**SRS Sixth Form**

**A Level Preparation**

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**GCE A Level Art & Design**

**Course Summary**

Description of course Unit 1: Art and Design Coursework: Students should submit supporting studies, a linked personal study of 1000-3000 words and practical outcomes from personal starting points. Work to be submitted for final teacher assessment. Centre marks are submitted to Edexcel in advance of sample moderation. Unit 2: Art and Design Externally Set Assignment: Students should submit supporting studies and practical outcome(s) in response to the given theme. The externally set paper will be available to centre staff during January of each year as a paper copy and through the secure content section of the website. The timed element of twelve (15) hours is carried out under controlled conditions at any time at the centre’s discretion after the papers are released to students. All Units are assessed in school and verified through external moderation. Higher education, future careers and progression routes. This course is open to all students that wish to pursue an Art or Media based career. Good communications skills are required for in depth writing to support coursework.

**Assessment Method**

60% Coursework 40% Externally Set Assignment (Exam)

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**GCE A Level Biology**

**Course Summary**

The Biology course covers a wide range of topics, including genetics, molecular biology, homeostasis and bioenergetics. It is split into three papers which include assessment of cell biology, DNA, evolution by natural selection, stimuli & response, ecosystems and gene technology. The third paper consists of two sections; the first focusing on practical techniques and the second containing a synoptic essay. Biology is the gateway to many different medical careers from doctors and dentists through to research professionals. It also opens the door to careers in conservation, marine science and biotechnology. As a Biology student you will develop analytical thinking, communication and written skills.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

AQA

**Suggested Reading List**

1. **Biological Sciences Review.** This magazine is written specifically for students of A level Biology, Scottish Higher Biology and first year Biological Sciences undergraduates.  It is highly readable and bridges the gap between your text books and scientific journals. There is a charge for subscribing to the magazine.  An archive of articles from previous issues can be found on the [magazine’s website](http://www.bsr.manchester.ac.uk/).
2. **Big Picture**. This is a free magazine produced by the Wellcome Trust. It is written for post 16 Biology students and explores the innovations and implications of cutting edge biomedical science. [Visit the website](http://bigpictureeducation.com/) to access previous issues.
3. ***Genome*, Matt Ridley**. 23 human chromosomes in 23 chapters.
4. ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot**. How one woman’s cancer cells changed the medical world forever, and became a multi-million dollar industry.
5. ***Human instinct,* Lord Robert Winston*.*** In this fascinating book, Robert Winston takes us on a journey deep into the human mind. Along the way he takes a very personal look at the relationship between science and religion and explores those very instincts that make us human.

### GCE A Level Business Studies

#### **Course Summary**

The focus of this course is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing learners to develop an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to a global perspective. Through three main components – business opportunities and functions, business analysis and strategy, and business in a changing world – you’ll gain an understanding of the important role played by small businesses in the economy and the opportunities that exist for entrepreneurs, as well as the importance of established business and not-for-profit organisations in providing goods and services.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

### GCE A Level Chemistry

#### **Course Summary**

The Chemistry course covers a wide range of topics, including organic, quantitative and periodic trends in addition to a wide range of physical chemistry topics. It is split into three papers: The first paper covers physical chemistry and periodic trends delving into energetics, thermodynamics and equilibrium. The second paper covers organic synthesis and analysis, encompassing a wide range of spectroscopic techniques as well as an extensive look into hydrocarbons and their properties. The third paper is synoptic and includes an element of practical techniques covered across the two year course. A study of Chemistry gives you a range of transferrable skills, including analysis, practical and written communication. It opens doors to many different professions, as varied as medicine, engineering and law and is a highly academic subject sought after by prestigious universities for a huge number of courses.

**Assessment Method**

3 External Exams

 H432/1 Paper 1 2 hrs 15

H432/2 Paper 2 2 hrs 15

H432/3 Paper 2 1 hr 30

**Awarding Organisation Name**

OCR

**Suggested Reading List**

* [www.chemguide.co.uk](http://www.chemguide.co.uk)
* <http://www.knockhardy.org.uk/sci.htm>
* *Bad Science* – **Ben Goldacre**
* *The Science of Chocolate* – **ST Beckett**
* *A Short History of Nearly Everything* **– Bill Bryson**

### GCE A Level Computer Science

#### **Course Summary**

Why Computer science? The only constant in computer science is change – new devices and apps appear daily. Computer programs control the internet of things – your washing machine, your heating and electricity, your location on Google, your car… A good programmer will never be out of a job! We’ll challenge you to think computationally and to approach problems methodically. You’ll program and design systems using an algorithmic approach, and develop an understanding of the powers and limitations of humans and machines by learning their principles of operation. Course content You will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how computers work, including microprocessors, memory, storage, operating systems and network architectures. You’ll build your programming skills through problem-solving scenarios. You’ll gain an understanding of machine code, functional, procedural, object-oriented, declarative and low-level programming. You will also be able to normalise numbers, perform binary arithmetic operations and conversions between different number systems, and develop an understanding of the principles of operation of hardware.

**Assessment Method**

80% Exam: • 40% - Computer systems (01) 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper • 40% - Algorithms and programming (02\*) 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper 20% coursework - Programming project

**Awarding Organisation Name**

OCR

**Suggested Reading List**

**OCR AS and A Level Computer Science**

Book by P. M. Heathcote and Robert S. U. Heathcote

**Online Resource**

<http://theteacher.info/>

The student login is sydneys and the password is 7Dragons?

Textbook to download

<http://theteacher.info/index.php/downloads/category/131-aleveltextbook>

### GCE A Level Drama & Theatre

#### **Course Summary**

At A Level Drama, you will study a range of plays, theatre styles and theatre practitioners that will develop not only your theatre-making skills, but also you critical thinking, collaborative skills and character. For component one, you will have to devise an original piece of theatre in the style of a theatre practitioner and this will be accompanied by a portfolio documenting your process and evaluating its outcomes. For component 2, you will perform two extracts from two different plays; one as a monologue, another as a group piece. For component 3, you will sit a written paper that asks you to evaluate a theatre production, how you would perform and design a play, and discuss a directorial concept that you have envisaged for a set text. A Level Drama is considered very highly amongst universities and employers because of the huge array of transferrable skills that the course will give you.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**Suggested Reading List**

Edexcel A Level Specification – Drama and Theatre

*That Face* by Polly Stenham

*Woyzeck* by Georg Buchner

The Complete Brecht Toolkit by Stephen Unwin

### GCE A Level Economics

#### **Course Summary**

The course encompasses three main components: microeconomics, macroeconomics and globalisation/trade and development. You will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories, problems and economic institutions that affect everyday life. You will learn about the roles of the key players in any economy – the firm, the consumer and the government. You will develop a critical approach to economic models as well as the strategies used to solve some of the current economic problems in the UK. All students will develop analytical skills in selecting, interpreting and using data from a range of sources.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

### GCE A Level English Literature

#### **Course Summary**

The exciting linear course is made up of three separate components: two that are for final exam (40% each) at the end of Year 13, and one coursework (20%). In Year 12, students work on one of the exam units:- Comparative and Contextual Study, and the Coursework unit: Literature post-1900. For the exam unit, students study The Gothic, comparing Bram Stoker’s Dracula and Angela Carter’s The Bloody Chamber and other stories, and also engaging in the close analysis of extracts from a wide range of Gothic literature. For the coursework, students compare A Streetcar Named Desire and One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, and analyse a poem by Carol Ann Duffy. In Year 13 students work on the second exam unit: Drama and Poetry pre-1900, studying Shakespeare’s The Tempest and also comparing Webster’s The Duchess of Malfi with Milton’s Paradise Lost Bks 9 and 10. They also continue their focus on the Gothic exam unit, gradually perfecting their detailed understanding of all of the texts in preparation for the final exams at the end of Year 13. This form of study requires excellent organisational and revision skills as the final exams will include material first covered at the start of Year 12. A-Level English Literature is a facilitating subject and, as such, is regarded very highly by all higher education establishments no matter what degree course you are applying for, including the sciences unbelievably enough. This is because it shows you can analyse in great detail, express your ideas articulately, review texts critically and cope with a highly academic subject. As such, English Literature is the ultimate all-round qualification and will open doors to the widest possible range of future pathways. Possible careers: Journalism, Publishing, Teaching, Advertising, Law, Social Work, Counselling, Human Resources/Training, Public Administration, Media/Broadcasting…..actually, the list is endless.

**Assessment Method**

External exam/coursework

**Awarding Organisation Name**

OCR

**Suggested Reading List**

The Gothic

Dracula – Bram Stoker

The Bloody Chamber and other stories – Angela Carter

Wise Children – Angela Carter

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

The Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson

The Woman in White – Wilkie Collins

**Coursework**

A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – Tennessee Williams

One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest – Ken Kesey

Rapture – Carol Ann Duffy

### GCE A Level Geography

#### **Course Summary**

During your study of Geography A Level you will explore a wide range of current topics, keeping at the forefront of the world's most recent and most pressing issues. In Physical Geography you will explore the challenges of living with a range of natural hazards, the ways in which our coastline has been shaped and how this is changing daily, and the changing water and carbon cycles within the context of the Amazon Rainforest and Eden Basin. In Human Geography you will explore the impact of global systems and governance on our world, how places are changing both on our doorstep and beyond, and the challenges of providing resources to an ever growing population. You will also complete an independent fieldwork enquiry which will include 4 days worth of fieldwork.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam/coursework

**Awarding Organisation Name**

AQA

**Suggested Reading List**

* Prisoners of Geography- Tim Marshall
* The Almighty Dollar: Follow the Incredible Journey of Single Dollar to See How the Global Economy Really Works- Dharshini D
* Eruptions that shook the world – Clive Oppenheimer
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/luisa_neubauer_why_you_should_be_a_climate_activist>
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen?referrer=playlist-the_best_hans_rosling_talks_yo>
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_kruger_can_we_stop_climate_change_by_removing_co2_from_the_air>
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/anu_sridharan_when_will_i_get_my_water_next>
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/fahad_al_attiya_a_country_with_no_water>
* <https://www.ted.com/talks/david_sedlak_4_ways_we_can_avoid_a_catastrophic_drought>

### GCE A Level History

#### **Course Summary**

During your studies in History at Sydney Russell you will learn about the development of nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in Europe in the twentieth century through a study of Germany (from the end of WWI to the fall of the Berlin Wall) and Italy (the rise and fall of Fascism). You will find out how these ideas developed and evolved through time and still have an influence on the world we inhabit today. You will also complete coursework on the causes of the Great War through independent research and the study of different historical interpretations and perspectives. Finally, you will study nationalism in a different context in Ireland where there has been a struggle for independence for centuries. This will also enable you to question ideas around nationality and identity and give you an insight into why issues with Ireland today are still of such national importance. As well as gaining a greater understanding of some key concepts and ideas that have formed our attitudes and world views today, students of history will also gain valuable transferable skills that are highly desirable and important for a range of professions. Just some of these include the ability to think critically and build arguments as well as the ability to research and analyse texts and information.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam/coursework

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**Suggested Reading List**

Main course textbook

R. Bunce, P. Clements, A. Flint, M. Gosling, S. Ward, *Nationalism, Dictatorship and Democracy in twentieth century Europe* (2016) *-* **ONLY READ** the following: Germany and West Germany 1918-89 and The rise and Fall of fascism in Italy)

Extra reading

M. Fullbrook, *A History of Germany 1918-2014, The Divided Nation* (2015)

C. Duggan, *The Force of Destiny, A history of Italy since 1796* (2007) Chapters 19 – 27

R. English, Irish Freedom, *The history of nationalism in Ireland* (2007) This unit is taught in Year 13

### GCE A Level Mathematics

#### **Course Summary**

The A-Level Maths Course aims to develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes. Through your study of this course you will gain mathematical skills and techniques and learn how to apply them. You will learn about different areas of mathematics and how they connect to each other and you will also look at the relevance of mathematics in the world in the applied module on Statistic and Mechanics

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**Suggested Reading List**

<https://www.mathedup.co.uk/transition-takeaway/>

<https://www.resourceaholic.com/2014/10/bridging-gap-to-level.html>

<https://mei.org.uk/bridging_tests>

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/newalevel.html>

### GCE A Level Media Studies

#### **Course Summary**

The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and generate significant global profit. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest their centrality in contemporary life can only increase. This is why A level media studies offers students such a wealth of information and opportunities.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam/coursework

**Awarding Organisation Name**

WJEC Eduqas

**Suggested Reading List**

WJEC/Eduqas media studies for A level Year 1 & AS by Christine Bell (Paperback)

### GCE A Level Music

#### **Course Summary**

Music A Level at Sydney Russell is split into three sections: Performing, Composing, and Appraising. Performing forms 30% of the qualification and consists of a public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology. Composing also forms 30% of the qualification. This section consists of two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board, and the other is a free composition. The brief composition will be linked to one of the areas of study in the appraising section. The total time across both submissions must be a minimum of six minutes. The third and final section of the Music A Level is Appraising. This is worth 40% of the qualification, examined in the form of one exam. During this section you will gain knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. You will then apply this knowledge through the context of six areas of study, each with three set works. The areas of study are: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions, New Directions.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam/practical performance

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**Suggested Listening/Reading List**



* Listen to all of the set works above as well as wider listening for each composer. Read up back ground context on all composers and pieces.
* Practise your instrument for 40mins every day.

### GCE A Level Photography

#### **Course Summary**

Description of course Unit 1: Art and Design Coursework: Students should submit supporting studies, a linked personal study of 1000-3000 words and practical outcomes from personal starting points. Work to be submitted for final teacher assessment. Centre marks are submitted to Edexcel in advance of sample moderation. Unit 2: Art and Design Externally Set Assignment: Students should submit supporting studies and practical outcome(s) in response to the given theme. The externally set paper will be available to centre staff during January of each year as a paper copy and through the secure content section of the website. The timed element of twelve (15) hours is carried out under controlled conditions at any time at the centre’s discretion after the papers are released to students. All Units are assessed in school and verified through external moderation. Higher education, future careers and progression routes This course is open to all students that wish to pursue a Photography or Media based career. Good communications skills are required for in depth writing to support coursework.

**Assessment Method**

60% Coursework 40% Externally Set Assignment (Exam)

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Pearson

**Suggested Reading List**

Visit the following websites and familiarise yourself with the content/collections:

The Photographers Gallery (UK)[**https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/**](https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/)

The Victoria and Albert Museum (Photography)[**https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/photographs**](https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/photographs)

### GCE A Level Physical Education

#### **Course Summary**

Studying A level Physical Education allows students to gain a deeper understanding of key systems in the body and how they react to changes in diet and exercise; as well as studying the effects of force and motion on the body and how they can be used to our advantage. The models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities, will also be reviewed, looking at how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person. Alongside psychological factors that affect group dynamics and the effects of leadership. There will also be a focus on the social and cultural factors that have shaped sports over time, and their influences on physical activity. Students will consider the impact of hosting a global sporting event such as the Olympic Games, and the influence of modern technology on both the performer and the spectator of contemporary sport. There will also be an assessment in the role of either performer or coach in one practical activity, to demonstrate effective performance, the use of tactics or techniques and the ability to observe the rules and conventions under applied conditions. Students are also assessed in the Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI). They observe a live or recorded performance by a peer and provide an oral analysis and critical evaluation of their peer’s performance.

**Assessment Method**

Examination Non examination assessment

**Awarding Organisation Name**

OCR

### GCE A Level Physics

#### **Course Summary**

The Physics course covers a wide range of topics, including electromagnetics, quantum physics, mechanics as well as cosmology, oscillatory motion and medical physics. It is split into three papers: The first paper covers forces, motion, astrophysics and the Newtonian mechanics. The second paper covers electromagnetism, photons, particles and medical imaging techniques. The third paper is synoptic and tests the student’s ability to form links between topics. A study Physics gives you a range of transferrable skills, including analysis, practical and written communication. It opens doors to many different professions, as varied as engineering, cosmology and law and is a highly academic subject sought after by prestigious universities for a huge number of courses.

**Assessment Method**

3 External Exams

H556/1 Modelling Physics 2 hrs 15

H556/2 Exploring Physics 2 hrs 15

H556/3 Unified Physics 1 hr 30

**Awarding Organisation Name**

OCR

**Suggested Reading List**

• *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics –* **Carlo Rovelli**

*• A Short History of Nearly Everything –* **Bill Bryson**

*• A Brief History of Time –* **Stephen Hawking**

### GCE A Level Politics

#### **Course Summary**

Politics at Sydney Russell is split into three papers. UK politics is the first area of study where you will gain an understanding of how the government of the UK works as well as how politics affects the government. You will then move on to gain an understanding of US politics with a heavy focus on how the two systems can be compared. Finally, you will look into the core ideologies that have shaped the political world we live in today (liberalism, socialism and conservatism) as well as one other supplementary ideology that will be chosen in your second year with us. A study of politics gives you the ability to understand the world we live in today and get involved with some of the most important debates of our time. Current events have meant that there has surely never been a more fascinating time to study politics with the Brexit debate in the UK and the election of the controversial Donald Trump as President of the USA. You will also gain a variety of transferable skills that are highly sought after by many professions including the ability to create and decipher arguments, the ability to analyse texts and the ability to come to reasoned conclusions.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

Assessment & Qualifications Alliance

**Suggested Reading List**

Main course textbooks

R. Hammal and S. Lemieux, *Politics, UK Politics* (2019)

R. Hammal and S. Lemieux, *Politics, US and Comparative Politics* (2019)

A. Tomes and S. Lemieux, *Politics, Political Ideas* (2019)

Extra Reading

The most effective thing that students can do for extra reading aside from the textbooks is to stay up to date with political news. The following are some good subscription services for current affairs:

The Economist - subscription.economist.com

The Week - subscription.theweek.co.uk

The BBC and Guardian websites are also good for looking at current political affairs and are COMPLETELY FREE!

### GCE A Level Psychology

#### **Course Summary**

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. It aims to explain why humans behave in certain ways, from memory to obedience, attachment to crime and relationships to schizophrenia. In studying psychology you will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication and problem solving. Psychology also involves research methods and biopsychology which will require mathematical and science skills. Psychology can lead to degrees in law, English, business studies, teaching, sport and exercise science, as well as psychology, to name a few. It will also give you a whole host of exciting career options including clinical psychology, forensic psychology, human resources, accountancy, marketing, nursing and occupational therapy. Psychology is a really interesting subject that helps you to understand human behaviour.

**Assessment Method**

External Exam

**Awarding Organisation Name**

AQA

**Suggested Reading List**

AQA – [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) – Click on subjects and go to A Level Psychology. On this page you can download the specification and find out more about what each topic involves. The issues and options we study in Year 13 include Issues & Debates, Relationships, Forensic Psychology and Schizophrenia.

Book: AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS by Cara Flanagan is the textbook used in Year 12

Psychology Review – [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/psychologyreview](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/psychologyreview) - This is a psychology magazine and on this page you will find a range of free resources to read about psychology.

The British Psychological Society – [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk) – Click on ‘for the public’ and this will take you to information about what psychology is and how to become a psychologist

### GCE A Level Sociology

#### **Course Summary**

Sociology is a study of society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction and culture of everyday life. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, acceptance, and change or social evolution. Sociology is also defined as the general science of society. While some sociologists conduct research that may be applied directly to social policy and welfare, others focus primarily on refining the theoretical understanding of social processes. Subject matter ranges from the micro-sociology level of individual agency and interaction to the macro level of systems and the social structure. The topics covered at A level are Families and households, Education and research methods, Crime and deviance and Beliefs in society.

**Assessment Method**

**External Exam**

**Awarding Organisation Name**

AQA

**Suggested Reading List**

**Pre-reading for the course and great books to have throughout the course:**

[Anthony Giddens](https://wordery.com/anthony-giddens-author) and [Philip W. Sutton](https://wordery.com/philip-w-sutton-author). Sociology 8th Edition.

Sociology for AQA, Vol. 1: AS and 1st-Year A Level Paperback – 14 May 2015

Sociology for AQA Volume 2: 2nd-Year A Level Paperback – 11 Mar 2016 by Ken Browne

**Suggested wider reading:**

The McDonaldisation of Society. George Ritzer

The Spirit Level. Wilkinson and Pickett

Criminology: The Basics. Sandra Walklate