critical theory. In addition, the practical production element of Film Studies develops your problem solving and creative skills.



ASSESSMENT

Examination and Coursework

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in English or History or RE.

GEOGRAPHY	A LEVEL
	AQA

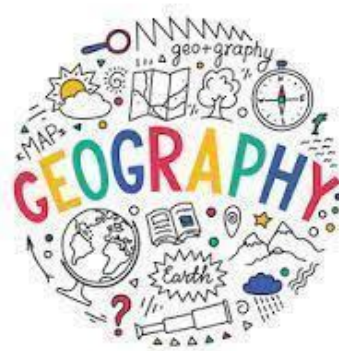
What will I learn?

The Geography A-Level challenges perceptions and stimulates students' investigative and analytical skills. Students who have taken Geography at GCSE will benefit from being able to deepen their knowledge of hazards and coasts rather than discovering all topics for the first time. We have found as a Geography department that this provides better results overall. Although, a GCSE in Geography is not essential, some of our best attaining pupils in the past have taken Geography from GCSE. During the course, students will study a range of interesting topics and theories. This will include: physical geography, human geography and the NEA which is an independent research project comprising of 4000 words.

Highlights

Universities see Geography as a science when studied at A-level and it provides the scope for a well-balanced choice of subjects at A-level. It is a facilitating subject that helps students understand so much about the world.

Students will also undertake the Geography fieldwork investigation which helps students expand their geographical skills and be able to research the changing places, global governance and population & the environment.



ASSESSMENT	Examination and Coursework
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Geography or the Sciences

HISTORY	A LEVEL
	AQA

What will I learn?

Breadth study: The Tudors 1485-1603

Students explore how the Tudor dynasty established and strengthened royal authority over more than a century of political, religious, and social change. The course covers the consolidation of Henry VII's rule, Henry VIII's break with Rome and its consequences, the religious upheavals under Edward VI and Mary I, and the stability and challenges of Elizabeth I's long reign. Students also examine key themes such as government, succession, foreign policy, relations with the nobility, and the impact of religious reforms on English society.



Depth Study: Democracy and Nazism- Germany 1918-1945

Students explore how Germany moved from a fragile democracy to a totalitarian Nazi state. They study the challenges faced by the Weimar Republic, the social, political, and economic factors that enabled Hitler's rise, and how the Nazis consolidated and maintained control once in power. The course also examines life in Nazi Germany, including propaganda, policing, opposition, and the experiences of different social groups, as well as the impact of war and the regime's ultimate collapse in 1945.

Topic Based Essay (Independent with assigned mentor)

Choose from any topic and conduct your own historical research, collecting sources and analysing the views of other historians.

Highlights: You could take this course to complement other A Level Humanities subjects such as English, Sociology, Philosophy or Geography. Many students of History go on to study subjects such as English, American Studies, Politics, Archaeology or more general courses.

ASSESSMENT

Examination and Coursework

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in History and English

MATHEMATICS	A LEVEL
	EDEXCEL

What will I learn?

Students will study the content of the new A-Level Edexcel Maths syllabus which consists of the study of Pure Mathematics and the study of the application of mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics. During this two-year course, you will be able to sharpen your skills in mathematics and take your powers of logic, analysis and problem-solving to the next level.

You will study 66% Pure Mathematics, 17% Mechanics and 17% Statistics.

What is Pure Maths?

Methods and techniques which underpin the study of all other areas of mathematics, such as, proof, algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and vectors

What is Statistics?

Reaching conclusions from data and calculating the likelihood of an event occurring.

What is Mechanics?

The modelling of the world around us, the motion of objects and the forces acting on them.

Highlights

The subject complements all Sciences as well as Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business Studies well. A level Mathematics is also essential or desirable for a wide range of degree courses including Economics, Computing, Social Sciences, Business and Medicine.

Please speak to the Maths department about Level 3 Core Maths as an alternative to A Level

ASSESSMENT

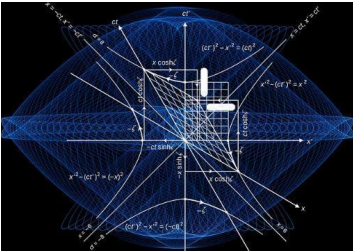
Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Mathematics

MATHEMATICS (Further Maths)	A LEVEL
	EDEXCEL

Further Mathematics is an AS/A level qualification taken in addition to an AS/A level in Mathematics. It is designed to stretch and challenge students and prepare them for university courses in mathematics and related quantitative and scientific subjects.



Further Maths is a very demanding course, and requires a strong GCSE profile, particularly in Maths and Science subjects. It is a course for those with a strong interest in pursuing Maths, Physics, Engineering or Economics beyond sixth form. A Level Further Maths can only be studied by students who are also studying A Level Maths.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 ((Year 12)

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (Year 13)

Further Mathematics Optional Papers: (Further Stats Year 12) (Further Mechanics Year 13)

Highlights

The subject complements all Sciences as well as Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business Studies well. A level Further Mathematics is also essential or desirable for a wide range of degree courses including doing Maths at university and economics, computing, social sciences, Business.

ASSESSMENT	Examination
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 7 in Mathematics

RELIGIOUS STUDIES/ PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	A LEVEL
	OCR

What will I learn?

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion: you will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering.

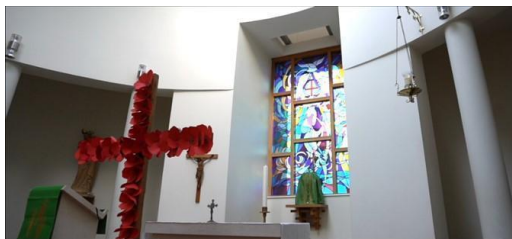
Component 2: Religious Ethics: you will study ethical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated by issues in religion and ethics, and also by the application of ethical theory to issues of importance. You will study ethical theories and the application of these, as well as key ethical concepts.

Component 3: Developments in Christian thought: this will be an opportunity to systematically study the Christian tradition. This will include exploration of Christian beliefs, values and teachings, sources of wisdom and authority and practices that shape Christian identity. You will:

- Read widely and independently, both set texts and ones privately selected from a reading list
- Develop an evaluative, critical, enquiring and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Develop values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning and relate it to the wider world.

Highlights

Thinking is a vocational skill and philosophy graduates are extremely marketable in a wide variety of fields such as law, journalism and public services. Your opinions will be challenged in lively classroom discussion as you are led through the maze of dilemmas.



ASSESSMENT

Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in RE, English or History.

What will I learn?

In Year 12 there are five main topics:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity

Year 13 covers:

- Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
- Fields
- Nuclear Physics
- plus, an optional topic taken from astrophysics, medical physics or turning points.



Highlights

Physics is a well-respected A Level course which will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across a range of industries are looking for. Students develop scientific knowledge, problem solving skills, analytical thinking and meticulous practical skills. Some examples of other careers open to you include: architecture, economics, merchant banking, oceanography, photography, cartography, science broadcasting or journalism, computer-aided design, quantity surveying, graphic art and technical jobs in media.

ASSESSMENT

Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Physics and Maths

PSYCHOLOGY	A LEVEL
	OCR

What will you learn?

If you have ever wondered why people do the things they do or how we influence each other, then psychology is the subject for you. Psychology is not only interesting but also fun and applicable to everyday life. You will learn about:

- Social influence: conformity, obedience, the role of social influence in social change
- Memory: models of memory, explanation of forgetting, improving the accuracy or eyewitness testimony
- Attachment: explanation, attachment in babies and its impact on adults
- Psychopathology: definitions of abnormality, OCD, depression, phobia
- Biopsychology: Endocrine and nervous system, stress response
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Addiction
- Stress

Highlights

This course prepares you for higher education in Psychology or for a more general **science or humanities** degree. Career paths you could follow include a job related to psychology, such as a Psychologist, Researcher, Counsellor or Nurse. You could specialise in an area of Psychology such as forensics, education or mental health. Psychology also complements many other areas such as business and sport.

ASSESSMENT

Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Science and English

SOCIOLOGY

A LEVEL

AQA

What will I learn?

The aim of the Sociology A Level is to encourage you to:

- Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes
- Appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate
- Understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process
- Develop skills that enable you to focus on your personal identity roles and responsibilities within society
- Develop a lifelong interest in social issues
- Focus on the topic of family
- Explain social inequalities



Highlights

Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and societies. It is a dazzling and compelling enterprise, having as its subject matter our own behaviour as social beings. Many students go on to study Sociology, or related subjects, at university including those achieving places at Nottingham and Southampton.

ASSESSMENT	Examination
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in English, RE or History

What will I learn?

There are three mandatory units and one optional unit.

The mandatory units are:

- Anatomy and Physiology (*assessed externally in the form of an exam*),
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport & Well Being (*a task set and assessed by the exam board*).
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (*written assignment marked internally*).



Then we must study one optional unit. This being Practical Sports Performance (*practical work and written assignments marked internally*).

Highlights

Sport and PE offers access to university, relevant work related to sport, the fitness Industry, Education and management positions. Students further develop their skills through specialist pathways that help them deliver sport and physical activity to a wide range of participants. Due to the results gained from Sports in previous years, pupils were able to apply, and be selected for, two of the top Russell Groups Universities. Destinations for learners range from Physiotherapy, Business, Sports Science and Psychology Degrees.

ASSESSMENT

Examination and practical assessment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Sport

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION	AS LEVEL
	AQA

In Year 12 and 13 pupils have the opportunity to take part in a two-year Edexcel Extended Project course as part of the Sixth form RE curriculum. Pupils write a 6000-word essay on an **ethical or religious** topic of their choice.

Previous projects have included:

- *Does racism still exist in the U.K?*
- *Is it right to create a life in order to save one?*
- *What is the role of marriage in the 21st Century?*
- *Is it ethical to test animals for human benefits?*
- *Is the Just War theory still relevant in modern warfare?*

The purpose of an extended project is to extend the students' knowledge and skills in ways that are new and challenging. In particular, the three areas of the qualification are: deepening understanding, broadening skills and widening perspectives. Much of the course will make cross-curricular links and projects can be personalised to suit a pupil's individual strengths. This is a course Universities will ask for in their offers and it often gives students a depth of knowledge and confidence in university interviews.

The marking structure and grading of the course is as follows:

Grade	UCAS Points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

Students should also be prepared to complete a further two hours of independent study to successfully complete the EPQ.



9. Catholic Life in Sixth Form

Faith and belief are central to a Roman Catholic understanding of education and Greyfriars Catholic School desires for you "not merely the attainment of knowledge but the acquisition of values and the discovery of truth".

We see the Catholic Life of the school in everything we do. All our interaction contributes to the school experience.



Masses and Services

Mass is offered at different times of the year in the Chapel or Main Hall, and Sixth Formers are always welcome and encouraged to assist in the service. Apart from mass, there will be prayer and reflection services entirely led by Sixth Form students. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is offered twice a year in both Advent and Lent and Sixth Form students are encouraged to lead this.

Our school's Feast Day is in October and we celebrate with a whole school led by local Parish Priests. There are also opportunities for quiet prayer in the chapel.

Core RE

Sixth Formers are all enrolled in Core RE. The topics for the course cover the areas of Catholic Social Teaching and encourage students to implement learning in the school and in the wider community. Projects include debates, research papers, charity giving, fundraising, and community service. The course teaches character values that supplement students' academic learning. The leadership opportunities that arise from this are especially helpful when preparing for UCAS applications.

Pastoral

Appointments can be made with the chaplaincy office depending on your needs; please pop in to our office in the RE corridor. Mr. Greer can be available for support and advice as needed or can direct you to someone who can help. There will also be priests, nuns, and volunteers from the wider community—cups of tea are always on offer!

10. How to apply

If you are interested in joining Greyfriars Catholic School Sixth Form, please go to the school website and click on the [Join our Sixth Form link](#) on the Sixth Form pages. This will guide you to our application form which can be completed and submitted online.

This form is for both internal and external candidates.

The deadline for applications is **Friday January 30th 2026**.

A member of the Sixth Form team will contact you about your application soon after the deadline.

Greyfriars Catholic School

Cricket Road

Oxford

OX43DR

Tel: 01865 749933