

VIFORM SURVIVAL GUIDE

2019-20



St. Lawrence College
The British School in Greece

Welcome to the sixth form.



The next two years here at St. Lawrence will be among the most important of your life. Hopefully they will also be some of the most memorable and rewarding as well. You will choose academic subjects that you are interested in and passionate about and you will begin making important decisions about your future. We will be here to support and guide you every step of the way.

Our promise to you:

Academic

- To help you achieve the highest standards in your academic work.
- To help you develop as independent and active learners.
- To make you think about the world by providing opportunities for participation in both academic and non-academic activities and events.

Pastoral

- To help you develop organisational skills.
- To encourage a responsible attitude to your communities and to the wider world.
- To help you make decisions about your future.
- To support you in any way we can both academically and socially.

What are our basic expectations of you?

- Be prepared and ready to learn.
- Be on time.
- Give it your best shot and don't disturb others who are trying to focus.
- Dress appropriately for school.
- Make as much of a contribution to the school community as you are able.
- Be role models for the younger pupils.

In a nutshell, have high expectations of yourselves and of us. Be ambitious and recognise that success will come only if you are willing to work hard for it.

We will spend a lot of time over the next two years telling you how to do better, we hope that you are able to do the same; please feel free to come to talk to us at any time to let us know if you have any concerns or if you have any suggestions.

Support & Guidance

Useful contact information:

Main Switchboard	210 891 7000
Ms Elizabeth (Headmaster's Secretary)	seniorschool@slc.gr
Ms Meritt (Deputy Head-Academic)	f.meritt@slc.gr
Ms Walters (Deputy Head-Pastoral)	walters@slc.gr
Ms Panayiotopoulou (Senior Mistress)	epanayiotopoulou@slc.gr
Mr Courts (Assistant Head)	r.courts@slc.gr
Mrs Gallo (Form Teacher)	karengallo@slc.gr
Mrs Kyriakopoulou (Form Teacher)	vkyriakopoulou@slc.gr
Ms McDonald (Form Teacher)	c.mcdonald@slc.gr
Ms Stafford (Form Teacher)	sstafford@slc.gr

In the sixth form, you are expected to organise yourself and be independent and self-motivated. **Part of being independent means learning to ask for help.**

Your first port of call is your form teacher. **It is compulsory that you attend form period from 8.40-8.50 every morning** apart from Wednesdays when you will go to assembly. Your form teacher is responsible for helping you navigate the transition from Year 11 to Year 12 through university applications and into higher education. He or she will help you make your subject choices, settle in to sixth form life, discuss your academic progress with you and write your reference when you apply to universities. You are also encouraged to make the most of the opportunities you have here to enrich both the school and yourself through extra-curricular activities and form period is a time when you will hear about the opportunities that exist in school and beyond.

If you have something you want to discuss regarding your academic progress or university applications that you don't feel comfortable talking about with your form teacher, you can make an appointment to see the **Deputy Head** (Ms Meritt). If you want to discuss applying to universities in the United States or Canada, you should see the **Assistant Head** (Mr Courts).

Your form teacher will discuss your **academic progress** with you when the **EPMs** are released. In particular, if your teachers feel you have not been working hard enough, they will inform your form teacher who will, if necessary, set up a meeting with you and your parents. Your parents are also invited to parent teacher meetings and to contact teachers at any time either by email or through arranging meetings or phone calls through the headmaster's secretary.

We are all available to discuss any other issues. Please don't hesitate to arrange time with us to chat about anything that is on your mind that you think we can help with.

Life in the Sixth Form

Assemblies

Key Stage 4 & 5 assembly takes place at 8.40 every Wednesday in the Cultural Hall and is compulsory (attendance will be taken).

Attendance (absence, lateness, leaving early)

If you know you will be absent, please inform your form teacher and all of your subject teachers in advance.

For an unplanned absence you or your parent/guardian must email your form teacher or call the headmaster's secretary as soon as possible.

You are expected to attend form from 8.40-8.50 whether you have a lesson in period 1 or not. If you arrive late, you MUST sign in with Ms. Elizabeth at the front desk and collect a 'Late slip'. If Elizabeth is not there, you will go to your lesson and collect a slip at the earliest possible opportunity.

This is not optional; in an emergency, we have to know who is at school and who is not.

If you have no lessons in the afternoon and wish to leave early, you must:

1. Have brought in a signed copy of the authorisation letter from your parents or guardian at the beginning of the year and
2. Sign out with the guards at the gate.

YOU MAY NOT LEAVE BEFORE 1.15 EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO LESSONS AFTER PERIOD 1

You will not be allowed to leave school if you have lessons scheduled unless you have permission; IN THIS CASE, YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIAN **MUST INFORM YOUR FORM TEACHER IN ADVANCE AND GET A PERMISSION SLIP FROM MS. ELIZABETH.**

If you are found to have left early without permission or to have come late without signing in, you will not be allowed to leave before 3.15 until further notice. **Repeat offenders will be scheduled in the library for all free periods until further notice.**

Changing Subjects

If you want to change subjects or drop a subject, talk to your form teacher who will discuss it with you and then help you organise the change. The Headmaster, Deputy Head (academic) or KS5 Assistant Head must authorise any subject change before your form teacher will allow it. Make sure you have the courtesy to inform your teacher if you are leaving their class.

School Council

The Council will have representatives from each Key Stage, but we hope to see leadership roles taken on by the Sixth-Formers in the group. Further details will be explained at the beginning of term in September.

Dress Code

You do not have to wear school uniform; however, you are considered to be role models to the rest of the school and thus are expected to be **appropriately dressed** at all times. So, please...

- make sure your clothes are not revealing in any way (for example that means avoid cropped or low-cut tops, thin leggings, trousers that show your underwear, mini-skirts, very short shorts etc.)
- avoid offensive designs.
- if you wear jeans, they must have **no rips, holes or obvious fraying**.
- feel free to wear **discreet** make-up and earring studs if you want to, but no other facial piercings.
- If you have tattoos, they must be covered.



In all other respects the rules for the rest of the school regarding footwear, makeup, jewellery etc. apply. In case you haven't read the school rules in a while(!) that means beach shoes are not allowed. We don't mind smart sandals or slip-ons, but no flip-flops please.

If you do not adhere to the dress code, you will be warned and then excluded from classes for part or all of the day.

Driving

If you have a full driver's license, you are welcome to drive to school; however, **you are absolutely not allowed to drive on the school grounds for any reason at any time**. You must park outside and the school does not take responsibility for your vehicle when parked outside the school.

If we receive complaints about your driving in the vicinity of the school, we reserve the right to contact the police.

Electronic Equipment

We have no problem if you want to listen to music on headphones; however, please **do not listen outside during break times when other pupils from lower years are in the playground**.

You may use a laptop to make use of the Wi-Fi, or to take notes in class (you will have to get permission from individual teachers for this), but, be aware that **you bring such items to school completely at your own risk**.

Extra-Curricular Activities

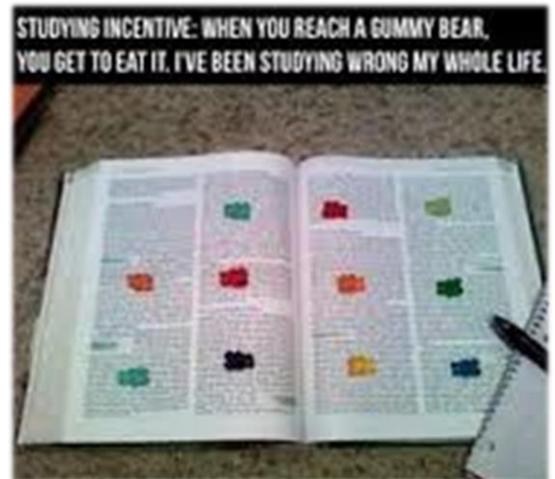
If you have not been involved in extra-curricular activities before, sixth form is an excellent time to get started. From rugby to services society, we have dozens of clubs for you to join. Obviously it looks good on your applications if you have taken part in these activities, but more importantly, it is fun and rewarding. It is also worth pointing out that it is a terrible idea to limit your extra-curricular activities because you, or your parents, think you need more time for studying. Doing physical activities and activities that are mentally enriching is very important if you are to cope with the stress and workload over the next 2 years.

Non-Contact Periods

This is the first time you will have had periods when you don't have lessons. By all means use a couple of them to relax (especially if you have lunchtime lessons, but use them wisely. You will be expected to do a lot more work outside of your lessons than last year so **use your non-contact times to get some of that work done in the library, the study room, or an empty classroom (with the classroom 'owner's' permission).**

Important Skills/Independent Learning

We expect you to do a lot more work on your own. Yes, we will set you homework, but we also expect you to develop and deepen your knowledge and understanding of your A-Level subjects by doing more than we ask you to. Your teachers will talk to you more about this, but as a rule, you should plan your time to spend about 20-30 hours (5-8 hours per subject) a week outside of class time on homework and extra research combined. This is why you must use your time at school wisely.



Library

Feel free to use the library during your free periods. The library is a calm quiet place for study, please respect that. You are asked not to listen to music while studying in the library.

Prefects

Prefects play an important role at St. Lawrence. **Mr Courts** will inform them of their duties and of our expectations.

Punctuality

Please respect your teachers and classmates by turning up on time. **If you are just 5 minutes late to every lesson, you will miss over 10 hours of teaching time over the course of the year!** More importantly, when you roll in late to class it is disruptive and disrespectful. If you are continuously late, you may be excluded from lessons until you have the courtesy to turn up on time.

Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol

As you know, this is a non-smoking campus. We don't care how old you are or whether your parents know you smoke. **St. Lawrence College is a non-smoking campus, full stop.** With that in mind, we would like to let you know that if you are found during lesson times behind D block you will be assumed to have been smoking. **This area is completely out of bounds during lesson time.**

If you are caught smoking on campus, in the vicinity of campus or at school bus stops, you will receive an official warning for the first offence and receive a full day in-school-suspension which means you will spend the 1st 7 periods of the day in the library doing extra work. A second offence will see you receive a full suspension and after that any punishments will be at our discretion and can include long term exclusion.

We have a zero-tolerance view of drugs and alcohol. The school rules are very clear on this. If you are caught with drugs or alcohol **or you are with someone** who is caught, you risk **being suspended, but, depending on the circumstances, you may well be excluded permanently.** If you are concerned that you or one of your friends may have a dependency problem, we will support you, but we cannot help you if you are caught on school grounds, so come and talk to us before it gets out of control.

Careers

We will arrange Careers Seminars throughout the course of the year during which you will get to meet people from a variety of professions who will talk to you about their careers.

Work Experience

You are encouraged to organise to do some work experience over the next two years. We are in the process of trying to compile a list of companies who might be willing to accommodate you, but use all your contacts to try to set something up for a week or two in the holidays. Anecdotal evidence suggests that universities like applicants who have experience working in 'real' jobs at least as much as, if not more than, those who have done fancy internships. The truth is that any job has value whether it is an unpaid internship working for a heart surgeon or sweeping the floor at the local taverna.

Timeline

Year 12-Lower Sixth

Term 1

- The main focus is on getting your choices right and settling in to life as a sixth former. You should try to be as active and involved in school life as you can.
- **If you are thinking of applying to the USA or Canada, you must set up a meeting with Mr Courts.** You should also start preparing for the ACT or SAT tests, but talk to Mr Courts first.
- Ask to join the St Lawrence College University Discussion Group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/435130519871327/>
- **We also use BridgeU which is a research and management platform for university applications. We will inform you about the details.**

Term 2

- You will be introduced to the UK university application process by Ms Meritt.
- You must start researching your options during this term; we will help you as much as we can, but you **need to do the bulk of the work on your own.**
- Your form teacher will introduce you to the concept of the personal statement and give you some advice about writing your first draft.
- If you are going to apply for Art or Design courses, talk to your art teachers about getting started on your portfolio.
- If you are applying to the USA and you are prepared, you should sit the SAT or ACT in March or April.

Term 3

- Do well in your AS-Level exams. It will help enormously when you are doing your application next year!
- If you are applying to the USA and you are prepared, you should sit the SAT or ACT in May or June.

Summer

- Do something interesting (or at least something that makes you look interesting).
- **Start working on your personal statement.** By September, you should have an idea of what you are going to say about your love for the subject for which you will be applying. As well as the information given to you by your form teacher, you can find lots of advice online.
- Start preparing for UK admissions tests (UKCAT, BMAT, LNAT, IELTS, TOEFL etc.).
- If you are planning on applying for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, you should come back in September with a completed first draft of your personal statement.
- If you are applying to the **USA**, you must return in September with a first draft of your Common Application essay and a longlist of universities to which you want to apply. You must also have prepared for the SAT subject tests if you are taking them.
- If you are planning on applying **Early-Action or Early-Decision** to the USA you must return in September with a draft of ALL of your application essays for your first choice and you need to have taken your SAT/ACT and subject tests by the end of June.

Timeline

YEAR 13-Upper Sixth

Term 1

- Register on UCAS.
- Work with your form teacher on your applications.
- Register for the UKCAT, BMAT, LNAT, IELTS, TOEFL or any other admissions tests that are required.
- **24 September is the deadline for early applicants to have completed the UCAS form, uploaded the personal statement and paid and sent the application. You will be informed of the regular deadline.**
- Prepare for extra admissions tests.
- Many of these extra admissions tests take place at school in early November, but the UKCAT, LNAT, IELTS & TOEFL must be arranged outside of school.
- Interview support session will be arranged for those of you who get asked for interviews.
- **26 October is the deadline for all other applicants to have completed the UCAS form, uploaded the personal statement and paid and sent the application.**
- If you are applying **early to the USA, 19 October** is also the deadline if you want feedback on your essays from Mr Courts. **Your final deadline to apply is 1 November.** For **applications to California, the deadline is 30 November.**
- Retake the SAT or ACT if necessary. Take SAT subject tests if necessary.
- Most **Regular Decision** applications to the USA are due by the end of December. If you want feedback from Mr Courts on you essays or help with your application, you will need to hand in copies by **Friday 14 December.**

Term 2

- If you are applying for **Art & Design** courses you have longer to complete your application, but you should be finishing your portfolio at this time.
- Decide on your firm and insurance offers for universities in the UK
- Accept US university offer and pay the deposit.

Term 3

- A-Level exams and AS-Level retakes.

Summer

- Relax.....you deserve it.
- The results usually come out in the 3rd week of August.
- If you did not meet your offer, you need to call Ms Meritt at school immediately to work on finding a place through clearing.
- If you exceeded your offers significantly, you might want to consider UCAS adjustment, which allows you to try to find a place based on your high grades. Again, call Ms. Meritt.
- Start preparing for university life!

Timetables

Lower Sixth (Year 12)

	1 8.50 9.30	2 9.30 10.10	3 10.10 10.50	4 11.15 11.55	5 11.55 12.35	6 12.35 13.15	L	7 13.55 14.35	8 14.35 15.15
Monday	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol Fr	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	M E	M E	FM Eco	Bio Eco	Bio Eco
Tuesday	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	Bio Eco FM	Bio Eco FM	Bio FM		M E	M E
Wednesday	M E	M E	M E	Greek	Greek	Ch Pol Fr	Fr	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol
Thursday	Bio Ec FM	Bio Ec FM	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol	Phy H Geo	Phy H Geo		M E	M E
Friday	Bio Ec FM	Bio Ec FM	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol	Phy H Geo	Ph H Geo	FM	Greek	Greek

Upper Sixth (Year 13)

* Lesson begins at/goes through lunchtime.

	1 8.50 9.30	2 9.30 10.10	3 10.10 10.50	4 11.15 11.55	5 11.55 12.35	6 12.35 13.15	L	7 13.55 14.35	8 14.35 15.15
Monday	Bio Ec FM	Bio Ec FM	M E	M E	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	Ch Pol	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol Fr
Tuesday	M/E	M/E	M/E	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	Greek	Greek
Wednesday	Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo	Phy H Geo	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol	Bio Eco	FM	Bio Ec FM	Bio Eco FM
Thursday	Ch Pol Fr	Ch Pol Fr	Bio Eco FM	Bio Eco	M E	M E	FM	Greek	Greek
Friday	M E	M E	Bio Eco FM	Bio Eco FM	Greek	Greek		Ph H Geo	Ph H Geo

GCE AS and A-Level Subjects and Possible Combinations

Pupils starting their GCE AS-Levels and A-Levels must pick subjects from **the following choices**

- 1) Mathematics *or* English Literature
- 2) Biology *or* Economics *or* Further Mathematics
- 3) Chemistry *or* Politics *or* French
- 4) Physics *or* History *or* Geography
- 5) Art & Design
- 6) Greek
- 7) Russian



Notes: Pupils will be advised on whether to take three or four subjects by their form teacher, the Deputy Head and the Headmaster. Entrance to UK universities will require a minimum of 3 GCE A-Level passes. A very small fraction of universities will require a fourth subject.

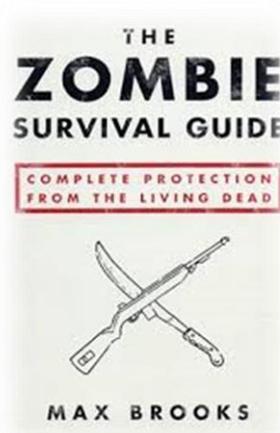
The only A-Levels that DO NOT require prior knowledge (usually an IGCSE) are Economics and Politics. However, you should not seriously consider Economics A-Level unless you did well in IGCSE Maths and First Language English. You should avoid Mathematics at A-Level unless you achieved a good grade at IGCSE.

The rest of the guide includes a brief introduction to the A-Level courses put together by the A-Level teachers.

And here is a useful source of more information

<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/>

and just in case...





Work by artist Minjae Lee

Welcome to the creative economy...

Being creative is the new “must do” in big business. Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. Creativity can open the door to exciting career opportunities as well. Art and Design A-Level is a practical course that allows you to be as creative as you want to be.

Welcome to diversity...

In an art and design course you’ll find out about a whole range of different media, techniques and processes. From charcoal to computers, you just can’t have enough ideas when it comes to expressing yourself. The course is big on hands-on experience too. It’s the work you produce that counts. Take a look at the artslc blog to see what some of our pupils have produced: <https://artslc.wordpress.com/slc-hall-of-fame/>

Your key learning topics...

The emphasis in this course is learning by doing, so you’ll be able to create imaginative personal work. In the first year, you will produce a portfolio of coursework representing yourself and for the externally-set assignment you will create ideas in response to one of the several exciting starting points you will be given. In the second year, you will be able to explore more in depth into your own area of interests by producing a portfolio of coursework and a personal study that is either selected and/or brainstormed by you. Your coursework in the first year accounts for 50% of the AS mark and the externally-set assignment accounts for the other 50%. (If you continue with the full A-level, this AS mark becomes together 50% of your A Level in year two). The second year is an externally assessed personal project 50%, which is similar to the coursework and with added research and analysis in writing with a maximum of 1500 words and includes a bibliography.

What will you develop and learn?

- develop your creativity and independent thought
- learn to express yourself visually
- let your imagination go wild!

Where will success take you?

Many pupils go on to take higher education in art and design, some join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers while others go on to become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers, stage designers, photographers to name just a few. Are you more science inclined? Then, you could go on to become an art therapist or Bio-medical illustrator.

Will it fit in your life?

Art and Design requires serious commitment. You will have to manage your time and stick to a schedule. The AS Level consists of a minimum of 180 guided learning hours, while the full A-Level a minimum of 360 hours. You will be expected to work six to eight hours a week at home in addition to work done in class. Even so, keep in mind that encouraging your own creativity is always a bonus and can also help you have great ideas in your other subjects.

Can’t wait to get started?

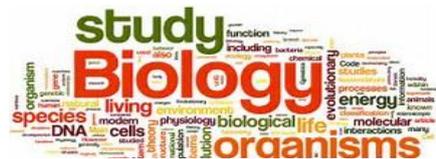
Your form teacher and art teacher are the best people to help you decide whether this course is the right choice for you. They will be as passionate as you to find the best subject to develop your talents!

Text book for this class: Collins Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design ISBN: 9780008250997

BIOLOGY

Why choose A-Level Biology?

The work of biologists is vital to us all. Choose Biology and you could find yourself advancing knowledge, pioneering new discoveries and tackling so many of the challenges facing the world we live in. Biology is fundamental to understanding the world as it is now and as it will be in future.



Career Opportunities.

Studying A-Level Biology will open up a list of career opportunities that is varied and endless. It can be used as a qualification for biologically based courses such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, psychology, physiotherapy, veterinary surgery, zoology, agriculture and forestry.

There are also many 'pure' biology courses including biochemistry, genetics and biological sciences. The rapidly expanding field of biotechnology offers many opportunities in 'applied' biology, including industrial microbiology, bacteriology and genetic engineering. Be part of the future, study A-Level Biology.

IGCSE Requirements?

A-Level biologists will have studied biology to IGCSE or equivalent and, ideally achieved at least a grade B.

Course Content:

The Edexcel International A-Level course is taught over a two-year period. There are 6 Units that are to be covered throughout the two years.

Units 1, 2 and 3 will cover the first year of the course (life style, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment).

Units 4, 5 and 6 are covered in the second year of the course (The natural environment, species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination).

There is also a significant practical component throughout the course which will be externally examined at the end of the first and second years.

Assessment:

Year 1: AS Assessment

Paper 1 (20%) Unit 1 → Life style, transport, genes and health

Paper 2 (20%) Unit 2 → Development, plants, the environment

Paper 3 (10%) Unit 3 → Practical biology and research skills

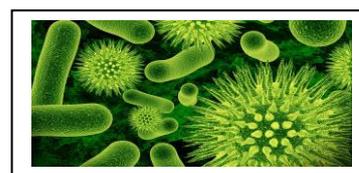
Year 2: A2 Assessment

Prior Knowledge of the AS course will be assessed in A2 examinations:

Paper 4 (20%) Unit 4 → The natural environment and species survival

Paper 5 (20%) Unit 5 → Energy, exercise and co-ordination and the study of the Pre-release article

Paper 6 (10%) Unit 6 → Practical biology and Investigative skills



CHEMISTRY

A-level Chemistry builds upon the knowledge gained at IGCSE but goes much further. If you are curious about what electrons really do all day, how chemistry can be green, how new polymeric materials can be both a blessing and a curse, then Chemistry might be the A-Level for you.

Ideally you should have achieved a grade B or above in IGCSE Chemistry, but A-Level is taught from scratch and there were so many simplifications at IGCSE that you might sometimes think you are learning a completely new subject. A-Level does contain a slightly greater level of mathematical content but if you understand ratios then you should be ok.

Chemistry is thought to be one of the most difficult of A-level subjects due to both its conceptual difficulty and the amount of material needed to be memorised. Despite this reputation many students each year sit this qualification and 33% of entries were awarded the A grade in 2008.

By taking Chemistry you develop your problem solving, numeracy and practical skills. You also learn to express abstract ideas in writing. As a result, it's a highly respected and useful qualification for higher education and employment in a wide range of areas. It is essential if you wish to study medicine, pharmacology, dentistry and other biomedical sciences like biochemistry or genetics. However, chemistry teaches you so many skills that some older pupils have studied A-Level Chemistry and then gone on to study finance and economics at university.

For more details on careers directly and indirectly related to chemistry go to:

www.rsc.org

www.futuremorph.org

COURSE CONTENT

You will cover laboratory skills and the core chemical principles.

Year 12

UNIT 1: The Core Principles of Chemistry

UNIT 2: Application of Core Principles of Chemistry

UNIT 3: Chemistry Laboratory Skills

Year 13

UNIT 4: General Principles of Chemistry I

UNIT 5: General Principles of Chemistry II

UNIT 6: Chemistry Laboratory Skills II

For More details about the specification, go to

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/chemistry.html#tab-Studying>

Economics A-Level Course Content

There are four themes to the A-Level. These are

Theme One – basic economic theory that explores how decisions and choices are made to produce and buy goods from the side of the supplier and customer. This theme also considers how these market forces can fail and produce undesirable outcomes.

Theme Two – this theme asks what does government want to achieve in the economy and what economic policy does it use to attempt to achieve those goals. This theme introduces big topics such as inflation, unemployment and economic growth.

Theme Three – this theme is concerned with business economics. This is how businesses set out to achieve their goals, which usually revolve around maximising profit. There is a study of the different market structures that businesses operate in and how the behaviour of firms will be affected by the type of market that exists. This theme also considers competition law and how firms are restricted from practices that are anti-competitive. It is by far the most mathematical theme.

Theme Four – this theme considers the global economy and explores globalisation, international trade, exchange rates, trade balances, the benefits of trading and monetary blocs such as the Eurozone and what countries can do to raise their international competitiveness. This theme also contains a study of development economics, looking at the features of less -developed economies and assessing potential solutions to the problems they face.

FAQ:

What standard of Mathematics is required?

Pupils who achieved an A or B grade at IGCSE Mathematics should not have too much difficulty coping with the maths in Economics A-Level. If you got less than a B grade at IGCSE you may find the Mathematics seriously challenging.

What level of English is required?

Many pupils do not realise this and it is important to very clear – more pupils struggle in Economics because of weak English than weak mathematics. To succeed you must be able to read challenging articles and textbooks well and often. You must be able to write extended answers employing appropriate terminology and using structured analytical paragraphs that communicate your thoughts in depth but also clearly. If you struggled with English IGCSE, you may find it very challenging to attain appropriate standards of depth in their written work. For these reasons, you are expected to have at least a B grade at IGCSE First Language English or an A grade in IGCSE English as a Second Language.

Do I need to have studied Business Studies at IGCSE to take A-Level Economics?

Not at all.

What can I study at university with an Economics A-Level?

Economics is a respected A-Level as it demonstrates (if you get a good grade!) that you can write well, that you are numerate and that you can analyse source material. Of course it can lead to economics-related degree courses but might also be taken by a student considering law, journalism, politics, finance, management and many other degree courses.

How is the course assessed?

The AS-Level consists of two exams taken at the end of the first year. Candidates are asked to answer every style of question, from multiple choice to mathematical questions to essays. The full A-Level consists of a further two exams taken at the end of the second year, which, combined with the Year 12 exams, make up the full A-Level. This is the International A-Level, and the Year 12 exams, which make up the AS-Level, also contribute to the full A-Level.

Visit Mr Holden's YouTube channel [pajholden](#) or [@pajholden](#) on Twitter for more information

Why Choose English Literature at A Level?

Above all, because literature expresses the joys, sorrows and concerns that human beings share. For example, we can read a poem written a hundred years ago and relate to the emotions and concerns expressed in the poem because we too have had similar experiences or we can still be inspired by Shakespeare's heroes and heroines and shocked by his villains, even though he wrote his plays four hundred years ago. In that way literature can be timeless.

English has become the most widely spoken language in the world and one of the most appealing aspects of studying English literature is experiencing some of the sweep of the literature. In recent years, pupils studying this subject at A level have read works written by North American writers, writers from the Caribbean, the British Isles, India, Singapore, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In this way, the plays, stories, novels and poems we read take us inside these widely different cultures.

They do this because when we read a piece of literature it ceases to be just a text printed on a piece of paper and comes alive in our minds. Of course two readers may disagree about what the writer was trying to express. Studying literature shows us that interpretation is often not straightforward but we have to build a strong argument for what we believe is a correct reading of a text.

Then there is the question of how a writer has used the only thing available to them, words, to express what it is they wish to express. An A level English course will build a more informed understanding of literary works whether they are prose, poetry or drama, through adding a technical knowledge. This you will find will add to your appreciation and enjoyment of reading, or of watching a play.

From an A level course in English Literature a pupil will learn skills whose usefulness goes beyond this subject: building and structuring an argument; forming a critical interpretation and, above all, a mature and clear writing style.

"Fine", you may think, "these are useful skills, but what can I do with this subject if I go on to study it after school?" While many English graduates decide to enter the teaching profession, because the subject is all about communication, it can open up a wide variety of career paths: media and journalism, publishing, advertising, marketing, PR, human resources, the creative arts are some that spring to mind.

What is the course content?

We follow the Cambridge International Examinations Syllabus which consists of eight set books over the two years of the A level course.

Next year the Lower Sixth will be studying poems by the great American poet, Robert Frost, 'Small Island', a recent novel set in the 1940s and centred upon the arrival of Jamaican immigrants in Britain which does not flinch from portraying the racism prevalent at the time but is also very humorous, 'Death and the Horseman' an intriguing play by a Nigerian author that is set during British colonial rule and dramatizes the difficulties that arise because of differing cultural perceptions, and 'Sweet Bird of Youth', a play by the great American playwright, Tennessee Williams that stirred up a great deal of controversy when it was first performed.

The Upper Sixth will be studying the famous Victorian Gothic novel, 'Wuthering Heights', Shakespeare's 'The Winter's Tale', a play which is an interesting mixture of a psychological drama and a romance, 'Never Let Me Go', a novel by the Anglo-Japanese author Kazuo Ishiguro which is a dark science fiction novel about children cloned for their organs, and 'The Glass Menagerie', a play that among other themes focuses upon the difficulty we sometimes have in accepting reality and a human tendency instead to withdraw into illusion.

How is the subject assessed?

All of the set texts are assessed by examination, at the end of the Lower Sixth year and the end of the Upper Sixth, with for each text the candidate writing essays and/or critical commentaries on a passage from the text.

FRENCH

The first reason for studying any language is that it develops general and specific **cognitive** faculties, in allowing a balance between logical and creative abilities.

It is also an opportunity to **explore another culture** and through this understand one's own. It equally helps us dealing more efficiently with social relationships.

Research shows that 30 to 45 % of the words in **English** are of French origin. Thus, studying French allows us to better master English at an advanced level.

A **second language is a requirement for some university degrees** at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

It opens doors for **positions** in international law, politics, commerce, education, literature, arts... French is a subject taught in most universities worldwide, and is offered as a choice for lots of studies.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into topics:

- IAS:
- **Youth** matters
 - **Lifestyle**, health and fitness
 - **Environment** and travel
 - **Education** and employment
- IAL:
- The four AS topics
 - **Technology** in the French-speaking world
 - **Society** in the French-speaking world
 - **Ethics** in the French-speaking world

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

All four skills are assessed separately in AS (1+2) and A2 (3-4) :

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| - Unit 1 (speaking: response + discussion) | 8-10 minutes |
| - Unit 2 (listening, reading, writing) | 2:30 hrs |
| - Unit 3 (speaking: debate) | 11-13 minutes |
| - Unit 4 (listening, reading, research*) | 2:30 hrs |

The research topic is freely chosen by the student among these categories: **geography, history, literature, or cinema.*

Speaking exams are held in early May, while written exams are later in May/June.





WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is not only dynamic and relevant, it is one of the most exciting and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

A knowledge of geography can enrich your life by stimulating your mind and, as a subject, encourages you to go out and see for yourself, rather than be told by others. Choosing Geography A-Level can open the doors to a university degree, either specifically in Geography or in combination with other subjects. A-Level Geography is recognised for its academic 'robustness' and the Guardian newspaper's view on Geography is that 'it's the must-have A-Level' (August 2015). Regarding Geography, the Guardian reports that 'a star is born. Geography is soaring in popularity. According to the Royal Geographical Society, 13% more took the subject at A-Level this year than last, up to 37,100 – the biggest jump of any of the **major** subjects.'

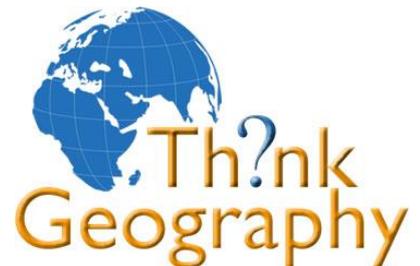
Most importantly, it also helps people in the world of work. So many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying Geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team to using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. You will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from cartography to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail. Studying Geography can help young people achieve careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and enjoyable.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

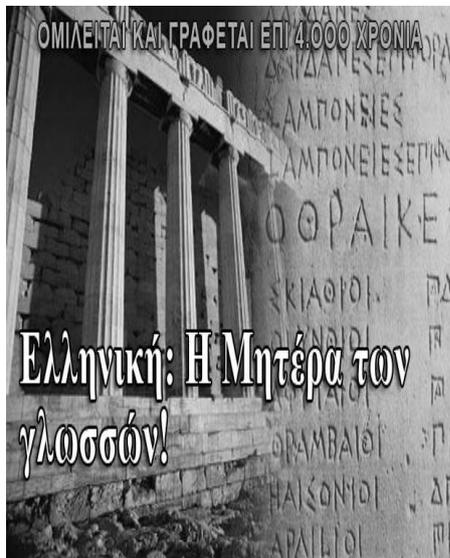
At St. Lawrence we study the Cambridge International AS and A-Levels for Geography. In Year 12, the course encompasses both physical and human geography. The physical focus is on hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, atmosphere and weather as well as rocks and weathering. This is accompanied by the human core topics of population, migration and settlement dynamics. In Year 13, we study coastal and hazardous environments. Two human topics of environmental management and global interdependence complete the course. Fieldwork is an important aspect of the course that enhances understanding of the syllabus. Destinations in past years have included Zakynthos, Pireaus and Anavyssos.

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

For the AS-Level there are two exams to examine knowledge and understanding of the syllabus. Each exam is worth 50% of the AS-Level and 25% of the A-Level. At A-Level there are two more exams (Advanced Physical Options and Advanced Human Options). Each comprises 25% of the final grade.



More information can be found on the school A-Level blog at <https://geographyalevelslc.com/>



GREEK

WHY CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

YOU CHOOSE TO LEARN GREEK BECAUSE THIS LANGUAGE HAS THE LONGEST HISTORY OF WRITTEN RECORDS IN THE WESTERN WORLD. THE OLDEST WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE DATES BETWEEN 1450 AND 1350 BC. GREEK IS THE LANGUAGE OF HOMER, OF THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS WHO INFLUENCED WESTERN THOUGHT, OF HERODOTUS-THE FIRST HISTORIAN, OF THE GREAT DRAMATISTS WHO SHAPED THEATRE AND INSPIRED THE WORLD OF ART. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BORROWED AROUND 100,000 WORDS FROM GREEK, WHICH MAKES UP 12% OF THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY. GREEK IS USED MAINLY IN MEDICINE, THE SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY.

You don't choose a subject because it seems easy. You choose a subject because you love it and you want to broaden your knowledge. Therefore you must be determined to work hard and have the will to overcome any difficulties that might arise. Whether you are Greek or not, the Pearson International A Level Course is a wonderful opportunity to improve and develop your language in all areas.

The standard of Greek which is taught at AS and A-Level is very high. It is not comparable at all with that of the IGCSE. It must be emphasised that both courses are very demanding and therefore a strong background in Greek, in all areas, is required.

The course consists of 2 Units

Unit 1: AS-Level

This Unit consists of three sections: A) Reading B) Grammar C) Essay

Section A: You will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different language texts.

Section B: You will be assessed in your ability to manipulate the Greek language, grammar & vocabulary in order to form or complete meaningful sentences. You will be asked to carry out tasks such as sentence transformation and grammar exercises that require the correct form of certain structure.

Section C: You will be asked to write a 240-280 word essay in Greek, in response to a short Greek-language stimulus and related bullet points. You will be assessed on the effectiveness and relevance of your communication as well as the quality of language you produce.

Unit 2: A-Level

This Unit consists of three sections:

Section A: You will be expected to translate a short paragraph from English into Greek.

Section B: You will be asked to write a 240-280 word essay in Greek in response to a general topic. You will choose to write creatively or discursively on the topic through the two options provided.

Section C: You must answer either ONE question in Greek that relates to the GREEK HISTORICAL PERIOD 1960-1974 or ONE question on KAVAFY'S POETRY.

A choice of the two questions will be offered for each of the prescribed topics and texts. It must be of 300-400 words and you will be assessed for the content, quality of language, critical analysis and organisation of ideas.

HISTORY

Studying history helps us **understand what it is to be human**. History helps us understand change and how we got to this point, so through studying history we can grasp how and why things develop as well as understand what elements of an institution or a society persist despite change over time.

History also allows us to examine our moral sense by examining the decisions people made in complex contexts. It forces us to ask “Why did they do that? Can I understand their motivations and behaviours and if not, why not?”

History teaches us how to read. It helps us develop the ability to distinguish between the objective and the self-serving among statements, it helps us to use evidence to evaluate interpretations both in the past and in the present. It helps us to question the versions of the past and the present that we are fed by politicians, the media and our cultural norms. In short, **it helps us spot fake news!**

BUT I’LL NEVER GET A JOB? Professional historians teach, work in museums and media centres, do historical research for businesses or public agencies or participate in the growing number of historical consultancies. **But most people who study history do not become professional historians.** Historians make great lawyers and are valued by employers right across the spectrum since by studying history they have developed research skills, the means to identify and evaluate explanations, they can handle complex data and are sought out by companies that need analysts since historians have been trained to identify, assess, and explain patterns.

There is no denying that it is less scary to study something that will lead to a clearly defined career path, but **studying history applies directly to many careers and can clearly help prepare us for the world of work.**

Ultimately, studying history **helps shape well-informed critical citizens** who can make a valuable contribution to the workplace as well as **question received wisdom**, teach, handle complexity and **communicate ideas convincingly**.

Plus, it's got some really good stories.

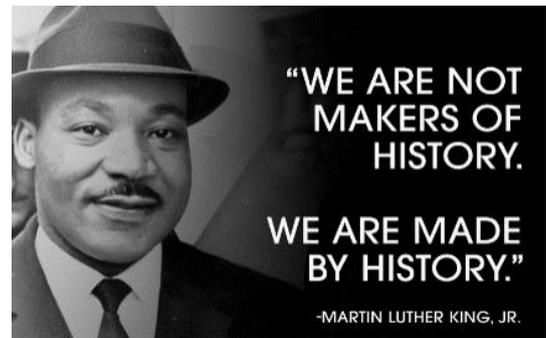
WHAT WILL I STUDY? In Year 12, we follow the Edexcel Route F syllabus: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century.

This consists of two courses for AS & A-LEVEL: Option 1F-**In search of the American Dream**: the USA, 1917–96 and Option 2F.1-**India: The road to independence**, 1914-48.

In Year 13, we add Option 35.1: **Britain: losing and gaining an empire**, 1763–1914 as well as a coursework unit on the **Partition of Africa in the 19th century**, although candidates may propose their own area for the coursework.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMS? The America and India options are assessed at the end of Year 12 through two exams which combine to give the pupils an AS-Level qualification. The two units are then re-examined at the end of Year 13 along with the British Empire unit and coursework, which all combine to give an A-Level grade.

More detail can be found on the subject blog <https://historyslc.wordpress.com/>



WHY CHOOSE MATHEMATICS A LEVEL?

Certainly there is no unique answer to why someone should choose Mathematics A-Level. Choosing A level subjects is a big decision and you need to make sure you enjoy the subjects and think about where those subjects can lead to. Mathematics A-Level opens a multitude of options afterwards and is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science or mathematics-based course, ranging from Biochemical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medical Science and Psychology to Philosophy, Economics, Accountancy, Management and Actuarial Science.

Pupils who choose A-Level Mathematics are encouraged to think logically and analytically. Studying Mathematics at A-level enables you to understand the statistics used in the news or helps you to make sense of the economy, medicine and even law. It provides you with the basic tools that are used in real-world applications along with some of those applications. For example,

- Prime numbers can help you understand what makes the internet secure
- Mechanics can help you understand how planes fly
- Statistics can help you understand how DNA tests work.
- Calculus can help you understand how the stock markets work.

These fundamental mathematical skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines and careers. Some people may not be interested in any of the above but they may choose Mathematics A-Level simply because they can see the beauty of mathematics. They may choose it because they like the buzz after solving a difficult problem or the logical structure of the subject or how the different topics of mathematics fit together.

Career opportunities for students who study A-Level Mathematics are limitless, but could include: industry, accountancy, finance, economics, healthcare, medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

As from September 2018 we will follow the new Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Mathematics. The full A-Level course consists of 6 units.

During the AS year pupils complete International Advanced Subsidiary – IAS. For this they need to complete 3 units, the Pure Mathematics 1 P1 and Pure Mathematics 2 P2, which are compulsory, and Statistics 1 which is our optional module.

During the second year pupils complete the International Advanced Level – IAL. For the IAL pupils must complete another 3 units, the Pure Mathematics 3 P3 and Pure Mathematics 4 P4, which are compulsory, and Statistics 2 which is our optional module. There is no flexibility to the optional modules.

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

Each module weighs $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the total A-Level mark. At the end of the Year 12 pupils are assessed on the P1, P2 and S1 units which count towards the 50% of the total mark. This mark is combined together with the mark of the P3, P4 and S2 units which are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give an A-Level grade.

There is no coursework involved.

WHY CHOOSE **FURTHER MATHS** A-LEVEL?

The simple answer is because it is complex and fascinating, it takes your knowledge of mathematics one step further!

You get a clearer idea of what mathematics at university level will be. You see topics more abstract than anything you were taught before, which gives you an amazing insight to what mathematics really is. You also see topics that have practical applications and this helps you realise that mathematics is not just an exercise for the mind.

You discover where those things you have learnt but did not make sense come from. We do not learn by heart, we explore different explanations and search to prove everything. So, in a way, the FURTHER you go into your MATHEMATICS, the more you understand what you were studying before.

Mathematics is one of humanity's most amazing achievements. It is abstract and yet it has to do with our reality in ways we do understand (bills or time ...) and in ways we do not YET (evolution of planets, stars and galaxies or ... time). It also has to do with much more than our reality, it has to do with space and time in higher dimensions which we do not perceive in our everyday lives, yet we CAN think about. If this is not out of this world, then what is?

But we need to be realistic! We need to talk about your future. Again, here the sky is the limit! With Further Maths, you embark on a serious and in depth study of diverse branches of higher mathematics and you therefore have a better chance to guarantee a place in different engineering courses or to follow a career as a statistician, a great economist or artificial intelligence and robotics researcher.

Ultimately, studying Further Maths helps you in any career in science, not just because you will have a respected A-Level to present as a qualification but mostly because the effort you put into learning this subject is the best equipment for a career in mathematics, logic and philosophy, physics, biology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, astronomy, chemistry, computer science, engineering, architecture, economics, statistics and many more.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

We follow the new Pearson Edexcel International Advanced in Further Mathematics which consists of six units. During the AS year pupils complete the International Advanced Subsidiary – IAS in Further Mathematics. For this they need to complete 3 units, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP1, the Mechanics Module M1 and the Decision Mathematics Module D1.

During the second year pupils complete the International Advanced Level – IAL in Further Mathematics. For the IAL pupils must complete another 3 units, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP2, the Further Pure Mathematics Module FP3 and the Mechanics Module M2.

There is no flexibility to the optional modules.

HOW IS THE SUBJECT ASSESSED?

Each of the modules weighs $16\frac{2}{3}$ % of the total A-Level mark. At the end of Year 12, pupils are assessed on the FP1, M1 and D1 Modules which count towards 50% of the total A-Level mark. This mark is combined with the mark of the FP2, FP3 and M2 modules which are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the total A-Level grade.

There is no coursework involved.

****Please note that the Further Mathematics A-Level is offered only to pupils who achieve a high A or an A* mark in their Mathematics IGCSE and are also taking Mathematics A-Level***

PHYSICS

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us.

It is the most basic and fundamental science. It challenges our imagination with concepts like relativity and string theory and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers that lead to technologies which change our lives.

Many of the technological advances in our modern society flow directly from physics laboratories, such as the many applications of lasers, or the possibility of high speed levitated trains relying on superconductors. Much of the equipment and technology used by other scientists and medical doctors were originally developed by physicists, including x-rays, lasers, and MRIs.

Physics encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Moreover, it is the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy (and can be applied to biology or medicine).

Physicists gain analytical skills that make them versatile and adaptable; they bring a broad perspective to any problem they work on. Because they learn how to consider any problem they are not bound by context. This inventive thinking makes physicists desirable in any field. A bachelor's degree in Physics is a great foundation for careers in: Journalism, finance, computer science, biology, law, medicine, astronomy, engineering and everything else!

COURSE CONTENT

We follow the Edexcel International Advanced Level Physics syllabus.

The AS-Level is examined at the end of Year 12 and includes

UNIT 1: Mechanics (velocity, acceleration, forces and energy), liquids at rest and in motion, materials.

UNIT 2: Electricity and waves, including light and its dual nature.

UNIT 3: Alternative to practical, where pupils learn how to describe experiments and process graphical work.

The A-Level is examined at the end of Year 13 and consists of

UNIT 4: Momentum, collisions and interactions between particles, electric fields, magnetic fields and electromagnetism.

Unit 5: Heat, simple harmonic motion, gravitational fields, astrophysics and cosmology.

Unit 6: Alternative to practical, where pupils learn how to describe experiments and process graphical work.

|| POLITICS



Why choose this subject?

Who should study politics, and why? The short answer is that everyone should study politics - all members of society should have a better understanding of the general rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many people as possible should actively participate in making them, upholding them and, maybe, changing them. A healthy society is a society in which citizens actively participate in political activity and do so with insight and understanding.

If politics exists because people disagree, studying politics must mean studying how, why and when people disagree and doing so not as neutral observers but as active participants. Politics is therefore particularly likely to suit pupils who:

- Have an interest in the world around them- ones who want to know more about British society, how it works and how it could work;
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument- ones who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs';
- Like to think for themselves- ones who want to develop their own views, rather than accept the views of others;
- Enjoy weighing up and evaluating evidence in order to assess and communicate ideas and arguments;
- Enjoy reading challenging articles and textbooks and writing extended answers employing appropriate terminology. (If you struggled with English or History IGCSE then this might not be the right A-Level for you).

What will you learn?

At **AS-Level** you will gain an understanding of how the UK political system works, and how it is linked to contemporary concerns and events.

- **Component 1: UK Politics** looks at how people in the UK are linked to government, through the themes of democracy, rights and duties of individuals and groups, elections and other forms of political participation, party policies and ideas, and voting behavior and the media.
- **Component 2: UK Government** focuses on the main institutions of UK government such as Parliament and the Prime Minister. Its core themes are distribution of policymaking power, the effectiveness of the key bodies in carrying out their roles, the European Union and relationships between the branches of government.

At **A-Level** you will study the core ideas and principles of four political ideologies (Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism and Feminism). Finally you will study:

- **Component 3: Global Politics** which gives you an opportunity to develop an understanding of the international and global dimensions of political activity through grounding abstract political concepts in contemporary real-world examples and case studies.

How is the subject assessed?

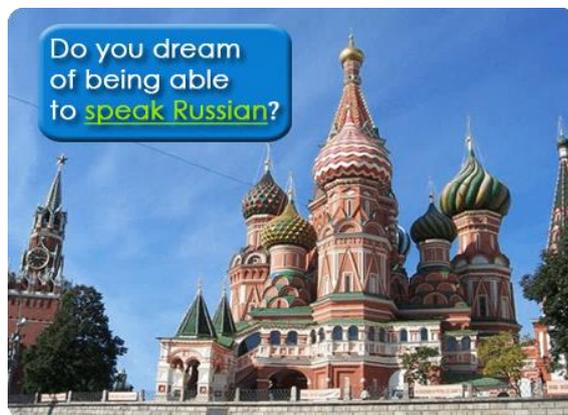
You will take three externally assessed exams: components 1, 2 and 3 in Year 13. You can also sit the AS-Level exam in year 12. The AS-Level is a stand-alone qualification, marks achieved in the AS will not count towards the A-Level.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

With a GCE in Politics, you can progress to higher education courses such as degrees in politics, international politics/relations and political science as well as to degrees in related subjects such as history, geography, economics, law, social policy etc. It can also lead to a variety of careers within areas such as journalism and broadcasting, management, publishing, public policy and policy research, interest groups, local government and the voluntary sector, as well as, of course, within politics itself.

RUSSIAN

- Russian is the most widely spoken of the Slavic languages (about 300 million people speak Russian).
- It opens doors to famous Russian classical literature and is a passport for those who wish to study, or establish connections with the Russian culture and art, or those who seek opportunities to develop commercial relations with one of the biggest countries in the world.
- An A-Level in Russian will help you develop an understanding of Russian in a variety of contexts and genres, and to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Russian.
- A second language is a requirement for certain university degrees



WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

1. *The papers are based on content from the following four themes which address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Russia and Russian-speaking countries.*

AS-Level

Тема 1: Развитие российского общества

Theme 1 is set in the context of Russia only.

- **Жизнь российской молодёжи** Здоровье; отдых; новые технологии.
- **Образование** Система образования; жизнь российских школьников.
- **Мир труда** Отношение к труду; возможности для молодых россиян; равноправие.

Тема 2: Политическая и художественная культура в русскоязычном мире

Theme 2 is set in the context of the Russian-speaking world.

- **Средства массовой информации** Свобода выражения; печатная и онлайн пресса; влияние на общество и политику.
- **Массовая культура** Музыка; цирк; танец.
- **Праздники, фестивали и традиции** Фестивали; праздники; обычаи; традиции

A-Level

Тема 3: Москва или Санкт-Петербург - Изменения в жизни большого российского города

Theme 3 is set in the context of Russia only.

- **Изменение населения** Жизнь в городе; жизнь в пригородах.
- **Общественные проблемы** Бездомность; преступность.
- **Окружающая среда** Реконструкция и благоустройства города; загрязнение.

Тема 4: Последние годы СССР – М.С. Горбачёв (1985-1991)

Theme 4 is set in the context of Russia only.

- **Перестройка** Что вызвало перестройку; экономические изменения; исходы.
- **Гласность** Что вызвало гласность; общественные изменения; исходы.
- **1991 год** Проблемы для СССР к началу 1991 г.; путч в августе; распад СССР.

2. *The pupils will have to study popular literary texts and films and to write a critical responses about works they have studied.*

Candidates must demonstrate evidence of independent, advanced-level Russian language research into a chosen book or film.