



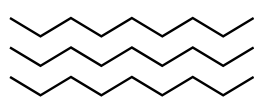
Cowbridge School  
Ysgol Y Bont Faen

*A high street offer, conveniently located for 6th form students.*

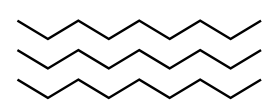
# SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2026



Experienced and Caring Teachers | Excellent Outcomes |  
Comprehensive Curriculum | Engaging Extracurricular Activities |  
Safe and Supportive Learning Environment



[www.cowbridgeschool.co.uk](http://www.cowbridgeschool.co.uk)  
01446 772311



*Inspiration, Education and Opportunities for Life.*

Dear Student,

The Sixth Form at Cowbridge School provides a stimulating, vibrant and friendly setting in which students can continue their academic education beyond GCSE examinations. The school offers a real breadth of choice of academic provision, complemented by a truly enviable range of extracurricular opportunities and facilities.

We offer a combination of excellent teaching, academic challenge, sound advice and first class pastoral care to ensure that students have every opportunity to develop their potential to the full. We have an exceptional record of helping pupils achieve higher grades than predictions suggest secured by our ongoing vision for excellence. Each year, we warmly welcome a number of students from other schools into Year 12.

In the Sixth Form, students will undoubtedly benefit from the expertise of highly qualified academic staff, while the supportive pastoral system offers excellent care and guidance as young people make the transition to adulthood and further lifelong learning. The Sixth Form is very much a staging post between the directed learning of the GCSE years and the independent learning that will be undertaken at university and in the world of work. Within a context where appropriate direction is available, students in the Sixth Form are expected to develop the attitudes and skills which enable them to learn on their own and conduct relevant independent research.

It is absolutely essential that students in the Sixth Form enjoy their academic work for its own sake; Sixth Form study provides a passport to university and work. However, that passport will carry far greater weight if it is imprinted with a genuine desire to learn.

Academic work will be the priority in the Sixth Form. However, we also recognise that the world demands much more than a set of good A Level results. The Sixth Form years allow the development and broadening of many other abilities besides the academic: the ability to work in a team; the ability to communicate in a variety of circumstances; the ability to network; the ability to lead others; the ability to have fun and enjoy life appropriately; the ability to demonstrate responsibility. All these are encouraged by our wide programme of extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

In today's rapidly changing world, creativity, flexibility, adaptability and resilience are essential characteristics of successful individuals. We constantly endeavour to develop and foster these values and qualities through a wide range of academic and enrichment activities. Our key aim is to develop self-confident young people who will find fulfilment and happiness in their future lives.

Best wishes,



Mrs Thomas  
Headteacher



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# Cowbridge Sixth Form

When our students talk to us about the reasons they undertake their Sixth Form education at Cowbridge School, two words come up repeatedly - success and support. We offer students a broad and balanced curriculum made up of subjects they want to study, taught by specialist teachers who have a proven track record of helping students achieve their potential. Additionally, the Sixth Form Team ensures that students have the wider support they need to achieve success, whether that is access to pastoral and wellbeing care; mentoring for academic success; or, careers and UCAS guidance. Sixth Form students at Cowbridge School have access to a comprehensive careers and next steps programme which involves individual careers guidance; over 30 guest speakers each year, from a broad range of careers and academic institutions; and, dedicated UCAS lessons, in Year 13, to ensure that university applications are as strong as possible. The results speak for themselves: in 2025, 90% of our university applicants secured a place in their first choice university, including 6 applicants to Oxford or Cambridge and 7 applying for medicine or dentistry. We have no doubt that we will be able to support you in taking those important next steps in life so take some time to look through the rest of this prospectus and come to our Open Evening to see if we are the right fit for you.



## A Level Timeline

### **24 October 2025**

Options assembly with Cowbridge School Year 11 students.

### **3 November 2025**

Sixth Form Prospectus made available on the School website.

### **6 November 2025**

Sixth Form Open Evening at Cowbridge School with the opportunity to find out about life in Cowbridge Sixth Form and the subjects on offer

### **27 November 2025**

Applications, including provisional subject choices, to be returned

### **December 2025**

Applications from internal candidates will receive a confirmation email from the Sixth Form team

### **December 2025**

Applications from external candidates will be contacted by the Sixth Form Team

### **20 August 2026**

GCSE results day

### **1 September 2026**

First day of Sixth Form

### **1 - 11 September 2026**

Settling in fortnight and subjects confirmed

# VISION & VALUES

We are delighted that you are considering Cowbridge Sixth Form as a potential place of study as part of the next stage of your learning. We provide a stimulating, vibrant and friendly setting in which students can continue their academic education in order to gain exceptional academic success.

We offer a combination of excellent teaching, academic challenge, sound advice and first class pastoral care to ensure that students have every opportunity to develop their potential to the full. We have an exceptional record of helping pupils achieve higher grades than predictions would suggest and are proud that students' performance at A Level. The School offers a broad range of academic programmes of study, complemented by truly enviable facilities and resources. Opportunities exist to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including sport, drama, music, dance, debating and travel. Our Leadership Team of students lead and co-ordinate an exceptional range of activities across the School and we encourage all students to take full advantage of the activities contained within the bespoke Student Council calendar.

Each year, we warmly welcome a number of students from other schools into Year 12. In the Sixth Form, students will benefit from the expertise of highly qualified academic staff, while the supportive pastoral system offers bespoke and outstanding care, support and guidance as young people make the transition to adulthood, further lifelong learning and work. Our 'Seren' programme, coupled with our ambitious aspirations and expectations, means that record numbers of our students gain places in the best universities in the country. A small number secure apprenticeships, continue in further education or enter the world of work. The Sixth Form is very much a staging post between the directed learning of the GCSE years and the independent learning that will be undertaken at university and in the world

of work. Within a context where a appropriate direction is available, students in the Sixth Form are expected to develop the attitudes and skills which enable them to learn on their own, develop resilience and conduct relevant, independent research

We do hope you choose to join us for the exciting journey ahead and encourage you to come and meet us to take a closer look!



# PASTORAL

The transition into Sixth Form can sometimes be overwhelming and we aim to support students both academically and pastorally. Students begin each school day with their tutors, and also benefit from the robust and comprehensive pastoral care of the Sixth Form Achievement Team.

We operate an open door policy, as we know that communication is vital for all students to flourish and prosper in all that they do. We ensure that there is regular contact between school and home relating to academic progress, wellbeing and achievement.

## **The following key aspects are in place to support the wellbeing of our students;**

- extensive pastoral support for student wellbeing and achievement;
- a dedicated Achievement Team;
- a dedicated school counsellor for guidance and support;
- a Careers Officer, offering support and advice on Career Paths.



The Sixth Form team, alongside academic mentors and subject teachers, monitor closely each individual student against their targets and aspirations. Attendance is also closely monitored as we know that excellent attendance is vital to success and good habits in life and work. Students performing below expected levels and expectations will be mentored to help them to achieve their potential. Parents of any student giving cause for concern will be contacted. A parents' evening is held annually for students in each year group and we encourage parents to attend this important meeting. This presents an opportunity to discuss current progress, targets and concerns and is a key element of our support for students.



# SIXTH FORM RESOURCES & INDEPENDENT LEARNING TIME

Most subjects have 8 or 9 hours a fortnight of teacher facilitated contact time as part of the timetable and resource in the Sixth Form. Inevitably, students study far fewer subjects at a deeper and more advanced level and will have time allocated for independent study and learning. During this time, students are expected to work independently, a necessity for success in an Advanced Level courses.

Students are expected to use independent time productively to consolidate what they have already learned or to find new, supplementary information. Excellent study facilities are available to ensure students utilise independent time appropriately.

Students will fail to fulfil their true potential if they rely exclusively on work done in lesson time. They must quickly adapt, therefore, to the new regime and exploit it fully! There is a designated catering facility, 'Scholars', which provides a range of healthy refreshments and snacks exclusively for Sixth Form students and, close by, the Pastoral Support Office is staffed to assist with any issues. In addition, all students will have regular access to a Careers Adviser and a range of events to assist in providing information for their future studies and work.



# UCAS

Our UCAS team of personal tutors work together with students to support the preparation and application process for University. This includes specific guidance for early applicants to Oxford & Cambridge Universities and Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science placements. We have a proud record of supporting all students in preparing for the future, and we have a high proportion of students progressing to Russell Group Universities.

We have links with the Welsh Government initiative, the Seren network, and have a specific Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science support programme. A UCAS guidance programme for all students starts from the summer of Year 12.



# SEREN

Cowbridge School is proud to be part of the Seren Network - a network of regional hubs designed to support Wales' brightest sixth formers in achieving their academic potential and gaining access to leading universities.

## The Seren Network:

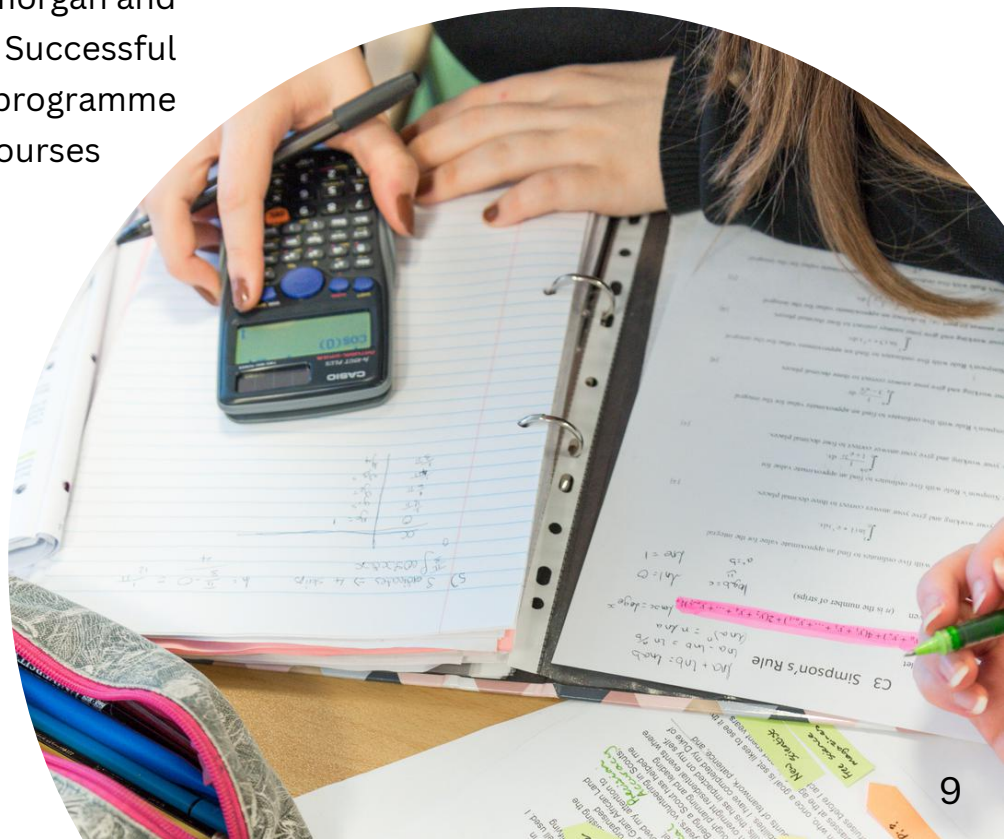
- inspires students about future career aspirations;
- stretches and challenges students in the subjects they enjoy;
- links students with leading UK universities, providing information on university courses and advice on how to choose between them;
- provides hands-on support and advice;
- supports schools and teachers in providing the best information, advice and activities for their high achieving students.

Enrolment on to this project is administered by the Vale of Glamorgan and is based on GCSE results. Successful applicants who complete the programme can list the project under the "Courses in Preparation for Higher Education" section of their UCAS application.

# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Some of our students are given the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is a qualification which involves planning, managing and researching a project of your choice, normally on a subject related to your KS5 courses. It is an opportunity to deepen your knowledge about a subject area that you are passionate about and is an excellent process to develop you as an independent learner.

Students who take the EPQ submit a written report on a title of their own choice. It will require a high level of personal motivation as the process involves only minimal input from a supervisor.



# COST OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

All tuition, textbooks, examination entries and printed material are provided free of charge by the school. In some subjects, it may be suggested that students obtain further books of their own. Parents will continue to receive child benefit while you are in the Sixth Form.

# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is an income-assessed weekly allowance of £40 to help students with the cost of further education. It is paid every two weeks directly into the student's bank account, as long as students meet the School's attendance requirements. Receipt of EMA will not affect any benefits which are currently paid to your household. Students can find out more by visiting [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk). The application form should be returned as soon as possible. If it is not received within 8 weeks of starting your course, you may lose out on back-dated EMA payments. If students are entitled to an allowance, they will be notified by EMA Wales.

Students must satisfy attendance and progress targets in order to qualify for weekly payments. The award of EMA is regulated by the Welsh Assembly Government; the School simply administers the system by monitoring attendance and targets and by passing this information on to Welsh Government.



# Choosing your A Level Subjects

## What to consider:

- Subjects you enjoy
- Subjects that you are good at - employers and universities want to see strong grades
- Subjects which complement each other e.g. Sciences and Maths, Languages and Humanities
- It is advised that you choose at least two of the facilitating subjects if you wish to apply to a Russell Group University - English, Maths (including Further Mathematics), Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Languages
- Variety within the workload - it might be problematic if you pick subjects which all have high coursework components e.g. Art, Photography and Product Design
- Check if any particular A Levels are compulsory for your likely university or course choice, e.g. Chemistry for a Veterinary degree
- Using the UCAS website to explore university options
- Talk to your teachers
- Talk to your parents
- Talk to students who are currently on the course
- If you are really unsure, speak to Miss Davies in the Sixth Form office

## How not to decide:

- How much you like a teacher (they may not teach you!)
- Choosing a subject to please someone else
- Doing the same options as your friends
- Subjects that you think will be an easy ride
- Choosing something because it is new

## Useful websites:

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/what-to-study/choosing-a-levels](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/what-to-study/choosing-a-levels)

[www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels/choosing-your-a-levels-what-you-need-to-consider](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels/choosing-your-a-levels-what-you-need-to-consider)

# Admissions

Cowbridge School prides itself on having a thriving, growing and successful Sixth Form admitting approximately 350 students across Years 12 and 13. Our intake of students includes our existing Year 11 students as well as other students who have not been with us for GCSE. We aim to enhance every student's further education experience to provide greater opportunity to progress to higher education or personal career choices.

Cowbridge School acts in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Admission Code 005/2013 (dated July 2013). The Code recognises that school sixth forms may select pupils based on ability and aptitude. This means that the School is able to refuse entry even if the year group is not full. Selection cannot be made on students' previous attendance, behaviour record, or perception of attitude or motivation. Selection interviews will not be used, although meetings to provide advice on options will be held.

The arrangements for admission to the Sixth Form are applied equally to both young people who are currently attending the School but seeking entry to the Sixth Form and those who are applying to be admitted to the School for the first time.

We always work in the best interests of our students and our intention in setting admission requirements is twofold:

- Firstly, it is to ensure that as many as possible of our students with a good chance of succeeding at the Level 3 courses are encouraged to do so.
- Secondly, it is to ensure that students for whom Level 3 courses are likely to be inappropriate do not start on programmes that would almost certainly lead to failure and a wasted year.

Although C grades at GCSE are shown as a minimum entry requirement for many subjects, there are some in which all the evidence points to the need for a B grade starting point in order to give a reasonable chance of success.

To join Cowbridge School from other schools/colleges, you must contact Miss Davies, Senior Leader of Achievement, who is responsible for the coordination of Sixth Form admissions. Miss Davies can be contacted via [year12@cowbridgecs.co.uk](mailto:year12@cowbridgecs.co.uk).

GCSE English at a C grade or above is required to enter Sixth Form. It is also desirable that students have at least a C grade in Mathematics/Numeracy; however, in exceptional circumstances, we will consider allowing a student who does not meet this criteria to enter the Sixth Form.

Some departments allow students to study at AS Level without having taken the subject at GCSE; however, other GCSEs would then be a requirement; e.g. Sociology and Government and Politics both require GCSE English at a minimum of B grade. Other departments require more GCSEs than just their subject; e.g. History requires GCSEs in both History and English at a minimum of B grade.

More information can be found within this prospectus for each specific department.

# Entry Criteria

Students will be expected to have at least five GCSE (or equivalent) grades at C or above. This should include English and it is desirable that it includes Mathematics/Numeracy. Please see individual subject criteria as some subjects require a minimum of a B grade.

Pass at Level 2 BTEC or other vocational courses is recognised as equivalent to C grade at GCSE.

BTEC qualifications (or similar) will only count as a maximum of two GCSE qualifications as part of the stipulated passes.

BTEC Workskills or a similar qualification will not be accepted as one of the stipulated passes. Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification and Skills Challenge will not be accepted as one of the stipulated passes.

A short course is half a GCSE.

All students must follow four courses in Year 12. Students will only be admitted to the Sixth Form in the September following their 16th birthday. All students must be 16 or 17 years old to enter Sixth Form by 31 August of that academic year.

The following pages outline the variety of subjects offered in the Sixth Form. These subjects will only be provided if class sizes are educationally and economically viable.

After Year 12, if class numbers fall below acceptable levels, there is no guarantee that students will be able to continue the course into Year 13. However, we will endeavour to meet students' needs as far as possible.

To continue study in Year 13, students must have achieved at least an E grade at AS Level in each of their chosen subjects. A minimum of three subjects must be studied in Year 13.



# Hear from Cowbridge Alumni



**Name** Anna Arentsen

**A Level Subjects:** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English Literature

**Destination:** Queen's University Belfast

Anna was a very passionate member of the eco committee. Whilst achieving 3A\*s at A level and working towards a medicine application, she also kept the school community informed on environmental issues and spear headed ideas on how to better the schools recycling policy. Anna joined Cowbridge in Year 7, followed by her two younger siblings who are working their way up the school”

**She says:** “Every day I looked forward to going in to see my close friends at school. The community built around Scholars in Sixth Form was a highlight of my experience at Cowbridge, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet like minded people.”



**Name** Zak Evans

**A Level Subjects** PE, Advanced Skills Baccalaureate, Sociology

**Destination** Aston Martin

Zak fully embraced life at Cowbridge Sixth Form. He balanced his studies with playing sports, notably for the school, and enjoying the social time. Zak achieved an A and two B's in his A Levels. Zak has gone on to work for Aston Martin whilst he saves to travel South East Asia and Oceania.

**He says:** “What I most enjoyed about sixth form was the support that I received with my decision to take a gap year. There was no pressure to follow the traditional route to University. I was guided through all of my choices. I enjoyed the communal study areas where I could work alongside my friends. I also have great memories from playing school sports during my years.”



**Name:** Seren Burgum

**A Level Subjects:** Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English Literature

**Destination:** Queen's University Belfast

Head Girl, Seren achieved 3 A\*'s in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics with an A\* in English Literature at AS Level. This secured her a place at Queen's University Belfast to read Medicine. Alongside her studies, Seren played hockey for the School and County. Seren was a keen musician, playing the Saxophone to Diploma standard.

**She says:** “One of the highlights of being at Cowbridge Sixth Form was being successful in my application to be Head Girl and working alongside the Senior Prefect Team to give back to our community.”

# Hear from Cowbridge Alumni



**Name** Georgia Howes

**A Level Subjects** Physics, Maths, Further Maths, French

**Destination:** Cambridge University

Georgia balanced her time whilst in Cowbridge Sixth Form to achieve four A Levels. She achieved A\*'s in her A Levels allowing her to attend Cambridge University to study Engineering. Alongside her studies she fenced for Britain and Wales, and played guitar to a high standard. She also played badminton which she started through the Year 13 badminton club. As well as this Georgia was Head Girl .

**She says:** "The best thing about Cowbridge for me was the community. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the sixth form team, the teachers and my friends supporting me in everything I did. We succeeded together and celebrated everyone's wins, and I loved that."



**Name** Ollie Gale

**A Level Subjects** Digital Technology, Government and Politics, Geography and Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

**Destination** University of Portsmouth

Social student, Ollie, engaged in his studies throughout the two years in Cowbridge Sixth Form to achieve his ambition of studying Cyber Security at University. Ollie achieved the grades required and went on to University of Portsmouth to study Cyber Security and Forensic Computing.

**He says:** "My advice for future students at Cowbridge Sixth Form is to enjoy your final years at this great school. My favourite time of my Sixth Form life was being with my friends. I'm now at university due to the commitment from my teachers and having a blast."



**Name:** Isabelle Turner

**A Level Subjects:** Music, History, English Language and Literature

**Destination:** Exeter University

Outgoing student, Isabelle, balanced her time well with her studies and social time at Cowbridge Sixth Form. Isabelle was an integral member of the Senior Prefect Team and gave back to the school community through the peer mentoring scheme. Isabelle achieved 2 A's and a B in her A Levels to go on to study English at Exeter University.

**She says:** "I found Sixth Form at Cowbridge really helpful in enhancing my written and linguistic skills in order to make the transfer to University. Being in Sixth Form aided me significantly in my essay writing skills and my communication skills through having different opportunities provided by the school."

# Option choices

Below are the subjects available for A Level study at Cowbridge School. There are five columns of subjects which are grouped based on educational pathways. Students applying for Sixth Form are to choose four subjects from separate columns. Students cannot choose more than one subject from the same column.

## Option A

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales  
Art  
German  
Geology  
History  
Mathematics  
Physical Education  
Health and Social

## Option D

Biology  
Criminology  
Ethics and Philosophy  
Food and Nutrition  
Film Studies  
Physics  
Welsh (second language)

## Option B

Chemistry  
Digital Technology  
Mathematics  
History  
Music  
Sociology

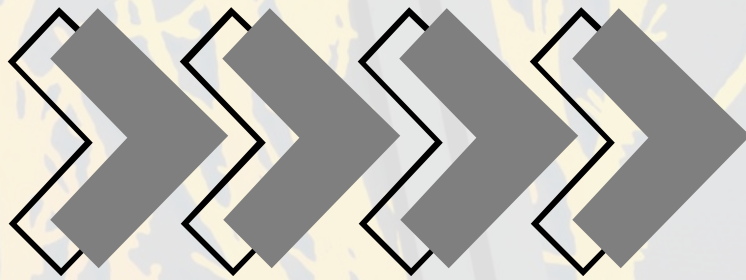
## Option E

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales  
Biology  
Chemistry  
French  
Government and Politics  
Photography

## Option C

English Language and Literature  
English Literature  
Further Mathematics  
Geography  
Mathematics  
Product Design  
Physics  
Sociology

# A Level Subjects



# Art and Design

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Art & Design – Art, Craft & Design  
A2 Level Art & Design – Art, Craft & Design WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

The AS/A2 in Art, Craft and Design has been designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to the subject. All students are encouraged to explore and experiment with different media and processes including drawing, mixed media, painting, textile design, 3D design and print making. Skills developed include:

- Creativity
- Research skills
- Practical skills
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Design skills
- Problem solving
- Perseverance
- Presentation skills
- Communication
- Self-direction

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

**Possible degree options include** – Architecture • Art conservation • Art history • Art therapy • Fashion design • Film/video production • Fine art • Graphic design • Illustration • Interior design • Jewellery design • Photography • Product design • Textile design • Theatre design • Three dimensional design • Web design

**Possible career options** – Studying an art, craft and design related degree at university can give you all sorts of exciting career options, including - Animator • Architect • Art therapist • Art restoration • Cartoonist • Computer game designer • Community arts worker • Exhibition designer • Fashion designer • Film/video maker • Fine artist • Furniture designer • Graphic designer • Illustrator • Interior designer • Jeweller • Museum/gallery conservator • Medical illustrator • Printmaker • Product designer • Teacher • Theatre designer



# Celf a Dylunio

## Assessment format

**AS Level – Unit 1:** Personal Creative Enquiry (40% of the qualification)

An extended, exploratory project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter which are personal and meaningful to the student. The Art department will in the first instance deliver a structured foundation course that will present opportunities to build the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to develop the individual 'Personal Creative Enquiry' over the remaining time. Practical enquiry will be linked with, and informed by, critical and contextual study of artists' work.

**A2 Level –** This is an additional year's study and is made up of two units:

**Unit 2:** Personal investigation (36% of the qualification) Consists of two integrated constituent parts:

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

**Unit 3:** Externally Set Assignment (24% of the qualification)

This unit represents the culmination of students' Advanced Level study and provides a substantial challenge. Students are required to independently develop a personal response to one of a varied range of stimuli set by WJEC within specified time constraints – a set preparatory time and a 15 hour examination.

## Entry requirement

**Essential:** Minimum of **grade C** in GCSE Art & Design.

## What else do I need to know?

The Art teaching team at Cowbridge are all skilled artists in their own right covering a range of disciplines including painting, printmaking, illustration, graphic design, art therapy and photography, contributing to incredibly broad knowledge and skill base for all students.

Your Art teachers mark your work, then a sample is moderated by the exam board, meaning you have constant feedback on your progress and no surprises at exam times.

# Biology

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Biology  
A2 Level Biology  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Biology is an enjoyable but academically demanding subject at AS and A Level.

The skills required to be successful are varied and include:

Excellent numerical skills.

Problem solving.

The ability to write at length describing and explaining biological concepts.

Good practical skills such as planning and carrying out experiments, analysing results, and working with microscopes.

Effective organisational skills.

The Biology syllabus includes the following topics;

### Year 12:

Basic biochemistry  
Cell structure and organisation  
Enzymes  
DNA  
Biodiversity  
Evolution  
Gas exchange  
Transport systems

### Year 13:

Photosynthesis  
Respiration  
Microbiology  
Populations  
Human effects on the environment  
The kidney  
The nervous system  
Variation  
Inheritance

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

The A Level Biology course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Biology or related courses such as Genetics, Microbiology or Environmental Science in further or higher education. It can also lead on to vocational subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, and Veterinary Science.



# Bioleg

## Assessment format

AS Level Unit 1 Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 20% of A2 qualification, 50% of AS. A range of short and longer structured questions, some in a practical context and one essay.

Unit 2 Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 20% of A2 qualification, 50% of AS. A range of short and longer structured questions, some in a practical context and one essay.

A2 Level

Unit 3

Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment  
Written examination: 2 hours, 25% of qualification

A range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response.

Unit 4

Variation, Inheritance and Options

Written examination: 2 hours, 25% of qualification

Section A: 70 marks - A range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response.

Section B: 20 marks - Choice of one option out of three:

Immunology and Disease, Human Musculoskeletal Anatomy or Neurobiology and Behaviour

Unit 5

Practical examination, 10% of qualification

This unit comprises two tasks:

Experimental Task (20 marks)

Practical Analysis Task (30 marks)

## Entry requirement

The complexity of the Biology used at A Level is a significant step up from that studied at GCSE. Experience has shown us that if students have a grade A\* or grade A at GCSE, they tend to encounter fewer problems in the transition from GCSE to A Level, and many can expect considerable success. For this reason it is essential to have at least a B grade in GCSE Biology or a BB grade for GCSE Science (Double Award). It is also desirable to have at least a B grade in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English

## What else do I need to know?

Both AS and A Level examinations require students to have an understanding of “How Science Works”. This involves applying scientific knowledge and processes to unfamiliar situations and assessing the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information. Students should also be able to demonstrate and describe ethical, safe and skilful practical techniques as well as recording valid observations and measurements with precision and accuracy.

# Chemistry

Qualification and Examination Board      WJEC AS Level Chemistry  
A2 Level Chemistry

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

The course seeks to develop interest, and enthusiasm for Chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry; enable students to appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how Chemistry contributes to the success of the economy and society; develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of Analytical Chemistry; develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Chemistry and how they relate to each other and to other branches of science.

During the two years of study students will get the opportunity to develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of Chemistry topics first introduced at GCSE, along with additional topics including spectroscopy, enthalpy and entropy. Practical skills will be taught throughout the course to complement theory and prepare students for a practical examination.

### AS Level

**Unit 1:** The ideas on the atom formulae and equations, calculations, bonding and structure, the Periodic Table and Acids and bases.

**Unit 2:** Enthalpy, rates of reaction, basic organic Chemistry including alkanes, alkenes, halogenoalkanes and alcohols. Instrumental analysis.

### A2 Level

**Unit 3:** Kinetics, enthalpy and equilibrium. Chemistry of the p and d blocks. Acid-base equilibria.

**Unit 4:** Advanced organic Chemistry building on AS, including aromaticity, amines, amino acids, organic synthesis and analysis.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Because of its bridging position Chemistry is one of the more versatile subjects for university entrance. Chemistry A2 is essential for the study of Chemistry, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering, Medical Sciences and other related degree subjects. It is also a valuable support for many other subjects such as Physics, Biology, Engineering and Geology.

Chemistry is also a well respected qualification in other areas. For instance accountancy firms often seek graduates with Chemistry degrees, since the logical, analytical discipline of Chemical Science is very helpful in this profession.

Chemistry graduates may pursue careers in industry. They may work in the manufacture of plastics, pharmaceuticals, detergents, fertilisers or in the oil or metals industries. Analytical Chemists may be employed in testing water quality or in forensic laboratories. Environmental Chemists look for ways to improve our environment and limit the damage we may be causing.

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## Assessment format

AS – Assessed in two modular examinations – 90 minutes each.

Unit 1 - The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions

Unit 2 - Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds

(Equates to 40% towards of the A2 qualification)

A2 – Assessed in three written modular examinations – 105 minutes each and a practical examination.

Unit 3 – Physical and Inorganic Chemistry (25% of the A Level qualification)

Unit 4 – Organic Chemistry and Analysis (25% of the A Level qualification)

Unit 5 - Practical Examination (10% of the A Level qualification)

## Entry requirement

The complexity of the Chemistry used at A Level is a significant step up from that studied at GCSE. Experience has shown us that if students have a grade A\* or grade A at GCSE, they tend to encounter fewer problems in the transition from GCSE to A Level, and many can expect considerable success. For this reason it is essential to have at least a B grade in GCSE Chemistry or a B grade in the unit 2 Chemistry component of the double GCSE Science (Double Award). It is also essential to have at least a B grade in GCSE Mathematics.

## What else do I need to know?

Chemistry is a difficult subject that students will initially find hard as there is a significant jump in the degree of difficulty from GCSE to AS Level and a further jump from AS to A2. With the greater degree of freedom that sixth form provides students are expected to be pro active, not only to put work in during scheduled lessons, but also during free time and after school.

If you have any further questions please come and talk to any member of the Chemistry Department.



# Criminology

**Qualification and Examination Board** WJEC Level 3 Criminology

**Subject knowledge and skills covered**

During the first year you will study two Certificate units. Within these units you will look at different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media. The second Certificate unit, through its focus on a series of criminological theories, also allows learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crimes.

During the second year of the course, the Diploma units will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. You'll look at the roles of personnel and processes involved from the moment a crime takes place until the verdict itself is passed. In the final unit, you will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. You will learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of social control agencies, such as the police and prisons, in achieving their aims.

**How can I use this course after Year 13?**

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison services.



# Troseddeg

## Assessment format

There are two Certificate units, each worth 50% of your Certificate qualification:

Unit 1: This unit is assessed through an 8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed at your centre and externally moderated).

Unit 2: This unit is assessed through examination. The exam consists of short answer and extended writing questions and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.

If you decide to continue to study for the full Diploma, there will be two further units to complete. Further to the Certificate units (50% of the full Diploma) each Diploma unit is worth an additional 25%.

Unit 3: This unit is assessed through an 8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed at your centre and externally moderated).

Unit 4: This unit is assessed through examination. The exam consists of short answer and extended writing questions and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.

## Entry requirement

A 'C' grade in English Language is required to study Criminology at A Level.

## What else do I need to know?

This qualification looks at the types of crime that take place within our society. How do we decide which behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why some people commit crime and how can we use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour?

You will study real life cases in order to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system from the crime scene all the way to the courtroom and look at how social control is achieved within our society.

Criminology is an Applied General qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology. It offers exciting and interesting learning experiences in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

# Digital Technology

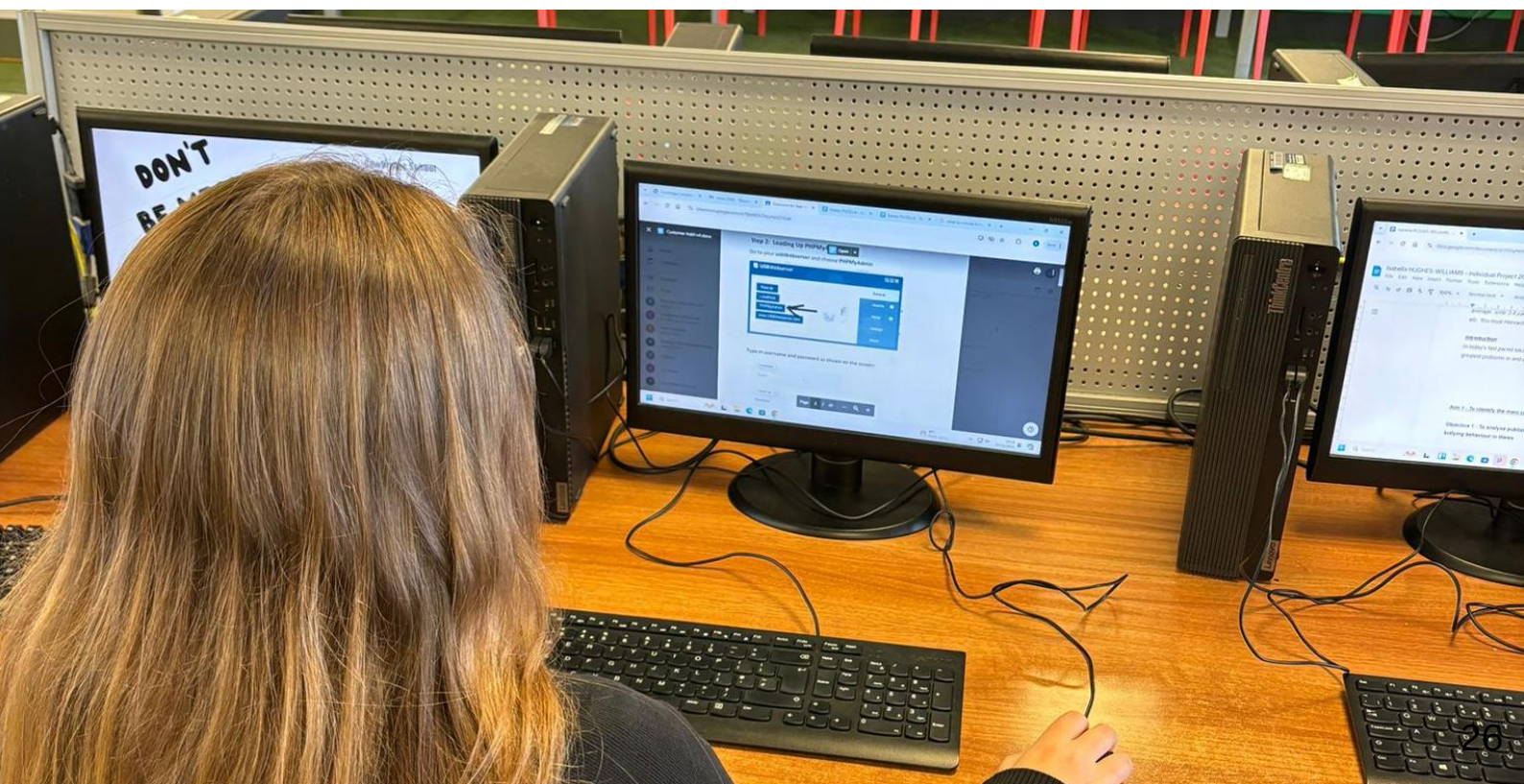
**Qualification and Examination Board** AS Digital Technology  
A2 Digital Technology  
WJEC

**Subject knowledge and skills covered**

The AS and A level qualification in Digital Technology advances students understanding of the digital technologies that are used by individuals and organisations across the world, including how they have developed and how they continue to change. The qualification enables students to develop a deep understanding of how innovations in digital technology, and the increasing levels of connectivity between them, impact the lives of those who use them and the wider society. Students will also develop practical skills in developing both creative digital products and digital solutions to problems faced by organisations, supporting their progression into employment in a career that utilises digital technologies or onto a programme of higher education involving digital technologies.

**How can I use this course after Year 13?**

This course provides a suitable qualification to progress on to University or full-time employment. It leads to career opportunities within a wide variety of Digital Technology fields including software engineering, database management, games design, networking applications and systems analysis.



# Technoleg Ddigidol

## Assessment format

At AS students will undertake an online assessment (taken on-screen), to assess specification content related to connected digital systems and smart devices, the development of artificial intelligence, digital technology development life cycles, user experience and human computer interaction in digital systems development and the functions, purposes and uses of social media by individuals and organisations. They will also undertake a non-examined assessment focussing on the end to end creation of a game. Students will investigate, plan, design, create, test and review a game of their choice.

At A2 students will undertake an online assessment (taken on-screen), comprising of a range of question types to assess specification content related to collecting, storing, analysing and using data, cyber security, and digital technology networks. They will also undertake a non-examined assessment focussing on the creation of a transactional website linked to a server-based RDBMS. Candidates will plan, design, create, develop, review, test and refine a transactional website of their choice.

## Entry requirement

There are no prior learning requirements for this specification. However, if students have studied Digital Technology at GCSE we would expect them to have attained at least a grade B to undertake the course.

## What else do I need to know?

Skills gained from this course are transferable across a wide range of subjects both at A Level and university. This course is designed to appeal to a broad range of learners with different interests and may complement the study of a wide range of other subjects, including computer science, mathematics, physics, geography, design and technology, economics, business studies, art and design, history and geology. It could also provide a springboard for those students who are interested in going on to work in cyber security or social media.

# English Language and Literature

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level English Language and Literature  
A2 Level English Language and Literature  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

English Language and Literature is the study of the use of English in the world around us. The material studied includes, but is not limited to, prose, poetry, drama, film and spoken language. The course is designed to promote the integrated study of English language and English literature by enabling students to access a range of literary and non-literary texts. Students will have already gained some of the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to succeed on this course through their study of English at GCSE but they should be aware that much of the terminology used when analysing texts will be new. Therefore, students are required to work independently and collaboratively to ensure that new skills are consolidated. They will be required to read widely and independently in addition to the set reading undertaken in class. Students taking the qualification through to A2 Level will complete five units, four examinations and one piece of coursework.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Students who dedicate the effort and commitment required to succeed in this subject find the study of English Language and Literature highly enjoyable and rewarding. Because of the fact that the course allows learners to complete an integrated study of the linguistic and literary aspects of English, many students find that they develop broader analytical skills. Opportunities are provided for pupils to extend their life-long learning; good communication is key in whatever career pursued in life and the nature of this subject ensures that both oral and written communication skills are developed and enhanced. Additionally, students following this course are expected to engage creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and explore the ways texts can relate to each other, and the contexts in which they are produced and received. Candidates also have to undertake independent and sustained studies in order to succeed in this subject and these skills are particularly valuable for university. Many students who study English Language and Literature go on to careers in teaching, journalism and the media, law and politics.



# Saesneg—laith a Llenyddiaeth

## Assessment format

Year 12 AS Unit 1 – Comparative Analysis and Creative Writing (20% of overall qualification). Students will study a poetry anthology containing poems written before 1914 as well as learning about creative writing and spoken English. The unit is assessed by a two hour examination and copies of the poetry anthology are not allowed in the examination. Section A of the examination requires candidates to compare one of these poems to a previously unseen text. Section B of the examination asks students to write creatively and analyse their own work. AS Unit 2 – Drama and Non-Literary Text Study (20% of the overall qualification). Students will study one play and one non-literary (biographical) text. In the two hour examination, they will answer a question on each text. Unannotated, clean copies of the texts are permitted in the examination.

Year 13 A2 Unit 3 – Shakespeare (20% of the overall qualification). Students will study one Shakespearean text from a prescribed list. In the two hour examination, they will have to answer two questions; the first will be based on an extract from the text while the second will be on the whole text. Copies of the text are not allowed in the examination. A2 Unit 4 – Unseen Texts and Prose Study (20% of overall qualification). Students will study a range of texts, including spoken language texts, in order to analyse the different ways in which the English language is used to impact upon audience. They will also study a prose text from a prescribed list. This unit is assessed by a two hour examination and students are allowed to have an unannotated, clean copy of the studied text to refer to during the examination.

A2 Unit 5 – Critical and Creative Genre Study (20% of overall qualification). This is the non-examination assessment or coursework element of the course. Students will study a text from a prescribed list and submit a 1500- 2000 word analysis based on their reading of the text and related wider reading. The study is genre based so will require a good deal of independent reading. In addition to this, students will be required to produce a piece of original writing of approximately 1000-1500 words in the same genre as that studied for the critical prose piece.

## Entry requirement

For students wishing to study English Language and Literature at A Level it is essential to have achieved at least a B grade in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. The course requires a lot of independent reading and critical study. In our experience, students who have achieved this grade or higher cope better with these demands.

## What else do I need to know?

Because of the breadth of skills developed and enhanced through the study of English Language and Literature, this course is extremely useful to have, in conjunction with others, whatever your career path.

# English Literature

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level English Literature  
A2 Level English Literature  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

English Literature is the study of poetry, prose and drama. During the course, students will develop and extend their analytical skills through discussion of the texts and individual written responses. The GCSE English Literature course will have provided students with a 'taste' of what the AS and A2 Level courses have to offer but interpretation and analysis of texts at these levels will be much more detailed. Students will be encouraged to develop informed personal responses to the range of literature studied. They will be required to read widely and independently in addition to the set reading undertaken in class. Students taking the qualification through to A2 Level will complete five units, four examinations and one piece of coursework.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

The study of English Literature at A Level is extremely rewarding and opens up many doors for students who dedicate the effort required to succeed in this subject. Opportunities are provided for pupils to extend their life-long learning; good communication is key in whatever career pursued in life and the nature of this subject ensures that both oral and written communication skills are developed and enhanced. Therefore, English is a subject that would benefit students in a great number of university courses.

In the publication *Informed Choices*, produced by the Russell group of leading UK universities, English Literature is described as a "facilitating subject". Many students who study English Literature go on to careers in teaching, journalism and the media, law and politics.



# Llenyddiaeth

## Assessment format

### Year 12

**AS Unit 1** – Prose and Drama (20% of overall qualification). A novel written before 1900 will be studied in addition to a drama text from a prescribed list. This unit is assessed by a two hour examination and copies of the texts are not allowed in the examination.

**AS Unit 2** – Poetry Post-1900 (20% of overall qualification). Students will study a selection of poetry by two poets writing after 1900. In the two hour examination, students will answer two questions; the first question requires close reading and analysis of one poem while the second question requires students to compare and contrast poems from the two poetry texts that they will have studied. Unannotated, clean copies of the text are permitted in the examination.

### Year 13

**A2 Unit 3** – Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry (20% of overall qualification).

This unit requires students to demonstrate their skills of close analysis and wider understanding by answering one question of two parts in a two hour examination. The first part of the question will focus on an extract from the studied poetry text while the second part allows pupils to show wider knowledge and interpretation of the text as a whole. Unannotated, clean copies of the text are permitted in the examination.

**A2 Unit 4** – Shakespeare (20% of overall qualification).

Students will study one Shakespearean text from a set list. In the two hour examination, they will be required to answer two questions on the chosen play. The first will be based on a printed extract and therefore assesses knowledge, understanding and close analysis. Section B requires candidates to answer one essay question from a choice of two and assesses students' wider knowledge and understanding of the play as a whole. Copies of the text are not allowed in the examination.

**A2 Unit 5** – Prose Study (20% of overall qualification)

## Entry requirement

This is the non-examination assessment or coursework element of the course. Students will study two prose texts from different periods (one published pre-2000 and the second published post 2000) on which they will then produce one 2500-3500 word assignment.

For students wishing to study English Literature at AS and A2 Level it is essential to have achieved at least a B grade in GCSE English Literature. The course requires a lot of independent reading and critical study. In our experience, students who have achieved this grade or higher cope better with these demands. It is desirable, but not essential, to also have GCSE English Language at grade B or above.

## What else do I need to know?

The English Literature course allows you to develop an abundance of skills including, but not limited to, literacy, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving, planning and organisation, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness. As a result, it is an extremely useful subject to have, in conjunction with others, whatever your career choices.

# Ethics and Philosophy

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Religious Studies A2  
Level Religious Studies  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

### Ethics

AS – Utilitarianism; Natural Law; Situation Ethics; Ethical Language and Thought.

A2 – Ethical Language and Thought; Deontological Ethics; Determinism and Freewill.

### Philosophy

AS - Inductive Arguments: The Teleological and Cosmological Arguments for the existence of God; Evil and Suffering; Religious Experience; Inductive Arguments: Ontological Argument.

A2 – Challenges to Religious Belief; Religious experience; Religious language.

### Hinduism

AS – Religious Figures and Sacred Texts (Part 1); Religious Concepts - God, the soul and afterlife; Religious Life and Religious Identity - Festivals and worship.

A2 – Religious Figures and Sacred Texts (Part 2); Significant Historical and Social development in Religious Thought and Practices.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

The study of Ethics and Philosophy is rigorous. Should you decide to follow this academic route you will find that your ability to think clearly and to analyse information will be significantly enhanced. British universities hold A Level qualifications in Religious Studies in high regard.



# Moeseq ac Athroniaeth

## Assessment format

For an AS Level qualification (40%), students study three modules:  
Study of Religion – 15% - 1 hour 15 minutes  
Philosophy of Religion/Religion and Ethics – 25% - 1 hour 45 minutes.

For an A2 Level qualification (60%), students continue their studies of these three modules

Examination papers are 1 hour 30 minutes long  
(each module contributing 20% towards the overall grade)

## Entry requirement

It is essential that all students who wish to take this course have a minimum of grade B in GCSE Religious Studies and a grade B in GCSE English.

## What else do I need to know?

These days no one can avoid considering the ethical issues that challenge society. Subjects like Ethics and Philosophy help students to set their own moral compass and to lay down their own principles. The A Level course addresses some of the contemporary ethical and philosophical issues that we face in the workplace and in the course of our lives, and provides students with a framework to reflect upon those challenges.

Furthermore, subjects like Ethics and Philosophy encourage students to empathise with unfamiliar situations and to see things from another person's viewpoint. The discipline enables students to clarify their own ideas and equips them with the skills necessary to put their own point of view whilst adopting an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.

The ability to think clearly and logically is of obvious benefit to those going on to university and beyond. The capacity to understand the arguments of those whom one disagrees with allied with the skill of defending one's own point of view is relevant to any field of work which involves persuading or advising people.

Practitioners of law, journalism, medicine, politics, police work and many other professions all benefit from the ability to think clearly and logically.

# Film Studies

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Film Studies  
A2 Level Film Studies  
Eduqas

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film Studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a powerful medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Film is a rapidly developing industry in Wales with productions worth in excess of £500m coming to Wales each year via production companies such as Bad Wolf, BBC, Pinewood and Boom. The study of Film Studies at AS and A Level equips students with many of the skills needed to pursue a career in the film and media industries. Production work is a crucial part of the course with students given the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed in order to create their own high quality films and screenplays.

As well as developing their practical and creative skills, opportunities are provided for students to extend their oral and written communication, benefitting them in a number of university courses.

## Entry requirement

For students wishing to study Film Studies at A Level it is essential to have achieved at least a C grade in GCSE English Literature or GCSE English Language. The course requires the study of film 'set texts' and critical analysis skills that will have been developed during GCSE English Literature. In our experience, students who have achieved a grade B or higher cope better with these demands.

## What else do I need to know?

The course reflects the diversity of film and film culture. The films studied include films by women directors and films which represent particular ethnic and cultural experiences. Most of all, it offers the opportunity to explore a range of important ideas and emotions, reflect on art and technology and connect theory and creative practice in ways which are designed to provide an absorbing and motivating educational experience.



# Astudiaethau Ffilm

## Assessment format

### Year 12

American Film (35%) Written examination: 1 hour 30 Minutes  
Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study) One two-part question, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one produced between 1930 and 1960 and the other between 1961 and 1990.  
Section B: Contemporary American independent film One two-part question, requiring reference to one contemporary American independent film (produced after 2010).

European Film (35%)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 Minutes

Section A: British film One two-part question, requiring reference to two recent British films.

Section B: Non-English language European film One two-part question, requiring reference to one non-English language European film.

Production Non-exam assessment (30%) - This component assesses one production and its accompanying evaluative analysis.

Production (20%) - Either an extract from a film highlighting narrative construction (2½ to 3½ minutes) or a screenplay for an extract from a film highlighting narrative construction of between 1200 and 1400 words plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay (approximately 1½ minutes' screen time, corresponding to approximately 15 storyboard shots).

Evaluative analysis (10%) - An evaluative analysis (1000-1250 words) of the production in comparison with other professionally produced films or screenplays.

### Year 13

Varieties of film and filmmaking (35%)

Written examination: 2 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 - One question requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one from the Classical Hollywood period (1930-1960) and the other from the New Hollywood period (1961-1990).

Section B: American film since 2005 - One question requiring reference to two American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

Section C: British film since 1995 - One question requiring reference to two British films.

Global filmmaking perspectives (35%) - Written examination: 2 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Global film -One question requiring reference to two global films: one European and one produced outside Europe.

Section B: Documentary film—One question requiring reference to one documentary film.

Section C: Film movements – Silent cinema - One question requiring reference to one silent film or group of films.

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2000) One question requiring reference to one film option.

Production (30%)

Non-exam assessment - This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis production. Either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay. Evaluative analysis (1600 - 1800 words)

# Food and Nutrition

## Qualification and Examination Board

Applied Diploma Food Science and Nutrition WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

The course is taught through a mix of classroom-based theory, practical sessions in a fully equipped kitchen, and independent research. You will develop advanced cooking techniques, understand food safety legislation, and apply scientific principles to food production.

You will study:

- Nutritional needs across the life stages
- Practical food production skills
- Principles of food hygiene and food safety
- Optional units on food experimentation or current issues in food science and nutrition

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

“Our food industry employs 3.7 million people, contributing almost £90 billion to the economy. But there's a big skills gap across the food chain. The industry must attract more well qualified and ambitious candidates if it is to grow and innovate.” Jim Paice Former Minister of State for Agriculture and Food

Food is Europe's largest and most buoyant industry, and nutritionists with food science training work at the forefront of product development and package design.

These courses will prepare you for the rapidly expanding roles such as:

Public health  
Pharmaceuticals  
Medical diagnostics  
The catering industry  
Sports nutrition  
Pathology health care  
Food production

Teaching  
Quality assurance  
Environmental issues  
Public health  
Nutrition  
Health promotion  
Health education  
Product development



# Bwyd a Maeth

## Assessment format

Assessment is a combination of written examinations and non-examined assessments (coursework):

In Year 12:

- Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
- Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills – Internal assessment – 25%

In Year 13:

- Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety – Written exam (1 hr 30 mins) – 25%
- Plus one optional unit (Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems OR Unit 5: Current issues in food science and nutrition) – Internal assessment – 25%

## Entry requirement

We would expect all students to have a real interest in the world of food. The course aims to develop a student's ability to investigate and solve problems. If GCSE in Food Science and Nutrition has been studied, a minimum C grade in the subject is essential.

## What else do I need to know?

In order to succeed, students will need:

- An interest in food production and design and a determination to succeed.
- To enjoy practical food and investigative work.
- A creative flair and understanding of food products.
- The ability to identify and solve real problems.



# French

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level French  
A2 Level French  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Students will use and continue to improve on their GCSE listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students will study modern and relevant topics through the medium of French. Students will continue the study of grammar to help further manipulate the language. Students will learn about France, and other Francophone countries, through television, video, music, computers (especially the Internet and iPads), magazines, newspapers and books.

Students will also study the following topics:

AS – Year 12

**Theme 1:** Being a young person in French-speaking society · Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships / relationships · Youth trends, issues and personal identity · Educational and employment opportunities **Theme 2:** Understanding the French-speaking world · Regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities · France, Canada, Switzerland and Les Dom-toms in a European context. · Literature, art, film and music in the French-speaking world. Students will also study the film ‘La Rafle’.

A2 – Year 13

**Theme 3:** Diversity and difference · Migration and integration · Cultural identity and marginalisation · Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference · Discrimination and diversity

**Theme 4:** France 1940-1950: The Occupation and the post-war years · From June 1940-May 1945 (occupation, liberation and end of World War II) · Life in Occupied France and the cultural dimension (théâtre, cinéma, littérature) · 1945-1950: rebuilding and restructuring · Repercussions for modern day France Students will also study ‘Kiffe Kiffe Demain’ a short literary text.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Studying a language at AS and A2 Level will help students get into universities. Languages have been identified as one of the valued prized “facilitating subjects” by Russell group universities, meaning they will help when applying for degrees at universities. Studying a foreign language demonstrates good memory and problem solving skills, mental discipline, interest in other cultures and view points and good communication skills. All these valuable skills are required by employers and universities. French is used by over 120 million people in more than 44 countries. Many job advertisements in areas such as business, tourism and information technology state that the study of French to an advanced level is advantageous and often a requirement. Recent statistics show that linguists get jobs, and can command higher salaries! 94% of UK language graduates succeed in finding a job quickly. 47% of companies have lost business because of language barriers in French.

# Ffrangeeg

## Assessment format

AS -Unit 1: Speaking 12-15 minutes 12% of qualification  
AS - Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation into English and essay on film in French. 2 hours 30 minutes 28% of qualification  
A2 - Unit 3: Speaking 11-12 minutes 18% of qualification  
A2 - Unit 4: Listening, reading and translation into French 2 hours 30% of qualification  
A2 - Unit 5: Critical and analytical response. Written exam – 1 essay in French on the literary work. 1 hour 30 minutes 12% of qualification

## Entry requirement

A GCSE in French at grade C is essential and a grade B or above in GCSE French is desirable.

## What else do I need to know?

What do previous Y12 students think?  
I really enjoy French because it is totally different from other subjects, so it is a refreshing break!  
I really like doing different things each lesson. One lesson you might be speaking, then you might do some translation, then some listening.  
It will teach you a life-long skill that you will always be able to use.



# Geography

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Geography  
A2 Level Geography  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

AS Level  
Unit 1: Changing Landscapes & Tectonic Hazards  
Unit 2: Changing Places & Fieldwork Investigation  
  
A2 Level  
Unit 3: Global Systems, Global Governance & 21st Century Challenges  
Unit 4: Tectonic Hazards & Contemporary Themes in Geography  
Unit 5: Individual Investigation

‘More than ever we need the geographer’s foresight to help us learn about our planet... how we use it and abuse it. Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.’  
Michael Palin

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Geography is a stimulating and challenging subject. It is our ‘window’ on the world around us. The wide variety of skills and themes taught within the subject lead to the development of geographers who are intelligent, analytical and sensitive to the human and physical environment in which we live.

Unlike the other ‘facilitating’ subjects recommended by the Russell Group universities, Geography provides students with such a broad range of skills that it provides an excellent accompaniment for most other subjects at A Level.

Geography is seen as a useful A Level qualification for the study of Archaeology, Geology, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Sociology, Law, Medicine, Surveying, Education and Engineering at degree level. Recent research by <http://www.bestcourse4me.com/> suggested that it is this broad range of skills that has made Geography one of the top ten recession proof degrees. Previous students who have studied Geography at A Level have gone on to undertake careers in climatology and meteorology, coastal, marine and hydrographic analysis, community development, land management, conservation, education, Geographic Information Systems, social services, law, medicine, planning, resource management, real estate, tourism management, surveying, international development, banking, oil geology and volcanology.

# Daearyddiaeth

## Assessment format

### AS Assessment

Unit 1: Written Examination – 2 hours – 24% of qualification  
Unit 2: Written Examination – 1 hour 30 minutes – 16% of qualification

### A2 Assessment

Unit 3: Written Examination – 2 hours – 24% of qualification  
Unit 4: Written Examination – 2 hours – 16% of qualification  
Unit 5: Independent Investigation – 3000 – 4000 words – 20% of qualification.

## Entry requirement

It is NOT necessary for students choosing A Level Geography to have studied GCSE Geography. If however, a student has studied GCSE Geography the essential entry level is a grade C. It is also essential that students have at least a grade C in GCSE Mathematics and a grade C in GCSE English although a B grade would be desirable for both.

## What else do I need to know?

Students will complete fieldwork to develop their geographical understanding and skills of the topics covered in the syllabus. In Year 12 students complete fieldwork in two contrasting environments such as coastal and urban locations. This will support Section B of the Unit 2 examination. In preparation for the Independent Investigation for A2 Unit 5, students will be required to build on the skills acquired at AS and plan, design and undertake their own field study into a geographical enquiry of their choice. We support this element with extended fieldwork study days in the South Wales region.



# Geology

<b>Qualification and Examination Board</b>	AS Level Geology A2 Level Geology Eduqas
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## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Geology is the science of the Earth. We study how the Earth works; how it was in the past, why it is like it is now and how it might be in the future. To unlock the secrets of the Earth we learn how to interpret evidence from earthquakes, rocks, fossils, minerals and volcanoes to understand the planet that we live on. It also allows us to find and extract the resources on which we rely.

The AS course studies the fundamentals of Geology in four sections:

**Elements, Minerals & Rocks** teaches the basic knowledge of the subject, studying the fundamental concepts of the science such as rock and mineral formation.

**Rock Cycle** looks at the processes that shape the Earth that we see around us.

**Time and Change** looks at the geological skills used to unravel the history of the Earth

**Global tectonics** studies the causes and effects of plate tectonic activity.

The A level course is composed of 2 sections:

**Interpreting the Geological Record** teaches the skills needed to analyse all types of geological evidence using some of the 'big ideas' of geology (such as mass extinction, evolution, plate tectonics, deep time, mountain building and resource geology) as a basis for study.

**Geological Themes** takes 3 topics to study in depth. These are:

*Geohazards*; investigates how earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis can be predicted and managed. Engineering and environmental geology are also a key component of this part of the course.

*Quaternary Geology*; looks at recent geological events, in particular the ice ages of the last two million years, to understand the Earth as it currently is.

*Geological Applications*; aims to use the skills developed through the course to analyse specific, real geological problems such as water supply, ground stability, waste disposal and construction of large structures.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Many students use an A Level in Geology as a stepping stone to a degree in the Earth Sciences. 80 students in the last 10 years have gone on to university to study Geology or a related subject, many of these to Russell Group universities, including Oxford. Recent school leavers have gone on to study Geology, Geophysics, Geoscience, Exploration Geology and Geotechnical or Mining Engineering at a variety of very good universities. Career prospects are very good, with strong demand for Engineering and Environmental Geologists and Hydrogeologists also in Mining and Resource Geology.

Most professional geologists spend at least part of their working career doing fieldwork, often involving a lot of travel. Geologists work in exploration, surveying and surface mapping in geologically promising areas of the world, looking for new prospects and working out the size of the reserves to find the metals needed for the green energy transition. The mining industry employs geologists to find and estimate reserves. In the construction industry engineering geologists advise civil engineers on subsurface rock stability. Environmental Geologists assess the suitability of sites for waste disposal and on contaminated land and other human hazards and Hydrogeologists find and manage underground sources of water.

There is currently a global shortage of trained geoscientists and a wide variety of geological roles are listed on the UK government's skilled worker shortage occupations list.

# Daeareg

## Assessment format

### Year 12

Foundation Geology. A 90 minute examination of short answer, data response questions.  
Geological Enquiries. A 90 minute practical examination with a geological map and specimens.

### Year 13

Geological Applications. A two hour examination of short answer, data response questions.  
Geological Principles & Processes. 1 hour 45 minute examination of short answer, data response questions.  
Geological Investigations. 2 hour 15 minute skills examination including a geological map and specimens.

There is no coursework component for either AS or A level Geology. A series of specified practical's are completed in class to achieve the 'practical endorsement' of the A level.

## Entry requirement

GCSE Geology or Geography are not required for the course. However if a student has taken GCSE Geology, a grade of C or above is essential to progress in the subject.

Geology students must have commitment, enthusiasm and a sense of humour if they are to achieve well at Geology A level.

## What else do I need to know?

Geology at Cowbridge is well-resourced and successful with many students choosing to take their studies in the subject further. There are opportunities for students to broaden their geological experience with lectures, work experience and field courses.

The YouTube channel "Geology at Cowbridge" is used for homework and revision lessons and is regularly updated with new video content.



# German

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level  
German A2  
Level German  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Students will continue to develop their skills in Listening and Reading comprehension, Writing and Speaking. Students will learn to speak more fluently and debate and analyse issues in German. Students will continue to learn in a variety of ways in a supportive, engaging environment.

AS – Year 12

Theme 1:

- Being a young person in German-speaking society
- Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships / relationships
- Youth trends, issues and personal identity
- Educational and employment opportunities

Theme 2:

Understanding the German-speaking world  
Regional culture and heritage in Germany  
German-speaking countries and communities  
Literature, art, film and music in the German-speaking world  
Students will also study the film ‘Scherbenpark’(2013).

A2 – Year 13

Theme 3:

- Diversity and difference
- Migration and integration
- Cultural identity and marginalisation
- Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference
- Discrimination and diversity

The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards

Initial and subsequent process of reunification

Social cohesion in present-day Germany

Artistic and political movements

Economic impact of a united Germany We also study ‘Zweiier Ohne’, a novel by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Studying German at AS and A2 level will help you secure a place at university. Languages have been identified as one of the highly-valued ‘facilitating subjects’ by Russell group universities.

Studying a foreign language develops excellent communication skills, good memory and problem-solving skills, mental discipline and an interest in other cultures and viewpoints. Combining German with Sciences or Mathematics, pharmaceutical, scientific or engineering degrees demonstrates a wide range of abilities. Germany is one of the world’s top exporters and is annually in the top three countries for GNP. Many British firms do business with German-speaking companies that expect to conduct business in German. Recent statistics show that linguists can command higher salaries.

# Almaeneg

## Assessment format

AS -Unit 1: Speaking 12-15 minutes. 12% of qualification  
AS - Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation into English and essay on film in German 92 hours 30 minutes. 28% of qualification

A2 - Unit 3: Speaking  
11-12 minutes. 18% of qualification

A2 - Unit 4: Listening, reading and translation into German 2 hours.  
30% of qualification

A2 - Unit 5: Critical and analytical response. Written exam – 1 essay on literary work. 1 hour 30 minutes. 12% of qualification

## Entry requirement

A GCSE in **German at grade C is essential** and GCSE in German of at least grade B is desirable.

## What else do I need to know?

This is what previous students have said about German at AS and A2 Level:

- The gap between GCSE and A Level German is definitely do-able
- Debating in German is good fun
- It will teach you a life-long skills
- The lessons are full of variety – each lesson you do something different which is refreshing and fun doing the school day.
- There's always help if something doesn't click straight away.



# Government and Politics

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Government and Politics  
A2 Level Government and Politics  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

### What is Government and Politics?

Government and Politics provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, politics and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society.

Students will study four units:

#### AS Unit 1: *Government in Wales and the United Kingdom*

- The British Constitution, The Judiciary and the global context e.g. UN, NATO & EU.
- The UK Government, Parliament and accountability  
Devolution, Welsh government, Senedd Cymru and the impact of this

#### AS Unit 2: *Living and participating in a democracy*

- Citizenship and rights including human rights
- Democracy, electoral systems and voting behaviour
- Political parties, pressure groups and social movements

#### A2 Unit 3: *Political concepts and theories*

- Liberalism, Conservatism, Nationalism, Socialism and Communism

#### A2 Unit 4: *Government and politics of the USA*

- Democracy in the USA, Federalism and the Bill of Rights
- The US Congress, US President and the US Supreme Court
- Elections in the US, voting behaviour and US political parties

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Government and Politics is a highly valuable qualification. Studying this subject at A Level will provide an excellent base from which to study any subject at degree level.

# Llywodraeth a Gwleidyddiaeth

## Assessment format

100% examination

### AS Unit 1:

20% of qualification, a mixture of structured response and extended

answer questions.

90 minutes examination paper.

### AS Unit 2:

20% of qualification, a mixture of structured response and extended

answer questions.

90 minutes examination paper.

### A2 Unit 3:

30% of qualification, a mixture of structured response and extended

answer questions.

150 minutes examination paper.

### A2 Unit 4:

30% of qualification, a mixture of structured response and extended

answer questions.

150 minute examination paper.

## Entry requirement

Essential: GCSE English C grade

Desirable: GCSE English B Grade

## What else do I need to know?

What other subjects could I combine with Government and Politics?

Any combination of subjects is possible. Government and Politics is seen as an academic broad-based subject that can easily combine with any science or humanity.

Students must enjoy the subject!

If you are not happy with your choice, you won't do well.



# Health and Social Care, and Childcare

## Qualification and Examination Board

WJEC  
GCE AS/A Level Health and Social care, and  
Childcare

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Health and Social Care is an ideal subject for students who are interested in understanding how people grow, develop, and are supported throughout life. It offers a fascinating insight into the health, social care, and early years sectors – exploring how professionals meet the needs of individuals and promote wellbeing in our society.

Learners following the childcare pathway will have the opportunity to work closely with pupils in the lower school, applying their knowledge in practical settings and developing key skills such as communication, empathy, and child development understanding. This hands-on experience helps students link theory to real-life practice and builds confidence in working with children and young people.

This course combines academic study with practical learning and real-world application, making it perfect for anyone considering a future career in healthcare, social work, education, or community services.

The following is a list of possible careers this qualification may lead to. (please note some of these may require Science also):

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Consultant	Care assistant
Dental Nurse	Childminder
Health Visitor	Clinical Psychologist
Chiropodist/Podiatrist	Community Worker
Intensive care Unit Technician	Counsellor
Midwife	Field Social Worker
Nurse	Home care assistant
Paramedic	Nursery Nurse
School nurse	Microbiologist
Speech and Language Therapist	Teacher
Sports Physiotherapist	And many more!

# Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol, a Gofal Plant

## Assessment format

### AS level (two units)

**Unit 1:** Promoting health and well-being Written examination 2 hours ( 20% of qualification)

**Unit 2:** Supporting health, well-being and resilience in Wales Non-exam assessment: approximately 30 hours 20% of qualification A Level (the above plus a further two units) Either: Childcare pathway

**Unit 3:** Theoretical perspectives of children and young people's development Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 30% of qualification

**Unit 4:** Supporting the development, health, well-being and resilience of children and young people Non-exam assessment: approximately 40 hours 30% of qualification

**Or: Adult health and social care pathway Unit 5:** Theoretical perspectives of adult behaviour Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 30% of qualification

**Unit 6:** Supporting adults to maintain health, well-being and resilience Non-exam assessment: approximately 40 hours 30% of qualification

## Entry requirement

Some learners may have already gained knowledge, understanding and skills through their study of health and social care, and childcare at GCSE. However, there are no prior learning requirements for this specification

## What else do I need to know?

In order to succeed learners must be:

- Passionate about helping people throughout their life stages
- Have an interest in human development throughout the life stages
- Open to researching and applying theoretical knowledge about human development
- Eager to learn about adult, children and young people's health and well-being and their areas of development
- Willing to learn about outcome focused care and support for children and young people, assessment, demographic trends, legislation and initiatives, and care and support settings.



# History

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level History A2  
Level History  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

### AS Level Unit 1

Period Study – Challenges and Responses The Tudors: Government, Rebellion and Society in Wales and England c.1485-1603 Challenges and Responses in Wales and England c.1485 – 1559. Challenge 1: Establishing a Dynasty Challenge 2: Reformation Challenge 3: Protest, disorder and opposition Challenge 4: Social and Economic Challenges

### Unit 2

Depth Study – Crisis, Complexity Germany: Weimar and its Challenges c.1918-1933 Challenges facing the Weimar Republic 1918-1923 The extent of change on foreign and economic policy 1924-1929 The changing fortunes of the Nazi party 1924-1933 The crisis of the Weimar Republic 1929-1933

### A2 Level

#### Unit 3

Breadth Study – Change over Time The American Century c.1890-1990

**Theme 1:** The development of changing attitudes towards civil rights 1890-1945 Changing developments in the demands civil rights 1945-1968 The consequences of the civil rights movement 1968-1990 Similarity and difference c.1890-1990

**Theme 2:** Change and continuity in US foreign policy 1890-1941 The impact of US involvement in the Second World war and the Cold War The significance of the détente and the end of the Cold War 1975-1990 Similarity and difference c.1890-1990

#### Unit 4

Depth Study – Crisis, Complexity Germany: Nazi Germany c.1933-1945 Further developments in the Nazi control of Germany after 1933 The impact of Nazi racial, social and religious policies 1933-1945 The effectiveness of Nazi economic policy 1933-1945 Changing Nazi foreign policy and the Second World War 1933-1945

#### Unit 5

The Federal government and the civil rights movement

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Historians tend to be people with balanced views, developed through a study of evidence. They can research, work independently, can cross-reference ideas and have strong written/verbal communication skills. Historians often go into public relations, human resources, law, journalism, museum management, politics, the civil service e.g. the foreign office and some even teach!

# Hanes

## Assessment format

### AS Level

**Unit 1** - 20% of qualification; structured essays.

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Unit 2** - 20% of qualification; evaluation of historical sources.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

### A2 Level

**Unit 3** - 20% of qualification; extension study, essays focused on key issue.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

**Unit 4** - 20% of qualification; essay on focused question.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

**Unit 5** - 20% of qualification; coursework.

Non-examination assessment: 3000 – 4000 words

## Entry requirement

Essential: GCSE English B grade and GCSE History B grade

## What else do I need to know?

Students should choose History if they:

- Liked source analysis at GCSE
- Enjoy writing
- Like historical problem solving
- Want to study a strongly academic subject
- Want to develop university style working patterns, whatever course they finally do
- Need to study a Humanities subject e.g. for medicine

Students must enjoy the subject! If you are not happy with your choice, you won't do well.



# Mathematics and Further Mathematics

<b>Qualification and Examination Board</b>	AS and A2 Level Mathematics AS and A2 Level Further Mathematics WJEC
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**Subject knowledge and skills covered** Mathematics is comprised of two main areas: pure mathematics and applied mathematics. Pure mathematics is the study of the basic principles of mathematics that underpin many real life processes. During this part of the course students will extend their knowledge of such topics as algebra, trigonometry and sequences. Students will also learn new concepts such as calculus. Applied mathematics is a practical application of mathematics. It considers how we can use mathematics to model real-life situations and how best to solve physical problems. Students taking an A Level mathematics qualification will sit four units, two AS units and two A2 units.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are two mathematics A Levels, often referred to as double mathematics, and must be taken together. Further mathematics is a course designed for students who wish to extend their learning beyond the ordinary syllabus. It is a suitable course if students have good mathematical ability and may be considering a university course in physics or engineering. Certain "high demand" courses at a number of universities prefer students who have studied further mathematics. If a student chooses an A2 in further mathematics they will need to take an additional five units and if successful will be awarded an A Level in mathematics and an A Level in further mathematics. If they wish to take an AS Level in further mathematics they will need to take an additional 3 units and would be awarded an A Level in mathematics and an AS in further mathematics.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

If students enjoy mathematics and feel confident with the work at GCSE, then they should consider mathematics AS or A Level. It is a demanding and challenging subject but, if you are prepared to put in the time and effort required, an extremely rewarding one. Mathematics is a highly employable A-Level to have. Most students who study mathematics go on to careers in engineering, computer science and finance. It is also a useful support for many university courses.

Studying further mathematics is excellent preparation for university, especially if you wish to study any mathematics-related subject such as engineering, science, computing or technology, as well as mathematics itself. Many universities now encourage students to take further mathematics qualifications to improve their mathematical preparation for degree courses. Some leading universities now specify further mathematics as an entry requirement for certain courses. The Russell Group of leading UK universities published a guide to post-16 subject choices, Informed Choices. It describes further mathematics as a facilitating subject. The guide also identifies the most common essential and useful A Level requirements for 60 of the most popular university courses. Further mathematics is listed as useful for:

Actuarial Science/Studies; Aeronautical Engineering; Biochemistry; Biomedical Sciences (including Medical Science); Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Computing; Dentistry; Electrical/Electronic Engineering; Engineering (General); Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Medicine; Optometry (Ophthalmic Optics); Physics; and Veterinary Science.

# Mathemateg a mathemateg bellach

## Assessment format

### Year 12

Pure Mathematics A - This module extends your GCSE knowledge of algebra, indices, and trigonometry and co-ordinate systems. Calculus is introduced.  
Applied Mathematics A – Statistics and Mechanics. This module extends your GCSE knowledge of probability, histograms and compound measures. Statistical distributions, forces, kinematics and vectors are introduced.

### Year 13

Pure Mathematics B - This module extends the calculus techniques learnt in Unit 1. It also looks at functions and proof.  
Applied Mathematics B – Statistics, Differential Equations and Mechanics. This module extends the techniques learnt in Unit 2, hypothesis testing, projectiles and differential equations are introduced.

### Year 12

Further Pure Mathematics  
Further Statistics  
Further Mechanics

### Year 13

Further Pure Mathematics  
Further Statistics or Further Mechanics

## Entry requirement

Experience has shown us that if students have a grade A\* or grade A at GCSE, they tend to encounter fewer problems in the transition from GCSE to A Level, and many can expect considerable success. It is therefore essential that all students wishing to undertake an A Level in Mathematics are required to achieve at least 80 / 160 marks at Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics.

For students wishing to study further mathematics it is essential to achieve a minimum of grade A in GCSE Mathematics. Students must take Mathematics to be able to take Further Mathematics.

## What else do I need to know?

Careers service advice about A Level mathematics is: This is probably the most marketable A Level in terms of accountability. It is difficult to think of any course/career where it would not be welcomed in combination with other subjects.



# Music

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Music  
A2 Level Music  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

### AS Level

Pupils study the history, development and musical features of a wide range of music, including the Symphony from 1760- 1830, and Musical Theatre (with a focus on Porter, Rodgers, Schönberg and Lloyd Webber). Pupils enhance their study of these genres through both solo and ensemble performance, which ultimately improve confidence and skill in preparation for their recital. Pupils are able to develop their creative skills in composition, using techniques learnt throughout the course.

### A2 Level

Pupils further their study of the history, development and musical features of a wide range of music, focusing on the Symphony in the Romantic era, and iconic composers in American Musical Theatre (Stephen Sondheim and Stephen Schwartz). Pupils are given the opportunity to refine their instrumental/vocal technique, and are encouraged to perform contrasting pieces showing an understanding of a range of styles in their solo recital. Pupils will complete a portfolio of compositions reflecting the musical language, techniques, and conventions of different genres in composition.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Music is an accepted and recognised course in nearly all universities for many different subjects. A vast skillset is developed throughout the course, including creativity, communication, confidence, problem solving and time management.

As a result, past students have benefitted from their musical education and experience in university, regardless of their chosen course. Students wishing to pursue further education in Music have found success at university and at music conservatoires after studying A Level Music at Cowbridge.



# Cerddoriaeth

## Assessment format

### AS Level

Performing (30%): A solo recital of 6-8 minutes with two pieces performed to a visiting examiner.

Composition (30%): A folio submission of two compositions, one in a free style (minimum length of 2 minutes), and the other in a style associated with the Western Classical tradition (minimum length of 1 minute).

Appraising (40%): One 'listening' written examination paper – 90 minutes.

### A2 Level

Students can choose to specialize in either performance or composition.

Performing: A solo recital of 6-8 minutes with a minimum of two pieces (30%) or a solo recital of 10-12 minutes with a minimum of three pieces (40%) performed to a visiting examiner.

Composition: A folio submission of two compositions, one in a free style (minimum length of 2 minutes), and the other in a style associated with the Western classical tradition (minimum length of 1 minute) (30%) or an extended folio with an additional free composition of two minutes (40%).

Appraising (30%): One 'listening' written examination paper - 120 minutes.

## Entry requirement

Pupils who have not undertaken GCSE Music should very much consider A level an option, especially if they can demonstrate strong engagement in musical activities and have a passion and interest in this subject area. They should discuss specifics with the Leader of Music who can answer any questions. Previous examination experience at GCSE is not needed but the ability to sing or play an instrument to Grade 5+ standard is essential.

Knowledge of Music theory is desirable. If a student has taken GCSE Music a minimum of Grade C is essential.

## What else do I need to know?

Studying Music requires commitment to developing performing, composing and appraising skills. Students benefit from undertaking one-to-one tuition on their chosen instrument or voice and making full use of available performance opportunities, including as part of the school extra-curricular music activities.

During the course, trips to see live performances are offered to pupils, with recent trips including BBC National Orchestra of Wales rehearsals and the West End production of Wicked at London's Victoria Apollo Theatre.

# Photography

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Art & Design - Photography  
A2 Level Art & Design - Photography  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

The Photography program of study is designed to give learners a broad scope into the various pathways that the industry has to offer. Learners start off with the basics of handling DSLRs, lighting setups, and photoshop before moving onto more industry specific skills such as working with models, landscape photography, fashion and product photography, as well as fine art photography. The program is designed to increase sophistication, independence and project management skills. Learners will also look at more historical means of photography such as cyanotypes and through our partnership with UWTSD dark room processing. Learners will set their own briefs and follow their own curiosity and passions with the full support of the Photography and Art departments behind them.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Alongside undergraduate courses and careers within photography (photojournalism, fine art photography, graphic design photography, studio photography, artist in residence work, technician, teaching ect.) photography's skills are highly transferable and desirable for other non related pathways. Skills such as project management, creativity, and analysis feed directly into the success of many other careers and undergraduate programs of study. In addition to professional goals, photography has become our main form of documenting important and everyday moments. This A Level gives learners the tools to make every photo better.



# Ffotograffiaeth

## Assessment format

AS Level (Unit 1) features one extended project made up of initial set of exploratory briefs that looks at building up skills, concepts and confidence before allowing learners to focus in on their own ideas under the umbrella heading of the project “narrative”. The project features a mixture of analysis, experimentation, and photoshoots. There is no exam or essay section at the AS Level, just a portfolio submission in the form of an online sketchbook which makes up 40% of the A Level qualification.

A2 Level is comprised of two units. The first being a personal investigation (Unit 2) where learners can choose a topic (agreed upon with teacher) that is then explored practically through a photographic portfolio and contextually through a piece of extended analysis which is integrated into the teaching and learning. This makes up 36% of the A Level qualification.

The second A2 unit (Unit 3) makes up 24% of the A Level qualification. In this learners must respond to ONE of the externally set stimuli provided by the WJEC. This unit is the culmination of learners skills and studies. This unit culminates in a 15 hour examination in which learners are required to make a final response.

## Entry requirement

No GCSE in Art is required, however a C or above in English is desirable due to the analysis component of the projects. A good level of digital literacy is also desirable.

## What else do I need to know?

The Photography department has a limited number of DSLR cameras available however access to these is not guaranteed at busy times. As such access to a high resolution camera would be beneficial but not essential.

Film processing such as 35mm or disposable cameras is down to the individual learners and will have to be outsourced by them.

Learners are responsible for storing and backing up their images and work.

For more information please talk to the present year 12 and 13 photography learners and the Art and Photography department.

# Physical Education

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Physical Education  
A2 Level Physical Education  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

Practical performance will be studied and improved through technical, tactical, physical and behavioural analysis. Theory modules will cover areas including skill acquisition, psychology of sport, exercise physiology, performance analysis and training, and sport and society across both AS and A2.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

**‘Sport is one of the fastest growing industries in the twenty first Century!’**

More and more people are becoming involved in Sport and Physical Education than ever before, and hence, there are more career opportunities in this field. If any of the following areas of work interest you, then maybe A Level Physical Education is a good option for you!

- Sports medicine
- Sports massage/Physiotherapy
- Sports coaching
- Sports development
- Teaching
- Sports science
- The fire service
- The police force
- Leisure and recreation
- Sports development officer
- Sport and business management
- Professional sport opportunities



# Addysg Gorfforol

## Assessment format

AS Level

**Unit 1:** 1 hour 45 minutes examination paper (skill acquisition, psychology of sport, exercise physiology, performance analysis and training, and sport and society) - 60% of AS (24% of A Level)

**Unit 2:** Improving personal performance in physical education - 40% of AS (16% of A Level). To include: Assessment in one chosen practical activity - 20% of AS (8% of A Level) Assessment in coaching/officiating in the same practical activity - 10% of AS (4% of A Level) Assessment via a written piece of coursework that suggests ways to improve performance in a chosen practical activity - 10% of AS (4% of A Level)

A2 Level

**Unit 3:** 2 hour examination paper (skill acquisition, psychology of sport, exercise physiology, performance analysis and training, and sport and society) - 36% of A Level

**Unit 4:** Refining personal performance in physical education - 24% of A Level.

**To include:** Assessment in one chosen practical activity - 12% of A Level. Assessment via a 3000 word written piece of investigative research coursework in a chosen activity - 12% of A Level.

## Entry requirement

It is essential that students are **currently competing** at a high level in their chosen sport. It is desirable to also have GCSE Physical Education at grade B or above. Students without this qualification will need to be assessed on suitability to undertake the course by the leader of subject.

## What else do I need to know?

If you have any questions about the course and the choice of sports available then speak to a member of The Physical Education Department or visit <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/physical-education/physical-education-gce-a-as/>



# Physics

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Physics  
A2 Level Physics  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

AS and A2 Physics builds upon what you have learnt in your GCSE Physics course, giving you a deeper understanding of the world around us. The subject takes you on a journey from the smallest particles imaginable to the large scale evolution of the universe. You will meet along the way some of the most interesting characters in science who have helped to shape our understanding of nature. You will also gain an insight into some of the most enduring mysteries of the cosmos such as the story of the Big Bang, the crazy world of quantum Physics along with the recent developments in our understanding of Dark matter and Dark energy.

The AS course provides a satisfying and worthwhile experience for the candidate who chooses to take AS Physics as part of a broad post-16 curriculum. At the end of the course candidates will know more about the physical sciences and their place in today's world.

Traditional topics, which form the backbone of the course, include; motion, Newton's laws, energy concepts, electrical circuits, the nature of waves, material structure, refraction of light, quantum and photons. More contemporary subject matter includes topics on lasers, using radiation to investigate stars and the study of subatomic particles including quarks and nuclear structure.

The A2 course leads to an Advanced GCE qualification, which enables candidates to go on to degree level qualifications at University and at the same time provides an interesting and stimulating experience for those not pursuing the subject further. The course appeals to pupils who enjoy a challenge, who are confident in their maths skills, and those who like to see the bigger scientific picture and make links to other sciences.

Topics include: circular motion, oscillations and vibrations, momentum concepts, thermal Physics, electrostatic and gravitational fields of force, capacitance, magnetic fields, electro-magnetic induction, radioactivity and radioisotopes and nuclear fission and fusion. A contemporary topic that will appeal to many is the orbital motion of planets and stars and the Physics of the expanding Universe. Also, there is an additional topic called medical Physics which introduces X-rays, MRI, ultrasound and radioactivity which appeals to students wishing to enter a career in medicine.

Within the course there are many opportunities for pupils to develop their practical skills which will be examined within the theory papers and in a practical exam.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

An understanding of the principals of Physics is a valuable asset in an increasingly technological world. It is essential for many branches of engineering such as civil, electrical, mechanical and aeronautical engineering. It is recommended for courses in pure sciences, electronics, computing, nursing, veterinary science, pharmacy and medicine, including the growing career path of medical Physics.

It is also an excellent preparation for many other careers not so obviously related. Within the world of economics and high finance, qualifications in Physics are most highly regarded.

A qualification in Physics marks out the holder as having the capability to think logically, solve complex problems, work independently in research and work with others. All skills that are prized in many walks of life.

## Assessment format

Year 12 study is split up into two units both of which are examined in the summer of Year 12. Students will complete and be assessed on both Units 1 and 2 each consisting of a theory paper of 1 hour 30 minutes duration. There is no practical exam in year 12.

Each of the AS examinations contributes 50% to the AS total. These units are able to be re-taken in the summer of Year 13.

In Year 13 students will complete and be assessed on a further three units. Unit 3 is a theory module worth 25% of the A2 qualification and is assessed via an examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes duration.

Unit 4 is assessed by a 2 hour examination worth 25% of the A2 qualification.

The practical examination, Unit 5, is a series of experimental tasks to be undertaken at one sitting and contributes 10% to the A2 total.

The final A2 grade is determined by combining all of the year 12 and year 13 units.

## Entry requirement

The complexity of the Physics used at A Level is a significant step up from that studied at GCSE. Experience has shown us that if students have a grade A\* or grade A at GCSE, they tend to encounter fewer problems in the transition from GCSE to A Level, and many can expect considerable success. For this reason it is essential to have at least a B grade in GCSE Physics or a BB grade for GCSE Science (Double Award). It is also desirable to have at least a B grade in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English.

## What else do I need to know?

Achieving an AS or A Level in Physics is a worthwhile and demanding ambition. Some of the concepts you will encounter challenge the most able minds; therefore, resilience, a positive attitude and the ability to work hard work are necessary requirements for all successful students.

Due to the complementary nature of the course, students will benefit from studying other technical subjects such as chemistry, mathematics, biology, computing, geography, geology, and economics although this is not a requirement.

Please come and talk to any of member of the Physics Department if you would like further information.



# Product Design

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Design Technology – Product Design (including Textile Design) A2 Level Design Technology – Product Design (including Textile Design) WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

There are 2 units of study in both Year 12 and Year 13 that are designed to develop your creative and critical thinking skills. The content includes a design and make task where you will be required to produce a portfolio of design work and manufacture a functioning prototype as well as an examination that tests your theoretical knowledge in the summer term.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Upon the successful completion of this course students could either join creative and technical apprenticeships or continue in Further Education with a variety of related subjects and degree courses.

Possible career paths include:

- Product Design
- Industrial Design
- Architecture
- Systems Design
- Graphic Design
- Packaging Design
- Furniture Design
- Automotive Design
- Interior Design
- Mechanical/Civil/Structural Engineering
- Fashion Design
- Fashion Buying
- Pattern Making
- Trades
- Teaching



# Dylunio Cynnyrch

## Assessment format

AS Level Unit 1 Written examination paper 2 hours – (20% of qualification). Unit 2 Coursework - design and make task, non-examination assessment: approximately 40 hours - (20% of qualification).

A2 Level Unit 3 Examination paper 2 hours 30 minutes – (30% of qualification). Unit 4 Design and make project, non-examination assessment: approximately 60 hours - (30% of qualification).

How will I be assessed? Students will be assessed on their ability to be innovative, be creative, demonstrate technological capability and critical evaluation skills as well as displaying proficiencies in time and project management. This assessment will take place in technical, aesthetic, economic, environmental, social and cultural contexts.

## Entry requirement

We would expect all students to have a real interest in the world of design. The course aims to develop a student's ability to investigate and solve problems within a design framework. If a student has studied GCSE or BTEC engineering within Design and Technology the essential entry level is a grade C or equivalent.

## What else do I need to know?

Students are expected to read widely around the subject. A key interest in developments in design, engineering and business is essential. Students will develop the ability to design and make real products to solve real life problems. The critical methods of analysis and other skills can easily be transferred to other areas of study.



# Sociology

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Sociology  
A2 Level Sociology  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

What is Sociology?  
Sociology is a study of people, society and how they react to each other.

Students will study four units:

AS Unit 1: Acquiring Culture

The social construction of culture, the process and agencies of socialisation, and examples of the influence of socialisation on identity

Families and households

AS Unit 2: Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Education

Research methods

A2 Unit 3: Power and Control

Crime and deviance

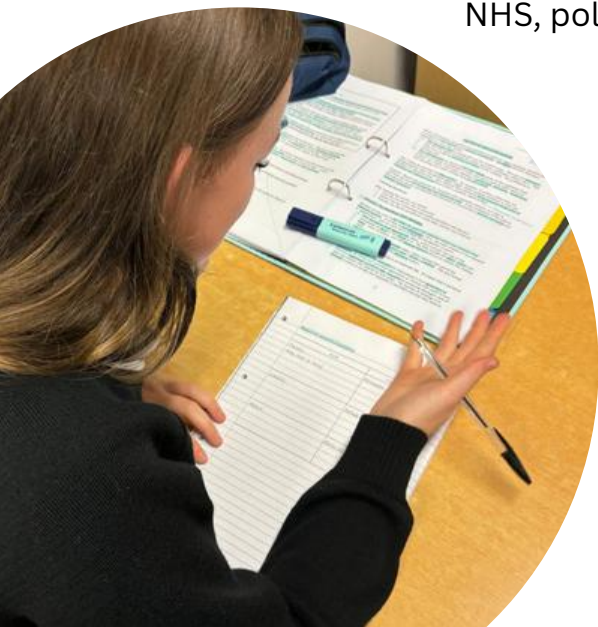
A2 Unit 4: Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Research design

Evidence and theories of social inequalities

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Sociology is a highly valuable qualification. Studying this subject at A Level will provide an excellent base from which to study Sociology at degree level. Also, it will help prepare students for the majority of other degree courses. The subject leads to many different careers in diverse areas such as research, social work, nursing, policing, management, the NHS, politics, law and teaching.



# Cymdeithaseg

## Assessment format

100% examination:

AS Unit 1: 15% of qualification 1 hour 15 minute examination paper

AS Unit 2: 25% of qualification 2 hour examination paper

A2 Unit 3: 25% of qualification 2 hour examination paper

A2 Unit 4: 35% of qualification 2 hour 15 minutes examination paper

## Entry requirement

It is NOT necessary for students choosing AS/A2 Level Sociology to have studied GCSE Sociology. If however, a student has studied GCSE Sociology the essential entry level is a grade C equivalent (grade 5). It is also essential that students have at least a grade B in GCSE English.

## What else do I need to know?

What other subjects could I combine with Sociology?

Any combination of subjects is possible. Sociology is seen as an academic broad based subject that can easily combine with any science or humanity.



# Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

## Qualification and Examination Board

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales Level 3 (equivalent to A Level and carries the same amount of UCAS points)  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

When completing their assessments learners will explore topics that are of relevance and interest to them within broadly defined themes linked to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda** and **Wales' Wellbeing Goals** as defined by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales).

The qualification supports learners to become effective, responsible, and active citizens ready to take their place in a sustainable global society and in the workplace. It also develops learners to become independent, self-motivated and effective learners – which are essential traits for success at University.

The two-year course is made up of 3 projects:

- Global Community Project
- Future Destination Project
- Individual Project.

## What skills will be developed?

Learners will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

Integral skills:

- Planning and Organisation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation

Personal Effectiveness

Embedded skills:

- Literacy
- Numeracy Digital
- Competence

The **Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales** is intended to help students to develop more complex skills, attributes and behaviours that are required by employers, colleges and universities. Students will achieve an overall grade from A\*-E and equivalent UCAS points.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales will:

- Increase students' confidence and effectiveness in the use and application of the skills in a range of meaningful and 'real-life' contexts and purposes;
- Encourage reflection, analysis and articulation of proficiency in the skills which will help in developing a CV and personal statement;
- Engage students in exploring, developing, practising and applying the skills to prepare them for university and the world of work.

# Bagloriaeth Sgiliau Cymru Uwch

## Assessment format

There are no examinations for this qualification. Each Project is assessed through a series of tasks which require learners to demonstrate their application of planning and organisation, critical thinking and problem-solving, creativity and innovation and personal effectiveness.

When completing their assessments learners will explore topics that are of relevance and interest to them within broadly defined themes linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda and Wales' Wellbeing Goals.

### **Global Community Project (25%)**

You will select a global issue to investigate, share your knowledge with others and take part in a community action.

### **Future Destination Project (25%)**

You will gain an understanding of yourself, explore future employment and wellbeing goals, and plan how you can achieve this.

### **Individual Project (50%)**

You will plan, manage, and research a topic linked to your future education or career aspirations, and create a written dissertation or an artefact.

Assessment can be staged throughout the course although learners are likely to complete the Individual Project in their second year.

## Entry requirement

At least 5 GCSEs grade A\*-C (in any subjects) are desirable for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales.

## What else do I need to know?

What do previous Y12 students think?

- It is great that the course is coursework based and so there are no examinations.
- The Individual Project has been very helpful in preparing me for writing my UCAS personal statement and for university interviews. I also enjoyed doing the research because I could do it on something I was really interested in.
- Working as part of a team to complete the Enterprise Challenge was completely different to what we usually do in other subject lessons – using new skills.
- I can see how I will be able to use the skills I have been using in the challenges in my career in future.
- I wouldn't have got a place at my chosen university without it.



# Welsh Second Language

## Qualification and Examination Board

AS Level Welsh Second Language  
A2 Level Welsh Second Language  
WJEC

## Subject knowledge and skills covered

This course will advance written and spoken Welsh skills obtained at GCSE. It is aimed at developing language and literature appreciation skills, and increasing fluency and understanding. Students will gain confidence and practical language skills essential for the world of work and further education.

The ability to use the Welsh language is an essential skill in modern Wales. Studying Welsh at Key Stage 5 will not only equip students with the language skills they need for the world of work and further education, but also develop students' confidence and communication skills and provide them with opportunities to explore and enhance their cultural identity.

## How can I use this course after Year 13?

Welsh language skills are increasingly valued by employers. With more and more services being offered bilingually, there is growing demand for people with bilingual skills. The ability to use Welsh is essential if you want to work in the public sector, in education, the health service and also hospitality and catering. All public sector organisations in Wales are legally bound to provide services in both Welsh and English and many private companies do so because it's good for business. This makes Welsh-speaking employees a very attractive asset to companies.

UCAS have acknowledged that "In Wales, being able to communicate in Welsh and English is a significant advantage for graduates looking for work. Research shows that employees with bilingual skills are more likely to earn a salary 8-10% higher than workers without bilingual skills. Having the ability to use Welsh in the workplace can give you an edge over your competitors."

We strongly believe that opportunities outside the classroom to use, practice and develop linguistic and cultural knowledge are the key to becoming fluent. It's really important to us that pupils don't see Welsh as just a 'language of the classroom' but as a modern and relevant daily medium of communication, as well as a way of life for hundreds of thousands of people all over the country. We aim to provide opportunities to pupils that will not only improve Welsh communication skills, but also develop cultural knowledge of contemporary Wales. We have been very lucky in the past to be able to organise and offer a full and exciting extra-curricular programme to enhance the experience of learning Welsh, such as visits to the theatre to see excellent Welsh language productions, educational visits to the Urdd camps at Llangrannog and Glanllyn where Year 12 and 13 pupils take on additional responsibilities to help out and provide meaningful Welsh experiences for younger pupils, but also are able to visit some of the beautiful and historically significant key locations mentioned and discussed in the course. We organise visits to the Urdd Eisteddfod to immerse our pupils in this unique Welsh experience, and our Year 12 and 13 pupils often compete in the competitions for Welsh learners.

We are also one of only a handful of schools in the country who have access to opportunities and funding specifically for Welsh Second Language learners at AS and A2 Level. This has meant that we have been able to organise opportunities like trips to gigs, visits and workshops with Welsh authors, poets, actors, musicians, directors and television producers, even white-water rafting through the medium of Welsh.

# Cymraeg Ail Iaith

## Assessment format

AS Welsh Second Language

### Unit 1 - Film and Oracy. Group Oral Assessment (15%)

In Section A, students will discuss various aspects of the film Patagonia in small groups. In Section B, students then have a five minute one-to-one discussion with the examiner, during which time they answer questions about the coursework portfolio they produced for Unit 2. This exam lasts 20 minutes and takes place during the spring term.

### Unit 2 - Written Coursework. Internal Assessment (10%)

Students complete three written tasks (600-800 words each) on a theme of their choice. One of the three tasks is completed in class as a controlled assessment piece.

### Unit 3 - The Use of Language and Poetry (15%)

Two hour written examination. This unit is divided into two sections. For Section A students will study grammar. Examination tasks will test their knowledge of key grammatical rules and their ability to adapt their use of language according to the audience or purpose of the task. In Section B students will analyse one of the five contemporary Welsh poems they have studied that year.

A2 Welsh Second Language

### Unit 4 - Drama and Oracy. Group Oral Assessment (25%)

In small groups, students will discuss and respond to questions about living through the medium of Welsh and the play Crash by Sera Moore Williams. This part of the exam will last a maximum of 30 minutes.

### Unit 5 – The Welsh Language in Society and Translanguaging (15%)

Two hour written examination. This unit is divided into two sections. For Section A, students study the status of the Welsh language in our society, learning about events from the middle of the 20th century to the present day which have influenced the rights and experiences of Welsh speakers. In Section B, students are asked to read material in English and respond to it in written Welsh.

### Unit 6 – The Use of Language and the Short Story (20%)

Two hour written examination. This unit is divided into two sections. Section A is grammar based and examination tasks will test students' knowledge of key grammatical rules and their ability to adapt their use of language according to the audience or purpose of the task. For Section B, students will study four short stories and learn how to analyse contemporary Welsh prose.

## Entry requirement

It is essential to have a minimum of C grade in GCSE Welsh.

## What else do I need to know?

We've put together a video for you. Go to this link [www.tinyurl.com/yzv2uyx9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yzv2uyx9) to learn more about the opportunities you'll have when you study Welsh at Cowbridge Sixth Form.



