

Social Sciences:

- A-Level Business
- A-Level Economics
- A-Level Psychology
- A-Level Sociology

Standard Entry Guidelines

5 GCSEs with a mixture of grades 9-5 in a least 5 different subjects including English Language and Mathematics

A-Level Business

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Standard plus grade 5 in Mathematics and English Language GCSE and a minimum of three other subjects at grade 5 or above.

How is the subject assessed?

100% examination: 3 papers, each 2 hours long.

- **Paper 1:** Two data-response questions with structured and extended responses (35%)
- **Paper 2:** Two data-response questions with structured and extended responses (35%)
- **Paper 3 :** Based on a pre-released context, issued in November of Year 13 (30%)

What will I study?

In Year 1, you will study Marketing and People, Finance, Resource Management and External Influences.

In Year 2, you will focus on Business Objectives, Strategy and Decision Making, Change Management, and Global Business.

Is this subject right for me?

This course suits students interested in how businesses operate and the factors that influence them. You should be confident taking part in discussions, using real-world examples, organising your work and meeting deadlines.

You also need to build clear, logical arguments and be comfortable with numeracy, as around 10% of the assessment involves calculations.

What Next?

This course prepares you for both employment and higher education.

Career paths include Marketing, Event Management, E-commerce, Finance and Recruitment, as well as a wide range of business roles. It also leads to degrees in Business, Marketing, Retail Management, Public Relations and Finance.

A-Level Economics

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Standard plus grade 6 in Mathematics

How is the subject assessed?

100% examination: 3 papers, each 2 hours.

- **Paper 1:** Multiple-choice, short answers, data response (including calculations, interpretation, explanation and evaluation) and one essay (33%)
- **Paper 2:** Same structure as Paper 1 (33%)
- **Paper 3:** 30 multiple-choice questions and 3 report-style questions (33%)

What will I study?

In Year 1, you will look at the fundamentals of supply, demand and prices by studying markets and market failure, as well as the UK macroeconomy—its performance and policies.

In Year 2, you will focus on business behaviour and the labour market, the psychology of individual decision making through behavioural economics, and the macroeconomy from a global perspective, including trade and protectionism, exchange rates, and economic development.

Is this subject right for me?

This course suits students interested in how the world works socially, financially and culturally. You should enjoy discussion, developing arguments and building analytical, numerical and problem-solving skills.

What Next?

This course can lead to university degrees in Economics, including specialist areas such as environmental, labour, public sector or monetary economics.

You could also study applied subjects like Business Economics, Mathematical Economics or Business.

Career paths include finance, banking, insurance, accountancy, management and consultancy, as well as roles as professional economists.

A-Level Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Standard plus grade 5 in two GCSE Science subjects.

How is the subject assessed?

100% examination:

- You will sit 3 separate exam papers
- Each exam lasts 2 hours
- Each paper counts for about one-third (33.3%) of your final grade

What will I study?

A-Level Psychology looks at how the mind works and why people behave the way they do. You will study topics such as memory, attachment, mental health and the biological influences on behaviour. The course develops skills in research, analysis and critical thinking through real-life applications.

Is this subject right for me?

This course suits students who enjoy science and are interested in how people think, develop and behave in real-world situations. You should be willing to research, analyse data and evaluate information. Some topics can be sensitive and open to debate, so an interest in discussion is helpful.

What Next?

A-Level Psychology can lead to university study and a wide range of career pathways.

It develops valuable transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, problem solving and independent research.

Career options include Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, Counselling, Teaching and the Police Force, among many others.

A-Level Sociology

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Standard plus grade 5 in Mathematics and English Language GCSE and a minimum of three other subjects at grade 5 or above.

How is the subject assessed?

100% examination.

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes, 90 marks (30%)

- Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes, 105 marks (35%)
- Paper 3: 2 hours 15 minutes, 105 marks (35%)

What will I study?

You will explore how society is structured and how people interact within groups and institutions. Topics include culture, socialisation, identity, youth subcultures, globalisation, the digital world, crime and deviance, and social inequality. You will also study how sociologists collect and analyse data using different research methods.

Is this subject right for me?

This course suits students interested in how society works and what influences human behaviour. It explores key questions such as why crime rates differ between groups, why some people experience poverty, why gender differences exist in education and careers, and how digital technology shapes our identities and social lives. Sociology is an independent reading, discussion and essay-based subject. Students will take an active part in discussing ideas with their peers and as a whole class on a regular basis.

What Next?

A-Level Sociology can lead to university courses such as Sociology, Politics, Advertising, Media, Film and Journalism.

It also opens up careers in areas like Advertising, Media, Journalism, Careers Guidance, Counselling and Teaching.