



YATE ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

COURSE INFORMATION



WELCOME

Our first-class specialist accommodation, including top quality study facilities, fosters a friendly and professional environment where students are valued and treated as adults. Our thriving Sixth Form community encourages and supports students to take greater responsibility for their learning as they combine academic and social independence with a broad range of enrichment opportunities.

Our core curriculum supports and extends every student's learning through volunteering, alongside an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Duke of Edinburgh Award or the Sports Leader Programme.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team help plan appropriate courses of study, monitor progress, provide information and support life after Yate Academy. Individual support, advice and guidance ensures that our students leave us and progress to their next steps with confidence. Advice and support with applications to university, apprenticeships, specialist colleges or employment are given and many gaining entry to top institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge.

We are proud that our students leave us as well-rounded young people with high aspirations to fulfil their potential and with the qualifications they need to realise their dreams and ambitions.

Life in the Sixth Form is different from any other educational experience you may have had and those who embrace all the opportunities available, work hard and follow the advice given will achieve real success. We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.



**THE ACADEMY'S
MODERN FACILITIES
MEAN THAT YOU
CAN TRULY GET THE
MOST OUT OF
YOUR COURSE."**

OUR VALUES

Continue on a journey of endless possibilities at our Sixth Form. As a school, we have a stellar track record of delivering outstanding examination results and a team of dedicated staff.

We provide a nurturing environment, where your ambitions take flight!

Get used to doors opening for you, be it the halls of the best universities, leading corporations or sought after apprenticeships, we help pave the way for your future success, ensuring every opportunity is in reach. Together, we open doors.

DECIDING WHAT TO STUDY

Choosing the right courses is essential for advanced level success and you will need to think carefully about the subjects that you want to study in order to have a positive and successful experience in the Sixth Form, and for your career choices in the future.

There are many things to consider before you make a final decision on which subjects you would like to study.

- If you already know what you would like to do when you leave school, check the entry requirements online, book an appointment with our Careers Adviser or speak to one of the Sixth Form team. Some factors to consider include which subjects to study; the grades you will need and the work experience or extracurricular accomplishments which may be necessary.
- If, at this stage, you have only a general idea of what you wish to do, or are not sure yet, then select subjects which you actively enjoy and which you are good at. It would also be useful to see the Careers Adviser.

For higher education, some degree courses require particular subject combinations, whilst others require very high grades in key subjects. If you change your mind once you have begun your courses, it is not always easy to swap courses and catch up. It is therefore crucial that you research carefully before you make a final decision.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Most students will select and complete three subjects as this is what even the most competitive universities, courses and apprenticeships require, and it will allow greater time for studying and enrichment activities. On a case-by-case basis some students may be given the opportunity to start on four courses, but this will be the exception.

With three subjects as the default curriculum for most students, there are great opportunities to expand your skills and knowledge in other ways. These include The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, British Sign Language, mentoring and volunteering in addition to the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The EPQ is equivalent to half an A Level and allows you to demonstrate your interest in a project of your choice that extends your studies. It requires advanced planning, research and project management skills and is highly valued by many universities.

Entry requirements

Enrolment in the Yate Academy Sixth Form is subject to achieving the minimum entry requirements of 5 grade 5's (A levels) and 4 grade 5s (Vocational). In addition, there are subject specific entry requirements and/or the need to have studied the subject at GCSE Level (please see the relevant subject pages).



“

I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT STUDYING AT THE ACADEMY HAS SHAPED WHO I AM TODAY, AND MADE ME EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO BE THE BEST PERSON THAT I CAN BE.”

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in GCSE Fine Art or Photography**
- **HEAD: Mrs K Davis – kdavis@yateacademy.co.uk**

Fine art requires engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts through the use of traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques and processes for the purpose of self-expression, free of external constraints. Fine art may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

Curriculum

The curriculum consists of two units, broken down into two parts per unit. **Personal**

Investigation consists of two integrated constituent parts:

1. A major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance. 2. An extended written element of 1000 words minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly relate to practical and theoretical work using an appropriate working vocabulary and specialist terminology.

Externally Set Assignment consists of two parts:

Part 1: Preparatory study period

The externally set assignment materials are to be released to learners from 1 February (in the second year of the course) and will consist of a series of visual and written stimuli, which are to be presented to the learner at the start of the preparatory study period. One of the stimuli is to be selected by the learner and used as a starting point from which to elicit a personal response. Responses are developed during the preparatory study period. They should take the form of critical, practical and theoretical preparatory work/ supporting studies which inform the resolution of ideas in the 15 hours sustained focus study. The start of the preparatory study period is defined as the date upon which the externally set assignment materials are presented to the learner. The preparatory study period may commence on or after 1 February.

Part 2: 15-hour period of sustained focus work

The resolution of learners' ideas from the preparatory work must be completed during the designated 15 hours and they must show how their planning relates to the outcome/s. The period of sustained focus work must be completed under supervised conditions. Centres determine the scheduling of the supervised sustained focus sessions, considering the May deadline for the submission of internally assessed marks to EDUQAS.

Assessment

- Unit 1 is 60% of the qualification and Unit 2 is 40%.
- Unit 1 is marked out of 120 marks while Unit 2 is out of 80.

Both the preparatory work and sustained focus work will be assessed together, using the assessment objectives. Learners will be required to select, evaluate and present their work for assessment. The Externally Set Assignment will be set by WJEC, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

Career opportunities

Art A Level can lead to careers such as animator, architect, art therapist, cartoonist, concept artist, curator and graphic designer.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Triple Science**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Oram – eoram@yateacademy.co.uk**

Biology is the study of life and all living things that interact on our planet. It gives students the information and insight into how processes from the smallest microorganism to the largest ecosystem interact and are dependent on each other.

In Biology A Level, students have the opportunity to learn how advances in biological science have changed our knowledge and understanding of the world around us. Students learn many applications of development of biological understanding in the field of cell biology, biochemistry, medicine, genetics and ecology. They learn to make links between topics, investigate patterns and trends in data and use evidence from experimental practice to make inferences to build a greater understanding of the fascinating natural world.

Curriculum

Biology A Level is split into six modules:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2: Foundations in biology
- Module 3: Exchange and transport
- Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment

Biology A Level assessment is split into three exams :

- Biological processes (2 hours 15 mins), 37% – assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Biological diversity (2 hours 15 mins), 37% – assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
- Unified biology (1 hour 30 mins), 26% – assesses content from all modules (1 to 6).

Non-exam assessed practical endorsement.

Career opportunities

Studying a Biology A Level can lead to careers such as agriculture, doctor, physiotherapist, marine biologist, zoologist, veterinary medicine, pathologist, pharmaceutical sales, radiographer, orthoptist and microbiologist.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths**
- **HEAD: Ms R Morgan - rmorgan@yateacademy.co.uk**

This course will provide you with a good overview of business as a whole, with a particular focus on enterprise. You will also learn about four business areas: marketing, finance, people management and operations. Your study will also involve strategic thinking and business influences and setting up a small business.

You will study operational aspects of a business such as human resources, marketing, finance and accounting. You will develop analytical and critical skills, as well as a creative approach to problem solving.

You could progress on to further study of a business-related subject at higher education level or alternatively enter the employment market. Degree courses can include business and management, business and finance, or business and accounting.

Business Studies A level is split into the following modules:

What is business?

- Business and objectives
- Forms of business and stakeholders
- Marketing management
- Financial management

Managing People and operations

- People management
- Operations management

Managing business culture

- Business and society
- Business and the external environment
- Strategy
- Change

Assessment

Business Studies A Level assessment is a linear qualification set through four Assessment Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of terms, concepts, theories, methods and models to show an understanding of how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to business issues.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to various business contexts to show how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to issues.
- Analyse issues within business, showing an understanding of the impact on individuals and organisations of external and internal influences.
- Evaluate quantitative and qualitative information to make informed judgements and propose evidence-based solutions to business issues.

These Objectives are assessed through three equally weighted case study based written exams which are 2 hours each.

Career opportunities

A Level Business Studies will give you the skills and knowledge that you need to progress into Higher Education. It is well regarded by both universities and employers; with opportunities in a variety of organisations, including companies or management consultancies.

Upon completion of this course, you will be prepared for further study at university or be ready for the world of work. There isn't any job that does not require some form of business knowledge, so the world is your oyster!

CHEMISTRY

A LEVEL – AQA

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Triple Science**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Oram – eorem@yateacademy.co.uk**

Chemists use their experiments and knowledge to develop medicines, foods, fabrics and other materials, from neon lights to shatterproof glass. They also use it to understand the world around us, from why leaves change colour to discovering invisible pollutants in the air. Chemistry is sometimes known as the 'central science' because it helps to connect physical sciences, like math's and physics, with applied sciences, like biology, medicine and engineering. Chemistry helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It helps you to challenge ideas and teaches you how to work things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning. Chemistry often requires teamwork and communication skills too, which is great for project management.

Curriculum

The Chemistry A Level is split into three core topics:

- Physical Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

These are then further divided into 16 smaller topics.

Assessment

The Chemistry A Level is split into three exams:

- Paper 1 Inorganic and Physical Chemistry 2 hours 35% 105 marks
- Paper 3 Organic and Physical Chemistry 2 hours 35% 105 marks
- Paper 3. 2 Hours 30% 90marks Assesses content from all modules

Non-exam assessed practical endorsement.

Career opportunities

Doing an A Level in Chemistry can open many doors for you in the future. It is seen as a challenging, academic and rigorous A Level that will impress a lot of universities and employers. It can lead to many careers in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, the biological sciences, physics, math's, pharmacology, chemical engineering and analytical chemistry. Many law applicants also take chemistry as it shows potential employers that you can cope with difficult concepts. You need Chemistry to study veterinary medicine or medicine – universities usually ask for an A.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in English**
- **HEAD: Mrs A Mayo – amayo@yateacademy.co.uk**

This course has elements of psychology, law and sociology that complement studies in humanities. The EDUQAS Applied General Qualification is designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of why people commit crime, different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and an understanding of the criminal justice system – from crime identification through to the final verdict. It offers a fascinating insight into the world of crime, the causes of crime, and how to effectively prevent it.

Curriculum

The course is made up of four mandatory units:

- Changing Awareness of Crime
- Criminological Theories
- Crime Scene to Courtroom
- Crime and Punishment

Assessment

The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is assessed using a combination of internal and external assessment. Two units (Criminological Theories and Crime and Punishment) are externally assessed. This involves a 90-minute examination with three sections where you will answer a series of different questions. Each section will have an applied problem-solving scenario linked to it.

The Changing Awareness of Crime and Crime Scene to Courtroom units are internally assessed with a controlled assessment (totalling 8 hours) being produced for each unit. Guidance will be given in these areas.

Career opportunities

The Level 3 Diploma in Criminology provides a good basis for university degree courses in criminology, sociology, law, psychology and forensic science. This course is ideal for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in criminology and provides an excellent basis to anyone wishing to pursue a career within social work, mental health, the Police Force, customs and revenue, immigration, prison services, the NHS, community services, alongside a whole range of other careers.

Please be aware that some Russell Group Universities do not accept the Criminology Diploma.

A LEVEL – EDEXCEL ECONOMICS

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in Maths and English**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Morgan – emorgan@yateacademy.co.uk**

Economics is all about the allocation of scarce resources. This course will enable students to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life.

By the end of the course, students will be in a position to understand and discuss current

economic issues, such as the impact of BREXIT, the importance of controlling inflation, the effect of commodity price rises on businesses, consumers and the economy.

Curriculum

Economics A Level is structured into four themes:

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2: UK economy – performance and policies
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

Throughout each of the themes there is a range of content covered including:

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue and competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy
- The distribution of income and wealth
- The market mechanism, market failure
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- The international economy

Assessment

- Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour (Microeconomics, themes 1 and 3) – 35% of the total qualification
- Paper 2: The National and Global Economy (Macroeconomics, themes 2 and 4) – 35% of the total qualification
- Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (Content from all 4 Themes) – 30% of the total qualification

Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

Career opportunities

An A Level in Economics can open doors to a wide range of careers. It demonstrates a strong understanding of economic principles, analytical skills and a logical approach to problem solving. Some popular career paths that would benefit from A Level Economics include actuary, investment or financial analyst, banker, management consultant, civil servant, accountant or economist.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

A LEVEL – AQA

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or English Language**
- **HEAD: Mrs A Wilde – awilde@yateacademy.co.uk**

If you are a lover of books, then this is the course for you! As a student of English literature, you will learn to think analytically and to read critically. You will have to deal with a large amount of written text and demonstrate initiative and responsibility for your learning. The course will be taught through group and individual presentations, class discussion and tutorials with your teacher, particularly for coursework. In addition, you will need to spend homework time preparing for lessons by reading set texts and researching around the subject. To be successful, you will need to enjoy reading and the study of literature and be prepared to read widely outside the course requirements. You will be expected to contribute to group discussion and to focus on developing written expression. Participation in experiences outside the classroom is an integral part of the course.

Curriculum

Opting for A Level English Literature offers a chance to explore deeply the rich and diverse collection of literary works across various genres, periods, and cultures. This subject provides students with an opportunity to enhance their language skills through thorough analysis and interpretation, fostering a deep understanding of human experiences and societal progress. The reasons for selecting this academic path are wide-ranging, including personal growth, educational advancement, and preparation for further study. Studying English Literature will help you to develop your analytical and critical thinking abilities, crucial for success in a variety of professions. The curriculum promotes engagement with intricate texts, requiring strong comprehension skills and the capability to present a viewpoint with supporting evidence. This discipline also cultivates empathy and creativity, as students explore different viewpoints and concepts from different eras and locations. A Level English Literature is esteemed for its rigor and academic reputation by universities, making it a valuable qualification for those looking to pursue higher education. The skills gained through this course are highly transferable, useful not only in the fields of literature and arts but also in areas such as law, politics, and the media. If you love reading, exploring language, characters, plots and authors – you will love English Literature!

Assessment

Exam Paper 1– Love through the Ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play. Exam will include two unseen poems.

Assessed: written exam (3 hours), open book in Section C only, 75 marks, 40% of A Level.

Exam Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Option A: Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day

Option B: World War 1 and its aftermath

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. Exam will include an unseen extract.

Assessed: written exam (2.5 hours), open book, 75 marks, 40% of A Level.

Non-exam assessment Independent Critical Study: Texts across Time. Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography.

Assessed: 50 marks, 20% of A Level, assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA.

Career opportunities

Students who study English Language or English Literature at A Level go on to a variety of careers, including teaching, journalism, law, marketing, management and the media. Employers like the high-level comprehension, independent work and presentation skills which the course encourages.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 4 in English**
- **HEAD: TBC**

Are you captivated by the magic of the silver screen? Do you find yourself analysing the techniques used in your favourite movies? If so, our A Level Film Studies course is the perfect fit for you.

Imagine delving deep into the rich history of cinema, from classic films to contemporary blockbusters. Picture yourself learning about various filmmaking techniques, such as cinematography, editing, sound design, and screenwriting. Our course offers you the opportunity to explore the deeper meanings and messages behind films, developing your analytical skills along the way.

Gain a solid understanding of the film industry and its key players. Prepare yourself for further studies in film, media, and related fields. Discover your own creative potential and explore whether filmmaking is your true calling.

Whether you're aspiring to become a filmmaker, critic, or simply want to deepen your appreciation for the art of cinema, our A Level Film Studies course offers a unique and enriching learning experience.

Curriculum

- **Hollywood 1930-1990:** This part of the course will introduce you to films from the 'Golden Age' of cinema in the 1940s-50s, and you will be encouraged to compare these to more modern 'New Hollywood' films produced in the 80s-90s.
- **American Film since 2005:** Here, you will examine films from the 21st century and look at how both mainstream films as well as contemporary independent films reflect the issues and complexities that are prevalent in America today.
- **British Film since 1995:** Of course, America is not the only country that produces films, and this element of the course examines media that has emerged from quintessentially British contexts.
- **Global Filmmaking Perspective:** A major component of the course is the study of films that are non-English Language. These will be films produced within Europe as well as countries further afield, like China and Brazil, providing even more of a critical understanding of a very culturally diverse medium.

Assessment

Two exams, each 2.5 hours long at the end of the course will assess your knowledge of the films you have studied throughout the course. Each exam is worth 35% of the qualification.

Additionally, there is a non-exam assessment (NEA) module, contributing 30% to the A Level which allows you to explore your own creativity as you produce a piece of film of your own. This can take one of two forms:

- A short film (4-5 minutes)
- A screenplay for a short film accompanied by a digitally photographed storyboard

Both will be complemented by an evaluative analysis of 1600-1800 words.

Career opportunities

An A Level in film studies could lead to careers within the film and television industry at a variety of levels and roles. Careers within media and communications will also benefit from A Level Film Studies as well as the option to become a film historian for example.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in French and must be minimum Grade 5 in English**
- **HEAD: Miss F Sharman – fsharman@yateacademy.co.uk**

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying A Level French is an excellent choice for you. Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them and their country.
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently. Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of A Level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want, e.g. working abroad for a multinational company.
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.

Curriculum and watch films in their original language.

A Level French helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics are:

- Evolving society in France
- Political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries
- Immigration and multiculturalism in France
- The Occupation and Resistance.

You will also study a book and film which may link to the topics, giving you further insight into French culture.

You will, of course, study contemporary French culture and society in depth, including discussing and debating the following topics:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Literary texts and films [No et moi and Un long dimanche de fiançailles]
- Individual Research Project [you choose the topic]

Assessment

- Paper 1: Examination (40% of A Level) on aspects of French society (current trends, current issues, artistic culture, political life) – Listening, Reading and Writing (2.5 hours).
- Paper 2: Examination (30% of A Level), writing analytical essays on the book and film studied– Writing (2 hours).
- Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level) including a conversation in response to a stimulus card, followed by a presentation and discussion of your Individual Research Project – 21-23 minutes.

Career opportunities

Knowing a language broadens your opportunities as there is a wide range of career paths which require specific foreign language skills in the increasingly global job market. Tourism and travel industries and international businesses are examples of careers requiring foreign language skills. A foreign language qualification could also improve your chance of studying at a good university, or of joining the Erasmus/Turing scheme and studying abroad whilst at university. Learning a foreign language will provide you with confidence and a strong ability to communicate.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in GCSE Geography**
- **HEAD: Mrs A Mayo – amayo@yateacademy.co.uk**

Geography looks at the 'big ideas' in the world and how people strive to make our world a better place to live in. We potentially face dramatic changes to our world through climate change. Learning about physical process such as the carbon cycle helps understand the role of energy use in influencing climate change and importantly, helps us make judgements on the arguments presented in the media. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research, which will help you become an independent thinker and learner.

By the time you get to your exams, you will be able to show your understanding of a range of opinions and be able to illustrate your answers with case studies from local, national and international examples. You will learn in a wide variety of ways, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, and podcasts, as well as attending lectures and study days. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A Level course.

Curriculum

- Topic 1: Physical Geography; Water and carbon cycles, Coastal systems and landscapes and Hazards/Ecosystem's under stress
- Topic 2: Human Geography: Global systems and governance, changing places and Population and the environment
- Topic 3: Geographical fieldwork investigation

Assessment

- Component 1 – Physical Geography (2 hours 30 minutes), 120 marks, 40% of A Level
- Component 2 – Human Geography (2 hours 30 minutes), 120 marks 40% of A Level
- Component 3 – 3000-4000 words (60 marks), 20% of A Level

Career opportunities

Whilst geography increases your employability rate, it also offers plenty of different fields that you can go into. Here are just a few examples of the different routes you could go down: environmental consultant, urban planner, cartographer, geospatial analyst, education, journalism, leisure and tourism.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in English**
- **HEAD: Mr S Revett – srevett@yateacademy.co.uk**

Are you passionate about helping others and making a positive impact on your community? If you're interested in making a positive difference in people's lives and have a passion for healthcare, our Health and Social Care course is the perfect choice for you. This course provides a solid foundation in the principles and practices of healthcare and social care, preparing you for a rewarding career in the sector.

Curriculum

The course is split into two with a series of mandatory units and then three option units from a selection.

Mandatory units

Unit/title

- 1 – Human Lifespan Development - Exam
- 2 – Working in Health and Social Care - Exam
- 3 – Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care – Exam
- 4 – Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care- Exam
- 5 – Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- 6 – Work Experience in Health and Social Care
- 7 – Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- 8 – Promoting Public Health

Optional units

Unit/title

- 9 – Infection Prevention and Control
- 12 – Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
- 14 – Physiological Disorders and their Care
- 18 – Assessing Children's Development Support Needs
- 19 – Nutritional Health

Assessment

Four units in total:

- Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development
- Unit 2 – Working In Health and Social Care
- Unit 3 – Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 4 – Enquiries into current research within health and social care are assessed via exam equating to 42% of the qualification.

Career opportunities

The Level 3 BTEC is a recognised route into higher education. This qualification will enable you to progress to degree courses in associated areas and support career choices such as nursing and midwifery, social work, youth work or become involved in childcare (nursery provision, child protection officer), physiotherapy, occupational therapy or train to be a healthcare assistant or paramedic.

HISTORY

A LEVEL – OCR

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: TBC**
- **HEAD: Mr E Durbin – edurbin@yateacademy.co.uk**

Winston Churchill, the British prime minister and budding historian, once said that “those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” He was wrong. Studying A Level History will teach you that the past doesn’t offer us many 'lessons' about how to act in the present or the future. But studying A Level History will also teach you that every part of our modern world has a story. These stories have beginnings, middles, and perhaps ends. And it will teach you that these stories could very easily have been different. Gaining this understanding – about why the world is the way it is, and how it could have been, and could be, different – is what makes studying History so exciting. Study History because it will change the way you see the world.

If you have enjoyed GCSE History and its fascinating characters, interesting stories and important debates, then you will enjoy A Level History too. The topics we study – the Tudors, Russia from Tsars to Stalin, the British Empire - are packed full of drama, comedy, tragedy, and sometimes farce. You will dive deep into the murky world of Russian revolutionaries, ponder the motivations of mutinous sepoys in 19th century Delhi, and uncover the real story behind Katherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, Catherine Parr and their murderous husband. Then, in Year 13, you can choose your own research topic for the coursework unit. Study History because you enjoy it.

Finally, of course, there are the doors that A Level History can open. For many universities and employers, an A Level in History is evidence of a strong work ethic, an ability to assimilate, analyse and evaluate large quantities of information, and a willingness to challenge existing narratives and ideas.

Curriculum

- Unit 1: British Period Study and Enquiry (England 1485-1547 and Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1558)
- Unit 2: Non-British Period Study (Russia 1894-1941)
- Unit 3: Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations (From Colonialism to Independence: The British Empire 1857-1965)

Assessment

- Unit 1: Exam (90 minutes) – 25% of A Level.
- Unit 2: Exam (60 minutes) –15% of A Level.
- Unit 3: Exam (2.5 hours) –40% of A Level.

Topic-based Essay (a 3000-4000 word essay on a historical topic of your choice) – 20% of A Level.

Career opportunities

Employers and universities value A Level History as an indicator of your ability to assimilate and remember a large amount of complex information, form your own judgements and evaluate others', and communicate your ideas with clarity. As a result, A Level History can be a stepping stone to a variety of careers in which these skills are important, such as law, journalism, medicine or politics. It's a perfect choice if, like many people, you don't know what you want to do in the future yet. Study History because it cantake you in many directions.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 7 (Grade 6s will be considered on an individual basis)**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Morgan – emorgan@yateacademy.co.uk**

Studying A Level Mathematics is an engaging and challenging experience. It helps to develop important employability skills such as problem-solving, logical reasoning, communication, and resilience. It also enhances understanding of mathematical techniques and their practical applications, supports the study of other A Level subjects, and provides excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses. Additionally, achieving a qualification in A Level Mathematics is highly regarded by both employers and higher education institutions.

Curriculum

- Pure Mathematics: Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry in the (x, y) Plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical Methods and Vectors
- Statistics: Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions and Statistical Hypothesis Testing
- Mechanics: Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws and Moments

Assessment

The Maths A Level consists of three exams:

P• aper 1: Pure Mathematics 1

Written examination (2 hours) – 100 marks

33.33% of the qualification

P• aper 2: Pure Mathematics 2

Written examination (2 hours) – 100 marks

33.33% of the qualification

P• aper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

Written examination (2 hours) – 100 marks

33.33% of the qualification

Career opportunities

Students who study Mathematics at A Level go on to a variety of careers, including teaching, accountancy, roles in actuarial studies, banking and finance, data analysis and statistics and it is also an enabling subject for careers in fields like engineering or economics.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A LEVEL – EDEXCEL

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 8**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Morgan – emorgan@yateacademy.co.uk**

There are several compelling reasons to study A Level Further Mathematics. For those who enjoy mathematics, it offers a challenge and an opportunity to explore new and more advanced mathematical concepts. It also eases the transition from sixth form to university courses that are mathematically intensive, as more of the first-year course content will be familiar. Additionally, it allows students to distinguish themselves as proficient mathematicians for their university applications and future employment prospects.

The Further Mathematics A Level course comes highly recommended for students aiming to pursue mathematics or a mathematically related subject at the degree level. Furthermore, some top universities now require applicants for mathematics to have

studied both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level.

Curriculum

- Core Pure Mathematics
- Proof, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Further Vectors, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Differential Equations

Assessment

The Further Mathematics A Level consists of four exams:

- Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1
Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes) – 75 marks
25% of the qualification
- Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2
Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes)– 75 marks
25% of the qualification
- Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option
Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes) – 75 marks
25% of the qualification
- Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option
Written examination (1 hour and 30 minute) – 75 marks
25% of the qualification

Career opportunities

Students who study Further Mathematics at A Level will do so if they wish to pursue a career in engineering (aerospace, electronic, civil). It will also be an excellent complement to careers in medical research where there is a large emphasis on pure mathematics.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 4 in Art or Photography**
- **HEAD: Mrs K Davis – kdavis@yateacademy.co.uk**

Are you captivated by the power of images to tell stories and evoke emotions? Do you find yourself noticing the composition and lighting of photographs around you? If so, our A Level Photography course is the perfect fit for you.

On the course you will begin exploring topics such as composition, lighting, exposure, and darkroom techniques. Our course offers you the opportunity to develop your creative skills as you experiment with different styles and techniques and develop your own style.

Gain a firm understanding of photographic principles and the technical aspects of photography. Prepare yourself for further studies in photography, fine art, or related fields. Discover your own potential for capturing the world around you in unique and meaningful ways.

Curriculum

- Year 1 coursework: Darkroom and digital skills.
- Year 2 coursewor: Creative Investigation.
- Final exam: Theme set by the exam board.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is split between 60% coursework and 40% exam and both are internally assessed and then externally moderated.

- Component 1: Personal Investigation. It incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. In the personal study students are required to investigate photography and design practice through a technical, contextual or stylistic study. Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines.

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. Component 1 is worth 60% of the total qualification.

- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (ESA). Preparatory studies will comprise a portfolio of practical and written development work based on the ESA. During the 15-hour period of sustained focus, students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the ESA. Component 2 is worth 40% of the total qualification.

Career opportunities

A Level Photography could lead to careers as a graphic designer, professional photographer, press photographer, web designer, magazine features editor, advertising art director, medical illustrator, digital marketer or media planner.

PHYSICS

A LEVEL – AQA

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6+ in Combined Science or Triple Science and Grade 6+ in GCSE maths**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Oram – eoram@yateacademy.co.uk**

In Physics A Level, students begin to appreciate the key to understanding nature itself. It will take you on a journey from the smallest particle to the edge of the observable universe, from the beginning of time to the edge of known reason. You learn about the fundamental particles, the way they interact, behave and conspire to produce the world around us. Students will learn how to use the application of maths to make inferences about our natural world and how core mathematical understanding can reveal the fundamental forces of nature.

Curriculum

The Physics A Level is split into eight core topics:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics

And an additional topic from one of the below options:

- Astrophysics
- Medical physics
- Engineering physics
- Turning points in physics
- Electronics

Assessment

- Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion). Written exam: 2 hours (85 marks) – 34% of A Level.
- Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal physics), 7 and 8. Written exam: 2 hours (85 marks) – 34% of A Level.
- . . . Paper 3: Written exam: 2 hours (80 marks) – 32% of A Level.

Career opportunities

Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis.

Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13.

Students who study Physics at A Level may wish to pursue a career as a radiologist, nuclear engineer, forensic scientist, sound engineer, aerospace engineer, astrophysicist, medical diagnostician or a role in the fields of finance or computing for example.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in Design Technology and Maths**
- **HEAD: Mrs G Davies gdavies@yateacademy.co.uk**

Product design at A Level offers a unique blend of creativity, technical skills and problem-solving abilities and is an excellent choice for students interested in innovation. At this level of course, emphasis is placed upon the design of products for the real world and students will learn about production methods, the application of modern materials and how modern technology is integrated into manufacturing systems. Throughout the course students will develop communication and practical skills through the completion of a number of open ended and focused design activities.

Environmental issues are of high priority within this course, and students are encouraged to consider aspects of sustainability when designing and making.

Curriculum

A Level Design and Technology: Product Design requires students to engage in both practical and theoretical study. This specification requires students to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below:

- Core technical principles
- Designing and making principles
- Additional specialist knowledge

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the above criteria through written exams and an extended design and make project. Within this, students will be able to work in a wide range of media and may include the opportunity to develop a rounded knowledge of computer aided design and computer aided manufacture. Students must also demonstrate knowledge of science and mathematics with the context of design and technology.

Assessment

Examination (50%) - Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of:

- Designing and innovation
- Materials and components
- Manufacturing processes
- Industrial and commercial practice
- Product analysis and systems
- Human responsibility
- Public interaction – marketing and research.

Non-Examination Assessment (50%) Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. Substantial design and make task undertaken in school over 45 hours (Submitted at the end of Year 2).

Career opportunities

In the past, students who have successfully completed an A Level in this subject have progressed to higher education courses or higher-level apprenticeships related to electrical engineering, electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, aeronautical engineering, industrial design, product design, graphic design and structural engineering, including architecture.

Students who have not followed a related course at a higher level have found that design and technology is highly regarded by university admission tutors and that the approach to problem solving and communication which is developed within the course is transferable to other subjects.

PSYCHOLOGY

A LEVEL – AQA

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in English, Maths and Science**
- **HEAD: Mrs E Oram – eoram@yateacademy.co.uk**

Are you intrigued by the complexities of the human mind? Do you find yourself pondering the motivations and behaviours of others? If so, our A Level Psychology course is the perfect fit for you.

Imagine delving deep into the fascinating world of psychology, exploring topics such as cognitive processes, social psychology, and abnormal behaviour. Our course offers you the opportunity to develop your analytical skills as you examine the intricate workings of the human mind. Gain a solid understanding of psychological theories and research methods. Prepare yourself for further studies in psychology, counselling, social work, and related fields. Discover your own potential for helping others and making a positive impact on the world.

Curriculum

Year 1

- Topic 1 – Social Influence, Memory and Attachment and psychopathologies
Social influence: We will look at explanations for obedience: agentic state and legitimacy of authority, and situational variables affecting obedience including proximity, location and uniform, as investigated by Milgram. Memory: We will look at factors affecting the accuracy of eyewitness testimony: misleading information, including leading questions and post-event discussion; anxiety. Attachment: We will look at the influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships, including the role of an internal working model. Psychopathology: We will look at the behavioural approach to explaining and treating phobias: the two-process model, including classical and operant conditioning; systematic desensitisation, including relaxation and use of hierarchy; flooding. Topic 2 – Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and
- Research Methods.
Approaches in Psychology: We will look at the origins of psychology and different approaches in psychology (biological, cognitive, learning, psychodynamic and humanistic). Research Methods: We will look at types of experiments and how psychologists run their own research. Biopsychology: We will look at research into the nervous system, endocrine system and functions of different parts of the brain

Year 2

- Topic 3 – Issues and Debates. Schizophrenia: We will look at both biological and psychological explanations of schizophrenia as well as different therapies for treating it. Issues and debates: We will look at debates that shape psychology such as the nature versus nurture debate. We will also examine issues that affect our ability to generalise findings due to potential biases such as culture and gender bias. Gender: We will examine the differences between sex and gender as well as investigate the biological, cognitive, psychodynamic and social explanations of gender and their differences. Aggression: We will research biological, evolutionary and social explanations of aggression. We will also investigate the effect of the media on aggression levels.

Assessment

Each topic is assessed by a 2 hour exam at the end of year 2 (three exams in total).

Career opportunities

An A Level in psychology could lead to careers within healthcare and mental health, education, research, business and industry such as human resources, marketing or advertising. It can even help support careers within law enforcement such as a forensic psychologist or criminal profiler.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5/6 English**
- **HEAD: Mrs A Mayo – amayo@yateacademy.co.uk**

“Until one is suddenly brought up against an insight that radically questions everything one had previously assumed about this familiar scene. This is the exact point at which one begins to sense the excitement of sociology” – Peter L. Berger.

Studying A Level Sociology will give you a perspective on different sociological concepts whilst giving you an insight into important social issues. Looking at the links between poverty, welfare, nature, and health, you will learn to understand the importance of social structure when tackling social problems.

Curriculum

The Sociology AQA course is split into three papers covering six topics;

- Families and Households
- Education
- Theory and Methods
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance

Assessment

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods – 2 hours (80 marks), 33.3% of the A Level.
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology – 2 hours (80 marks), 33.3% of the A Level.
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – 2 hours (80 marks), 33.3% of the A Level .

Career opportunities

Students who study Sociology at A Level have many pathways to take including education, law, journalism, social work and human relations.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 6 in Spanish and must be minimum Grade 5 in English**
- **HEAD: Miss F Sharman – fsharman@yateacademy.co.uk**

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying A Level Spanish is an excellent choice for you! Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them and their country.
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently.
- Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence.
- Add an international dimension to your choice of A Level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want, e.g. working abroad for a multinational company.
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language.
- Read books and watch films in their original language.

Curriculum

TBC

Assessment

- Paper 1: Examination (40% of A Level) on aspects of Hispanic society (current social issues and trends, artistic culture, political culture) – Listening, Reading and Writing – 2 hours.
- Paper 2: Examination (30% of A Level), writing analytical essays on the book and film studied – Writing – 2 hours and 40 minutes.
- Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level) including a conversation in response to a stimulus card, followed by a presentation and discussion of your Individual Research Project – 21-23 minutes.

Career opportunities

Being able to speak Spanish not only enables you to communicate with the 400 million other speakers worldwide, but it will also broaden your academic and career opportunities.

There is a wide range of career paths which require specific foreign language skills in the increasingly global job market. Tourism and travel industries and international businesses are examples of careers requiring foreign language skills. Learning a foreign language could also improve your chance of studying at a good university or of joining the Erasmus scheme and studying abroad whilst at university. A language will provide you with confidence and a strong ability to communicate.

- **ENTRY CRITERIA: Grade 5 in Maths and English**
- **HEAD: Mr S Revett – srevett@yateacademy.co.uk**

The Level 3 BTEC is a recognised route into higher education. This qualification will enable you to progress to degree courses in associated areas, as well as teaching. You could, alternatively, go into employment in a sports related area, such as working in a sports or leisure centre or outdoor activity work with young people.

Curriculum

The course is split into two with a series of mandatory units and then three option units from a selection.

Double Award: Mandatory units

Unit/title:

- 1 – Anatomy and Physiology
- 2 – Fitness, Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing
- 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- 4 – Sports Leadership
- 22 – Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry
- 23 – Skill Acquisition in Sport

Double Award Optional units (three in total from list below)

Unit/title

- 5 – Application of Fitness Testing
- 6 – Sports Psychology
- 8 – Coaching for Performance
- 10 – Sports Event Organisation
- 17 – Sports Injury Management
- 25 – Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport
- 28 – Development in the Sports Industry

Assessment

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology will be assessed through a written examination
- Unit 2 Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing and Unit 22 Investigating Business in Sport and the active Leisure Industry will be assessed by a synoptic task set by the exam board and completed in exam conditions.

All other units will be assessed by internal assessment tasks, these will take the form of practical observations, witness statements, presentations and reports.

Career opportunities

The Level 3 BTEC is a recognised route into higher education. This qualification will enable you to progress to degree courses in associated areas, as well as teaching. You could, alternatively, go into employment in a sports related area, such as working in a sports or leisure centre or outdoor activity work with young people.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

23rd October 2025

Our application procedure starts with our Sixth Form open evening. See our website for more details.

5th December 2025

Application deadline. You will need to complete the online application form, following the link on the school website.

January to February 2026

Guidance meetings with a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss your options and application.

Summer 2026

GCSE final examination period.

July 2026

Yate Academy Sixth Form induction day.

August 2026

Following receipt of GCSE results, students enrol into the Sixth Form.

September 2026

Yate Academy Sixth Form induction day where you will meet your teachers and your tutor group.

If you have any enquiries, or would like a tour of the school, please contact info@yateacademy.co.uk or by telephone 01454 333560.

The procedure for entering Yate Academy Sixth Form starts with our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 23rd October at 6.00pm.

On the evening itself, there will be a welcome and presentation from the Headteacher, and Director of Sixth Form. This will be followed by the opportunity to visit sixth form classrooms and speak to the teachers and students of the subjects you are interested in choosing.

The next stage is the application: Application Deadline – Thursday 5th December 2025. Please complete an online application form by following the link from the school website. Subject choices made at this stage are provisional but an indication of subjects in rank order will inform the range and structure of courses on offer in September.

On receipt of your application, you will be invited in for a: Guidance Meeting – January/February. Individual guidance meetings are held with a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss your options and application. Our Sixth Form has an enviable reputation for successful applications to top universities in part due to the advice given at this stage.

Finally, there are the Induction Days in July and September.

In July this is an opportunity to meet other students, both from Yate Academy and also from other local schools. You will also meet the Sixth Form Team again and experience some taster lessons as well as finding out other vital information about life in the Sixth Form. At the Induction Day in

September, you will be able to meet your tutor group, your new teachers as well as having the opportunity to touch base again with fellow A level students and familiarise yourself with our sixth form centre.



PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for your interest in applying to Yate Academy Sixth Form.

For more information on subject choices, and how to apply, please visit www.yateacademy.co.uk

For further details, please contact our Sixth Form team.



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