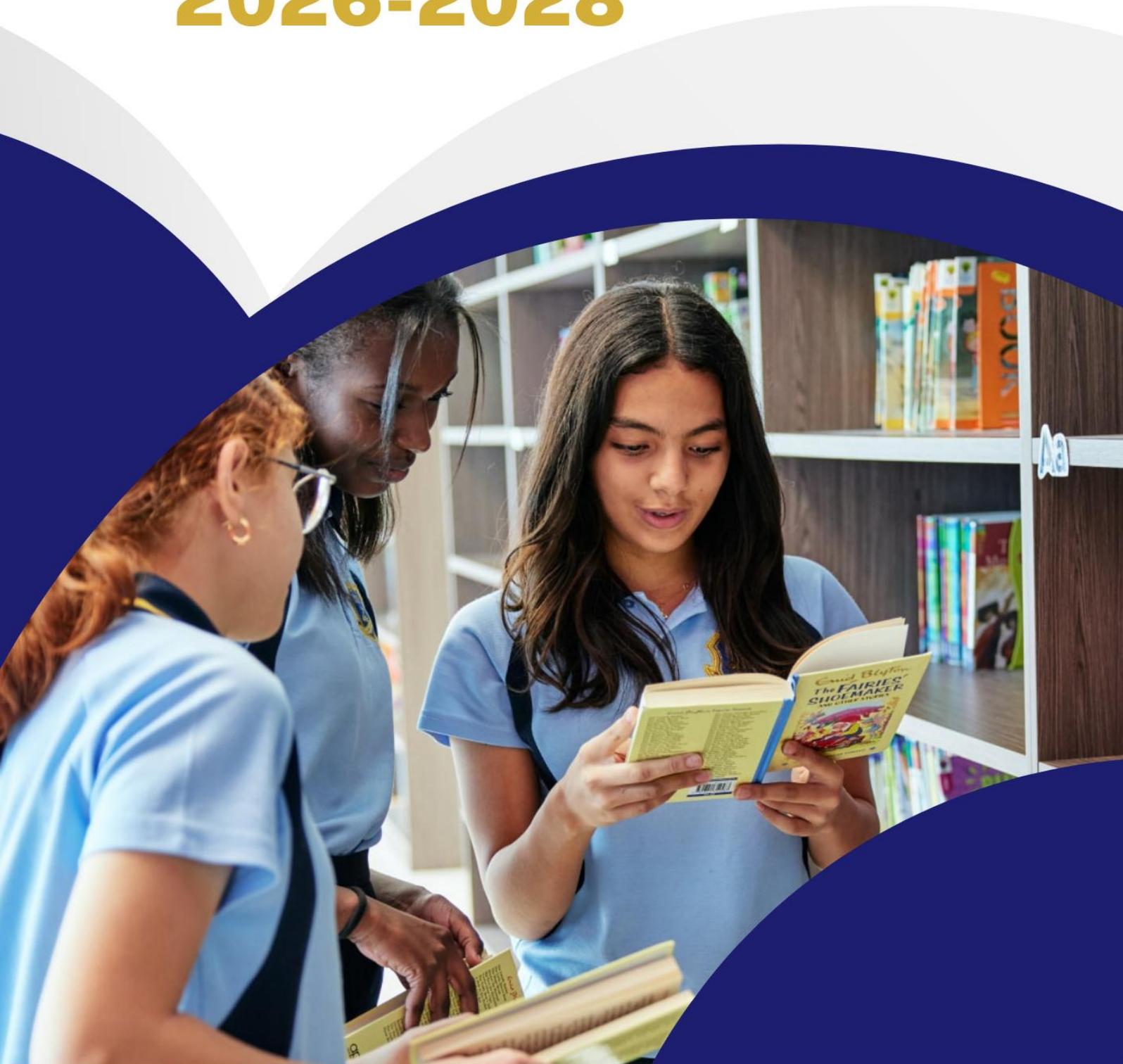




CAPITAL SCHOOL BAHRAIN

# SIXTH FORM OPTIONS BOOKLET 2026-2028



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## Sixth Form Prospectus

The Sixth Form at Capital School Bahrain offers students a caring, dynamic and globally minded environment, grounded in British-curriculum tradition but shaped to reflect our community's values and ambitions. Capital School Bahrain was established in 2015, and in 2022 we moved into our purpose-built campus in Bu'Quwah, expanding to serve pupils from early years through to secondary stage.

Our Sixth Form combines academic rigour, personal development, and pastoral care. Pupils benefit from a modern learning environment, small class/form structures, and a curriculum designed to nurture each student's strengths, ambitions, and potential.

This prospectus provides essential information to support you and your child in making informed subject choices for the next two years. Sixth Form is a pivotal phase — preparing students for university, careers and life beyond school — and we are committed to helping you make confident, thoughtful decisions.

If you have any questions beyond the scope of this booklet, our admissions and academic teams will be happy to meet and discuss them personally.

## Why Choose Capital School Bahrain?

- **Modern Campus & Facilities** — Since relocating in 2022, Capital School Bahrain has operated from a purpose-built site in Bu'Quwah, with separate buildings for each school phase and modern facilities to support academic and extracurricular life.
- **Full UK Curriculum, From Early Years to A-Level** — The school delivers the full English National Curriculum, adapted with international perspective and local context. This provides consistency from early years onward — including the full route through to IGCSE and A-Level courses.
- **Inclusive & Supportive Culture** — Capital School Bahrain fosters a warm, inclusive atmosphere where individual talents, cultural diversity and personal growth are valued. We emphasise creativity, confidence, compassion and resilience in all students.
- **Balanced Academic & Pastoral Approach** — Alongside academic progress, the school invests in well-being, community, character development and global citizenship — preparing students not only for exams, but for life beyond school.

- **Pathways to University & Beyond** — With IGCSEs leading into a robust Sixth Form offering (A-Levels / vocational BTEC/Applied courses), students have flexibility to build academic or vocational pathways aligned to their future ambitions.

## Our Commitment to Students and Families

Choosing Capital School Bahrain means joining a community that works with you — teachers, pastoral staff, parents — to support each student’s academic journey, personal development and future aspirations. We aim to deliver education of excellence while ensuring care, values and well-rounded growth.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form and guiding you through the exciting years ahead.

## Welcome to Our Sixth Form

### Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Capital School's Sixth Form. As Principal, I am delighted to welcome you to this exciting new phase of your academic journey — a time when your ambition, curiosity and drive can be shaped into real achievement.

At Capital School, we take pride in offering a learning environment rooted in the best of British educational tradition, enriched with a global outlook that prepares our students to thrive as confident, creative and responsible global citizens.

Our Sixth Form combines academic excellence with breadth of opportunity. We maintain high standards across academic disciplines, but we also encourage engagement in arts, sport, technology and community — believing that a well-rounded education builds not only knowledge, but character.

For our A-Level and BTEC students, the coming years will offer both challenge and growth. You will benefit from specialist teaching, rigorous curricula, and opportunities to explore subjects deeply. Our modern campus — with science labs, libraries, technology facilities, and extracurricular spaces — provides the resources you need to succeed academically and personally.

We aim not only to foster academic success, but to develop learners who are thoughtful, curious, and ready to contribute positively to society. Whether your path leads to university, vocational training, or career, our Sixth Form is designed to give you the skills, knowledge and confidence for the future.

I encourage you to engage fully — embrace the opportunities, challenge yourselves, support each other, and make the most of the next two years. On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you every success and look forward to seeing what you will achieve.

Sincerely,  
Assheton Woodall  
Principal, Capital School

## Curriculum Choices

At Capital School, you have the opportunity to shape your future by selecting subjects that reflect your strengths, aspirations and academic direction. This booklet will guide you through the courses available, but your decisions should be informed by conversation,

reflection and research. We encourage students to discuss their intended choices with teachers, parents and our Sixth Form team, while also exploring university and career pathways to ensure subject combinations support long-term goals.

Your course selection will influence your future progression, so choosing wisely is essential. Our role is to advise, challenge and support you so that the path you follow through Sixth Form opens doors to university, employment and beyond. Some courses may have minimum entry requirements — for example a certain GCSE grade — to ensure you are well-prepared and able to succeed. All final admissions decisions are based on professional judgement, student suitability and cohort numbers.

Most Capital School students begin Sixth Form studying **three A-Level subjects**, or a **combined pathway of one/two A-Levels and one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma qualification**. Students occasionally begin with four subjects and reduce later, once strengths and workload preferences become clearer, but a three-subject equivalent remains the standard. BTEC programmes are delivered as a **single A-Level equivalent**, allowing flexibility for students who wish to balance academic study with coursework-based vocational learning.

Whether you select a full A-Level route or a hybrid programme including BTEC subjects, we are committed to ensuring that your individual pathway is purposeful, ambitious and matched to your post-16 aspirations.

### In the Capital School Sixth Form, you will:

- Join a welcoming, dynamic learning community built on teamwork, respect and shared ambition.
- Study a personalised programme designed to challenge, motivate and prepare you for university and modern careers.
- Choose from a range of **A-Level subjects** including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English Literature, Geography, History, Economics and Business.
- Access **BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diplomas** in Applied Science, Business, IT, Sport, Travel & Tourism and Hospitality, with optional units selected for specialism in Year 13.
- Build the transferable skills needed for the twenty-first century — leadership, independence, critical thinking, communication and time-management.
- Receive structured guidance with university applications, personal statements, career planning and scholarship opportunities.
- Engage in wider enrichment such as clubs, student leadership, competitions, sport, creative arts, academic stretch and social development.

## **A LEVELS & BTECs At Capital School**

### **What are A-Level Courses?**

A-Levels are internationally recognised qualifications known for academic depth, analytical challenge and university preparation. Students typically select three subjects, studied over two years, allowing them to specialise in areas that match their strengths and future career ambitions. A-Levels are well suited to students who enjoy traditional academic learning, essay writing, theoretical understanding and formal examinations. They are accepted by universities worldwide, including the most competitive institutions.

### **What are BTEC Courses?**

BTEC qualifications focus on applied, real-world learning, combining research tasks, coursework, presentations and practical assessment instead of relying solely on final examinations. At Capital School, we offer **BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diplomas**, each equivalent to one A-Level. These courses are ideal for students who prefer continuous assessment, vocational learning, and skill-based development. BTECs are recognised by UK and international universities, particularly in business, sport, hospitality, IT, science and industry-linked degree routes.

### **Is One Pathway Better Than the Other?**

Neither qualification is superior — they are simply different. A-Levels are typically preferred for highly academic or competitive fields such as medicine, law and engineering, while BTECs offer a strong applied route to university for students who perform well in coursework and practical learning. Many students benefit from a **mixed programme (A-Levels + BTEC)**, allowing them to balance examination subjects with coursework-based study.

Whichever path you choose, our goal is to ensure it reflects your strengths, interests and future vision.

### **Which Blend of Courses Should I Take?**

Choosing the right subjects is a personal decision — but these guidelines will help you make informed choices:

- Select subjects you enjoy, excel in, and are genuinely motivated to study for two years.
- You may take **all A-Levels, all BTECs, or a blended pathway**, depending on your learning style and aspirations.
- Discuss options with others — parents, teachers, friends — but remember this is *your* future and you should lead the decision.
- Be realistic about your starting point. If a subject requires strong mathematical foundations, scientific accuracy or extended writing, make sure it reflects your ability and GCSE profile.
- If exams cause high anxiety or do not reflect your best work, **BTEC qualifications offer a valuable alternative that still leads to excellent universities.**
- Taking four A-Levels is rarely necessary. Most students take three, but some may complete the **EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)** as an additional half-qualification to strengthen their university profile.
- Seek advice — speak to subject teachers, Heads of Sixth Form, and our university guidance team. We are here to help you make informed, confident and aspirational decisions.

## The Right Pathway is the One That Fits You

The most successful Sixth Form students are those who choose subjects that align with their interests, their strengths, and their long-term goals — not simply what others expect. Whether your route involves A-Levels, BTEC qualifications, or a combination of both, your journey at Capital School Sixth Form will prepare you for university, professional life and personal growth.

## Understanding A-Level and BTEC Grades

### How A-Levels Are Graded

A-Levels are assessed primarily through written examinations taken at the end of Year 13. Each A-Level is awarded a letter grade:

- A\*** — Outstanding
- A** — Excellent
- B** — Very Good
- C** — Good
- D** — Satisfactory
- E** — Minimum Pass

These grades reflect a student's exam performance after two years of study.

### How BTECs Are Graded

BTEC International Level 3 qualifications are coursework-based, meaning students are assessed continuously through assignments, portfolios, practical activities, research, and applied projects.

Instead of letters, BTECs use performance-based grades:

- D\*** — Distinction\* (Outstanding)
- D** — Distinction (Excellent)
- M** — Merit (Good)
- P** — Pass (Achieved required standard)

### Direct Grade Equivalence (A-Level vs BTEC)

A-Level Grade	BTEC Equivalent	UCAS Tariff Points
<b>A*</b>	<b>D*</b> Distinction*	56
<b>A</b>	<b>D</b> Distinction	48
<b>B</b>	<b>M*</b> (High Merit)	40
<b>C</b>	<b>M</b> Merit	32
<b>D</b>	<b>P*</b> (High Pass)	24
<b>E</b>	<b>P</b> Pass	16

*A BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH) carries the same university value as one A-Level.*

## What this means for your child

- Both A-Levels and BTECs are **valid and respected** qualifications.
- Universities accept **either pathway**—or a mixture of both—depending on course requirements.
- The right choice depends on how your child learns best: **exam-based (A-Level)** or **coursework-based (BTEC)**.

## Key Stage 5 Courses on Offer

The following are a list of courses that we are offering in our sixth form.

**Please note that we have a minimum class size that will operate which means that if not enough pupils select the course, it will not run**

All Qualifications are through the exam board Pearson:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

<b>International A-Level</b>	<b>International BTEC</b>
<a href="#">Biology</a> YBI11	<a href="#">Applied Science</a>
<a href="#">Business</a> YBS11	<a href="#">Business</a>
<a href="#">Chemistry</a> YCH11	<a href="#">Information Technology</a>
<a href="#">Economics</a> YEC11	<a href="#">Sport</a>
<a href="#">English Literature</a> YET01	<a href="#">Travel &amp; Tourism</a>
<a href="#">Geography</a> YGE01	
<a href="#">History</a> YHI01	
<a href="#">Mathematics</a> YMA01	
<a href="#">Physics</a> YPH11	
<b>A-Level</b>	<b>Extended Project Qualification</b>
<a href="#">Product Design</a> 9DT0	<a href="#">Extended Project</a>

## Entry requirements for sixth form courses

Subject	Entry requirements
<b>Biology</b>	Grade 7 in Biology (or 7/7 in Combined Science). Grade 6+ in Maths recommended.
<b>Business</b>	Grade 6 in Maths or English; prior GCSE Business helpful but not required.
<b>Chemistry</b>	Grade 7 in Chemistry (or 7/7 in Combined Science). Strong Maths recommended for success.
<b>Economics</b>	Grade 6 in Maths and English recommended. Prior Economics not essential but advantageous.
<b>English Literature</b>	Grade 7 or above in English Literature (or strong combined English result).
<b>Geography</b>	Grade 6 in Geography. Strong writing and analytical skills advisable.
<b>History</b>	Grade 6 in History. Confident extended writing skills required.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Grade 7 or above in iGCSE Mathematics.
<b>Physics</b>	Grade 7 in Physics and Grade 7 in Maths. Physics requires confident algebra and problem solving.
<b>Product Design</b>	No entry requirements are necessary
<b>EPQ (Extended Project)</b>	Available in Year 12–13 to accompany 3 A-Levels or a mixed programme.
<b>BTEC International Level 3 Courses</b>	A Grade 4 or 5 is acceptable to be allowed onto study these courses

- Students normally begin Sixth Form with **three qualifications**, either A-Level, BTEC, or a **mixed programme**.
- Acceptance onto a course depends on prior attainment, suitability and available places.
- Some subjects require strong analytical, written or mathematical skills — students should be realistic and informed in decision-making.
- Final course allocation is confirmed after GCSE results and consultation with the Sixth Form team.

## A-LEVEL Biology

**Pearson Edexcel International A-Level | Specification Code: YBI11**

### What will students learn?

#### *AS Level (Year 12) – Foundations of Biological Science*

In the first year, students build a broad foundation covering the molecular and cellular basis of life. They study biological molecules such as carbohydrates, lipids, proteins and nucleic acids, and learn about enzyme action, membranes, transport mechanisms, gas exchange, cell structure, division and the basics of genetics and inheritance. Students also examine the cardiovascular system and human health, delving into topics such as blood composition, circulation, gas exchange, and risk factors related to disease. Alongside theory, students engage in practical skills development — microscopy, cell analysis, and basic experimental work — to understand living systems at a micro and macro level.

#### *A-Level (Year 13) – Advanced Concepts and Applied Biology*

In the second year, learning advances through units that examine organisms in ecological, physiological and evolutionary contexts. Students explore topics such as energy flow, photosynthesis and respiration, ecosystems, biodiversity, natural selection and conservation. They study human physiology in greater depth, covering coordination, homeostasis, hormonal control, the nervous system, immunity, microbiology and gene technologies. Experimental biology remains a core focus: students learn to design, conduct and evaluate investigations, interpret data, and draw evidence-based conclusions. The emphasis is on understanding life as dynamic, interconnected systems — from the molecular to the environmental — and on applying biological knowledge to real-world challenges such as health, ecology, biotechnology and conservation.

### Skills and Scientific Understanding Developed

Throughout the course, students develop a wide range of scientific skills. They learn to design experiments, collect and analyse data, evaluate methodological reliability, and write coherent scientific reports. They develop critical thinking, quantitative reasoning (including handling calculations, statistical analysis, graphs and sampling methods), and the ability to apply theory to novel or unfamiliar contexts. Practical lab skills including safe handling of equipment, accurate measurement, microscopy, and biological techniques are embedded throughout. Moreover, students cultivate scientific literacy, ethical awareness (e.g., in genetics, conservation, environmental change), and independent problem-solving and research abilities — all essential for further study in the biological or health sciences.

## Examination Structure (IAL Biology – Units & Assessment)

The full International A-Level Biology qualification is assessed across **six externally examined units**, with all assessments taken at the end of the course.

Unit	Title / Content Focus	Written Exam Duration
Unit 1	Molecules, Transport & Health	1 hr 30 min
Unit 2	Cells, Development, Biodiversity & Conservation	1 hr 30 min
Unit 3	Practical Biology & Research Skills I (linked to Units 1 & 2)	1 hr 20 min
Unit 4	Energy, Environment, Microbiology & Immunity (Ecology, Photosynthesis, Respiration, Ecosystems, Immunity topics)	1 hr 45 min
Unit 5	Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology (Physiology, Homeostasis, Coordination, Genetic applications)	1 hr 45 min
Unit 6	Practical Biology & Research Skills II (linked to Units 4 & 5)	1 hr 20 min

### Certification

Completing all six units leads to the full International A-Level (IAL) award. Students may also exit after Units 1-3 with the International AS (IAS) qualification.

### Higher Education & Career Pathways

A-Level Biology is a versatile qualification, highly regarded by universities globally and essential for many science-linked degree programmes. Common progression routes include:

- Biomedical science, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
- Biological sciences, Ecology, Environmental Science, Conservation, Veterinary Science
- Biochemistry, Genetics, Biotechnology, Research & Laboratory Science
- Environmental policy, sustainability, climatology, ecology and global environmental management
- Further study in related disciplines such as Psychology, Nutrition, or Sports Science, where biology provides foundational understanding

Beyond degree courses, A-Level Biology supports vocational routes in healthcare, research, environmental management, public health, and any profession requiring scientific literacy, analytical reasoning and cross-disciplinary thinking.

# A-LEVEL Business

**Pearson Edexcel International A-Level (IAL) | Specification Code: YBS11**

## What will students learn?

In this course, students develop a robust understanding of how businesses operate in local, national, and global markets — combining management theory, applied decision-making, strategic analysis, and real-world business contexts.

Students begin by exploring key principles including market structures, customer needs, enterprise, organisational behaviour, leadership, human resources, and marketing fundamentals. They learn how businesses launch and grow products, make strategic choices, and respond to changes in demand, competition, regulation and economic environment.

As the course advances, students study financial management (including budgeting, cash flow, break-even analysis), operational efficiency, resource management, production systems, business finance and performance measurement. They examine strategic decision-making, competitive advantage, investment appraisal, mergers, growth, and risk — and how businesses adapt strategy in changing environments.

Finally, the course explores global business dynamics: international trade, multinational corporations, global marketing strategies, cross-cultural considerations, economic integration, exchange rate impacts, and ethical responsibilities. Students gain insight into the complexity of running businesses across borders and the opportunities and challenges that globalisation brings.

Throughout, learners apply both qualitative and quantitative analysis — interpreting graphs, data tables and real business scenarios; evaluating business decisions; applying theory to practice; and building skills in logical reasoning, business numeracy, critical thinking and real-world problem solving.

## Skills and Understanding Developed

Students acquire a broad set of transferable skills that combine analytic rigour with practical business insight. These include:

- Data interpretation and quantitative analysis (e.g. calculating profitability, cash flow, break-even, financial ratios)

- Critical evaluation and decision-making: weighing business options, forecasting outcomes, assessing risks and benefits
- Strategic thinking: understanding long-term planning, competitive positioning, leadership, organisational structure and global expansion
- Communication skills: writing structured essays, constructing coherent arguments, and making evidence-based recommendations
- Awareness of global, ethical, environmental and social dimensions of business operations — preparing students not only for profit-driven activity, but responsible and sustainable business understanding

### Examination Structure (IAL Business)

The full International A-Level Business qualification is assessed through **four externally examined units**.

Unit Code	Unit Title / Focus	Exam Duration	Assessment Details
Unit 1	Marketing and People	2 hours	Short answer, data-response and open-response questions; focuses on marketing, customer needs, market research, organisational structure, HR, entrepreneurship.
Unit 2	Managing Business Activities	2 hours	Short answer, data-response and open-response questions; covers operations management, finance & budgeting, resource management, business environment and external influences.
Unit 3	Business Decisions & Strategy	2 hours	Unseen case-study based exam — data response and extended open-response questions; involves strategic decision analysis, investment appraisal, performance ratios, competitiveness and strategic planning.
Unit 4	Global Business	2 hours	Pre-released context plus unseen scenario: data response and extended open-response; evaluates global trade, multinational operations, cross-cultural marketing, global economic factors, ethics and international strategy.

- Students may obtain the **International AS (IAS)** qualification after completing Units 1 & 2 only.

- Completion of **all four units** leads to the full International A-Level (IAL) Business qualification.

## Higher Education and Career Pathways

An IAL Business qualification opens a wide range of academic and professional pathways. Graduates commonly progress to:

- Business Management, International Business, Marketing, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship and Commerce degrees
- Finance, Accounting, Economics, Banking, and Analytical or Consultancy careers
- Global business roles requiring understanding of international markets and economic environments
- Hospitality, Retail, Supply-chain, Logistics, and Service Industry management
- Further education including Economics, Law, Business Analytics, or multidisciplinary courses that value business awareness

Because the course develops both analytical and communication skills — and integrates quantitative, qualitative and strategic thinking — it is highly regarded by universities worldwide and industry employers alike.

# A-LEVEL Chemistry

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level | Specification Code: YCH11

## What will students learn?

### *AS Level (Year 12) – Core Chemical Principles*

In the first year, students establish a strong foundation in chemical knowledge. They explore atomic structure, bonding theories, periodicity, states of matter, chemical energetics, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibria and basic redox processes. These modules introduce core principles such as acid-base chemistry, moles and stoichiometry, gases, solutions and energy changes. Alongside theoretical study, practical laboratory work reinforces understanding through experiments, quantitative measurement and data handling — preparing students for rigorous analytical work.

### *A-Level (Year 13) – Advanced Chemistry & Applied Concepts*

Year 13 deepens into more complex chemistry. Students study advanced inorganic, physical and organic chemistry — including reaction mechanisms, energetics, electrochemistry, thermodynamics, kinetics, organic synthesis, environmental chemistry and industrial chemical processes. They explore advanced topics such as equilibria in dynamic systems, chemical bonding in transition metals, spectroscopy, polymer chemistry, and analytical methods. Through practical investigations, students learn to design experiments, interpret spectral or chromatographic data, evaluate reaction efficiency, and understand chemical applications in medicine, materials and environmental science.

## Skills and Scientific Understanding Developed

Over the course of the programme, students become proficient in quantitative reasoning, precise measurement, critical evaluation of chemical data, and logical problem-solving. They learn to balance theoretical knowledge with practical laboratory skills, interpreting experimental results, understanding error margins, and communicating findings in clear scientific writing. Analytical thinking, attention to detail, mathematical competence, and experimental planning become second nature — skills that are vital for advanced study in chemistry, engineering or applied sciences.

## Examination Structure (IAL Chemistry – Units & Assessment)

The full International A-Level Chemistry qualification is assessed through **six externally examined units**.

Unit	Title / Content Focus	Description
Unit 1	Core Physical & Inorganic Chemistry	Atomic structure, periodicity, bonding, energetics, basic physical chemistry
Unit 2	Core Physical & Inorganic Chemistry + Practical Skills	Includes kinetics, equilibria, redox, basic practical chemistry skills
Unit 3	Experimental and Further Physical Chemistry	Data analysis, chemical calculations, laboratory and investigative skills
Unit 4	Organic Chemistry & Analysis	Organic reaction mechanisms, structure–function chemistry, analytical techniques
Unit 5	Advanced Physical Chemistry & Transition Metals	Thermodynamics, electrochemistry, transition metal chemistry, inorganic complexities
Unit 6	Advanced Organic Chemistry & Practical Investigation	Synthesis, advanced organic transformations, environmental/industrial chemistry, practical data interpretation

Students must complete **all six units** to achieve the full A-Level qualification. Units combine written examinations and data-response questions based on theoretical and practical contexts, reflecting both conceptual understanding and experimental competence.

## Higher Education and Future Career Pathways

A-Level Chemistry is widely recognised as a rigorous scientific qualification, valuable for progression to numerous academic and career pathways. Graduates commonly proceed to:

- Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and other health-related fields

- Chemistry, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Environmental Science degrees
- Research and Laboratory-based roles in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, forensic science, environmental analysis
- Engineering, Energy, Manufacturing, Industrial Chemistry, Nanotechnology
- Combined sciences, interdisciplinary STEM degrees or dual-subject sciences

With its emphasis on analytical thinking, problem solving, quantitative reasoning and practical laboratory skills, A-Level Chemistry offers a strong foundation for both university study and scientific careers.

# A-LEVEL Economics

**Pearson Edexcel International A-Level | Specification Code: YEC11**

## What will students learn?

In this course, students develop a comprehensive understanding of economic principles, both on the micro and macro level, and learn to apply economic reasoning to real-world national and global issues. In the first part of the programme, they study how markets function: supply and demand, market equilibrium, price determination, consumer behaviour, elasticity, market structures, market failure and government intervention. They learn how individuals, firms and governments make decisions and how these decisions affect economies.

As the course advances, students explore macroeconomic topics such as national income, economic growth, inflation, unemployment, aggregate demand and supply, fiscal and monetary policy, and economic performance. They learn to interpret national and global economic data, assess economic policies, and understand how global events, trade, exchange rates and economic integration influence countries and markets.

In the final part of the course, students study business behaviour, strategic decision-making, corporate finance, market competition, production, costs, business structure and strategy. They also examine global economic development, international trade, globalisation effects, cross-border economics, and the challenges and opportunities of operating in a global economy.

Throughout, students learn to apply economic models, evaluate data, build arguments, weigh trade-offs, and think critically about policy, ethics, sustainability and economic fairness.

## Skills and Understanding Developed

Students acquire strong analytical abilities, quantitative literacy, and data-interpretation skills — learning to interpret statistics, graphs and economic indicators. They refine essay writing, structured argumentation, critical evaluation and synthesis of economic ideas. The course also strengthens decision-making, judgement under complexity, problem-solving in unfamiliar contexts and an understanding of global economic interconnections. These competencies support success in higher education — and in careers requiring economic reasoning, policy analysis, finance, business, and international awareness.

## Examination Structure (IAL Economics – Units & Assessment)

The International A-Level Economics qualification is assessed through **four externally examined units**.

Unit	Title / Content Focus	Duration / Assessment Type
<b>Unit 1 — Markets in Action</b>	Microeconomics: supply & demand, elasticity, market equilibrium, market failure, intervention, consumer & firm behaviour	1h 45 min written exam, data-response + essay sections
<b>Unit 2 — Macroeconomic Performance &amp; Policy</b>	Macroeconomics: national income, economic growth, inflation, unemployment, AD/AS, policy instruments, global economic indicators	1h 45 min written exam, data-response + essay sections
<b>Unit 3 — Business Behaviour</b>	Business economics: firm behaviour, costs, revenues, market structures, strategic business decisions	2h written exam, case-study data-response + essay questions
<b>Unit 4 — Developments in the Global Economy</b>	International economics: trade theory, globalisation, exchange rates, development, global economic policy	2h written exam, pre-released context + data-response and essay questions

- Students may receive the **International AS (IAS)** award by completing Units 1 & 2.
- To obtain the full International A-Level (IAL), all four units must be completed.

## Higher Education & Career Pathways

A-Level Economics offers strong academic grounding and supports progression into a broad spectrum of university courses and professional fields. Common pathways and potential careers include:

- Economics, Finance, Accounting, Business management, International Business, Banking and Investment
- Public Policy, International Relations, Economic Research, Government & NGOs, Development Studies
- Data & Business Analytics, Market Research, Consulting, Management Strategy
- Journalism, Economic Journalism, Social Research, Law & Public Administration — especially where economic literacy is valuable

- Degrees combining Economics with Mathematics, Political Science, Environmental Economics, Social Sciences or Global Studies

Because Economics combines quantitative, analytical and critical thinking skills with global awareness and contextual understanding, it remains a highly valued and flexible qualification for further study and employment.

# A-LEVEL English Literature

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level (IAL) | Specification Code: YET01

## What will students learn?

Through this course students engage deeply with literary texts from a wide range of genres and historical periods. They will study drama, prose and poetry, covering works from classical to contemporary, gaining insight into how writers use form, structure, language and context to shape meaning and evoke responses. Students learn to explore characterisation, theme, narrative voice, poetic techniques, dramatic structure and the cultural, historical and social contexts of texts. They also develop skills in critical thinking, comparative analysis and creative interpretation. Over the two years, learners build a well-rounded literary education, reflecting on how texts interact with each other across time and how different contexts influence interpretation and reader experience.

## Skills and Literary Understanding Developed

Students will refine their ability to articulate informed and personal responses to literature, supporting interpretations with critical reference to texts and literary terminology. They will learn to analyse how language, form and structure shape meaning, mood and effect. Comparative and thematic analysis — across different genres or historical periods — will deepen their understanding of literary traditions and cultural change. Additionally, students will master academic writing skills: constructing clear, well-argued essays, engaging with multiple interpretations, balancing evidence and evaluation, and writing fluently under timed exam conditions. These are transferable skills relevant for humanities, social sciences, law, journalism, creative writing, and any university discipline requiring critical reading and analytical writing.

## Examination Structure (IAL English Literature)

The IAL English Literature qualification comprises **four externally examined units** combining studied texts and unseen-text analysis.

Unit	Focus	Examination
Unit 1	Post-2000 Poetry and Prose	Length: 2 hours. Open book examination. Students answer two questions. One from Section A and one from Section B. Section A: Post-2000 Poetry

		Section B: Post-2000 Prose
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Drama</b>	Length: 2 hours. Open book examination. Students answer two questions: one question from Section A and one question from Section B. Section A: Pre-1900 Drama. Section B: Post-1900 Drama.
<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Poetry and Prose</b>	Length: 2 hours. Open book examination. Students answer two questions: the compulsory question in Section A and one question from Section B. Section A: Poetry. Section B: Prose.
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Shakespeare and Pre-1900 Poetry</b>	Length: 2 hours. Open book examination. Students answer two questions: one question from Section A and one question from Section B. Section A: Shakespeare. Section B: Pre-1900 Poetry.

- The first two units correspond to the International AS (IAS) award; the full A-Level (IAL) requires completion of all four units.
- Assessment includes a mix of open-response essays, unseen text analysis, and coursework-based comparison — giving a balance between structured knowledge and creative critical thinking.

## Higher Education & Future Pathways

A-Level English Literature develops skills and understanding highly regarded by universities and employers alike. It provides an excellent foundation for degrees in:

- Literature, English, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing
- Law, Journalism, Media & Communications
- History, Politics, Sociology, Cultural Studies
- Education, Publishing, Research, International Relations
- Any field where analytical writing, critical thinking, contextual awareness, and strong communication are valued

Because the course emphasises interpretation, argumentation, and textual insight, students from English Literature A-Level often perform strongly in disciplines requiring essay writing, debate, research and conceptual thinking.

# A-LEVEL Geography

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level (IAL) | Qualification Code: YGE01

## What will students learn?

Students begin by building a foundational understanding of the planet’s physical and human systems. In the early stages, they study natural processes shaping the Earth — such as tectonic activity, weather systems, climatic zones, coastal and fluvial landscapes, water and carbon cycles, and ecosystem dynamics. Alongside physical geography, learners explore population patterns, migration, urbanisation, globalisation and the interrelationships between humans and environments.

As the course advances, study broadens to global development, resource management, environmental change, sustainability, and the challenges posed by climate change, global inequalities and socio-economic pressures. Students conduct fieldwork, collect and interpret primary data, analyse spatial trends using maps and GIS principles, and evaluate case studies from around the world. Through this, they build a nuanced sense of how global systems — natural, economic and social — interact and evolve.

## Skills and Geographical Understanding Developed

Throughout the course, students develop strong analytical and evaluative skills. They learn to interpret data, maps, graphs and statistics to identify spatial patterns and environmental trends. Fieldwork, observation, case-study research and data analysis build practical skills in measurement, data collection, methodological design and report writing. The course nurtures critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making abilities — enabling students to assess environmental challenges, propose sustainable solutions, and understand global interdependencies. Skills such as geographical argumentation, structured writing, evaluation of evidence and interdisciplinary thinking equip students for both academic study and global citizenship.

## Examination Structure (IAL Geography – Units & Assessment)

The International A-Level Geography qualification is assessed through **four externally examined units** combining physical, human and synoptic/global geography.

Unit	Title / Focus	Assessment Format
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<b>Unit 1 – Foundations of Geography</b>	Core physical geography topics: Earth systems, tectonics, coastal & fluvial systems, water & carbon cycles	1 hr 45 min written exam — short-answer & structured questions
<b>Unit 2 – Applied Geography &amp; Global Systems</b>	Human geography topics: global development, population, urbanisation, economic change, resource use, environmental challenges	1 hr 45 min written exam — data-response & essay questions
<b>Unit 3 – Synoptic Geography</b>	Integrated study combining physical and human geography — global interaction, sustainability, climate change, global systems analysis	2 hr 30 min written exam — open-response and essay questions
<b>Unit 4 – Independent Investigation (Fieldwork/Research)</b>	Individual or group-based fieldwork project — data collection, analysis, evaluation; practical geographic enquiry	Coursework: written report + fieldwork documentation (non-exam assessment)

Successful completion of all four units leads to the full International A-Level (IAL) Geography qualification. Partial completion may lead to the International AS (IAS) award.

## Higher Education & Future Pathways

A-Level Geography is a flexible and respected qualification, widely recognised by universities and professional courses globally. Common progression routes include:

- Environmental science, Earth science, Climate studies, Sustainability & Ecology
- Urban planning, Architecture, Geography, Geology, Environmental management
- International development, Global policy, Humanitarian studies, International relations
- Environmental law, Resource management, Conservation, Disaster management
- Business, Real estate, Data analysis, GIS, Surveying — especially with spatial, economic or planning focus

The combination of scientific, social, analytical and research skills gained makes Geography particularly suited to interdisciplinary studies and careers requiring global awareness, adaptability and critical environmental understanding.

# A-LEVEL History

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level | Specification Code: YHI01

## What will students learn?

Students of A-Level History engage with a combination of depth studies, thematic breadth, and international contexts. In the first stage (IAS / Year 12), they study a detailed history “depth unit,” choosing one period or country-based option (e.g. France in Revolution 1774–1799; Russia 1881–1917; Germany 1918–1945; or Britain 1964–1990). This unit develops understanding of significant historical change, political, social and economic transformations and historiographical debate.

In the second stage (IA2 / Year 13), learning expands to broader thematic and comparative studies. Students examine themes such as war and diplomacy, superpower relations, civil rights, global conflicts or international systems — depending on the option chosen. This enables them to understand history on a broader canvas, draw connections across periods and regions, and appreciate the complexity of global historical developments.

Throughout, learners develop the capacity to analyse primary and secondary sources, compare interpretations, understand causation and continuity, and engage with complex historical questions. They learn to appreciate how context, power, ideology and human factors influence historical events, and how historical understanding evolves over time.

## Skills and Historical Understanding Developed

Students cultivate strong critical thinking, source-evaluation, evidence-based argumentation and essay-writing skills. They learn to assess differing historical interpretations, evaluate reliability of sources, synthesize information across events and themes, and construct coherent, well-supported historical arguments. These competencies — including research, analysis, comparative thinking, structured writing and conceptual understanding — are essential for higher education in humanities, social sciences, law, politics, and any career requiring robust analytical insight.

## Examination Structure (IAL History – Units & Assessment)

The IAL History qualification comprises **four externally assessed units**: two from the International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) and two from the IA2 stage.

Unit	Title / Focus	Exam Format
<b>Unit 1 – Depth Study with Interpretations</b>	A detailed study of one historical period / country from a set of options (e.g. France, Russia, Germany, Britain)	2-hour written exam; students answer two 25-mark essay questions from a choice of four.
<b>Unit 2 – Breadth Study / Historical Themes</b>	Comparative studies across periods / themes (depending on option choice)	2-hour written exam; essay-based assessment of broader historical issues and patterns.
<b>Unit 3 – Thematic Study with Source Evaluation (IA2)</b>	Thematic or issue-based history (e.g. civil rights, superpowers, warfare) combining depth and breadth in global or transnational context	2-hour written exam; source analysis + essay on historical interpretations.
<b>Unit 4 – International Study with Historical Interpretations (IA2)</b>	International / global themes: cross-regional comparisons, modern world history themes	2-hour written exam; essays demanding analysis of global historical processes, evidence, and interpretations.

### Award structure:

- IAS qualification awarded on completion of Units 1 & 2.
- Full IAL (A-Level) awarded when all four units are completed.

Assessment is essay-based; there is no coursework component — all work is externally examined.

## Higher Education & Future Pathways

A-Level History remains a globally respected qualification, valued for the analytical, research and critical thinking skills it develops. Graduates commonly progress to:

- Degrees in History, International Relations, Politics, Sociology, Law, Humanities, Cultural Studies

- Social Sciences, Anthropology, Archaeology, Global Studies, Economics (with History), Development Studies
- Careers in journalism, media, public policy, diplomacy, heritage, archival work, civil service, law, education and research
- Interdisciplinary pathways where historical perspective, evidence-based analysis, and argumentation are valued

History equips students to understand complex social, political and cultural processes — a strong foundation for higher education or any globally minded career path.

# A-LEVEL Mathematics

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level (IAL) | Specification Code: YMA01

## What will students learn?

In IAL Mathematics, students build a deep and flexible mathematical skill set combining theory, application, and modelling. During the early stages, they master Pure Mathematics: algebra, functions, trigonometry, geometry, sequences and series, calculus (differentiation and integration), and the logic and proof techniques fundamental to advanced mathematics. As they advance, content becomes more sophisticated: students handle complex functions, advanced calculus, vectors, coordinate geometry, exponentials and logarithms — all essential for higher-level mathematics.

Beyond pure maths, the IAL structure allows students to specialise through **applied mathematics** units. Depending on their chosen pathway, they explore **Mechanics**, applying maths to physical systems (forces, motion, kinematics, dynamics), or **Decision Mathematics** (algorithms, optimisation, graphs). This allows pupils to combine strong mathematical fundamentals with applied reasoning — beneficial for science, engineering, finance or data-driven studies.

Overall, the course develops not only computation and algebraic fluency, but also abstraction, problem-solving, mathematical modelling, data interpretation and logical reasoning — skills that are widely valued by universities and employers.

## Skills and Mathematical Understanding Developed

- Advanced algebraic manipulation, function analysis and understanding of mathematical structures and proofs.
- Calculus competence: differentiation and integration, enabling modelling of continuous change.
- Geometric reasoning, vector analysis and spatial mathematics for geometry and mechanics.
- Data handling and statistical reasoning (if a statistical pathway is chosen): interpreting data, probability, distributions, and statistical inference.
- Applied problem-solving and mathematical modelling — translating real-world or theoretical scenarios into mathematical form, solving step-by-step, and interpreting results.
- Logical reasoning, abstraction, critical thinking, precision and resilience — key for success in STEM, economics, analytics, architecture, engineering, and research-related fields.

## Examination Structure (IAL Mathematics)

IAL Mathematics is a **modular qualification** consisting of **six units (papers)**.

Unit / Paper	Content Focus / Description
P1	Pure Mathematics 1 — Algebra, functions, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, introductory calculus
P2	Pure Mathematics 2 — Builds on P1 with further algebra, calculus, sequences & series, exponentials & logarithms
P3	Pure Mathematics 3 — Advanced calculus methods, numerical methods and extension of pure math topics
P4	Pure Mathematics 4 — Final pure mathematics unit including coordinate geometry, vectors, advanced algebra, integration and further pure content
Applied Unit A	Applied Unit: Mechanics Unit M1
Applied Unit B	Applied Unit: Decision Unit D1

- Each unit is assessed via a **1 hour 30 minute external written examination**, marked out of 75 marks.
- To achieve the full A-Level qualification, students must complete all **four Pure Mathematics units (P1–P4)** plus **two Applied units**.
- The modular structure allows flexibility: units can be taken in different exam sessions (January, June, October), giving opportunities to manage exam load and resit units if needed.

## Higher Education and Future Career Pathways

Given its mathematical breadth and rigorous training, IAL Mathematics is highly regarded by universities and employers worldwide. It opens pathways to:

- Engineering (all branches), Physics, Mathematics, Data Science, Computer Science & Software Engineering
- Economics, Finance, Actuarial Science, Statistics, Business Analytics
- Architecture, Environmental Modelling, Physical Sciences and Research-Focused Degrees
- Any STEM degree requiring strong mathematical foundations, quantitative reasoning, modelling, and problem-solving skills

Because the course combines pure mathematics with applied options, students can tailor their profile depending on university prerequisites or career ambitions — whether more theoretical or application- and data-driven.

## **Recommended Entry & Suitability at Capital School**

IAL Mathematics is best suited to students who:

- Achieved a high grade in GCSE Mathematics (strong fluency in algebra, functions and problem-solving).
- Enjoy abstraction, logical reasoning, proof-based thinking, and mathematical challenge.
- Are prepared for sustained independent study, regular homework, consistent practise and critical thinking.
- Are aiming for STEM, economics, engineering, data-heavy, finance or mathematically demanding university courses or careers.

We recommend discussing with subject teachers and reviewing strengths before selecting Mathematics, to ensure a pathway aligned with student capacity and long-term goals.

# A-LEVEL Physics

Pearson Edexcel International A-Level (IAL) | Specification Code: YPH11

## What will students learn?

In the first part of the programme (AS stage / first year), students develop a foundational understanding of physical principles that underpin the behaviour of matter, energy and motion. Core topics include mechanics (motion, forces, energy, work), waves and optics, electricity, properties of materials and thermal physics. Students explore how physical laws govern everyday phenomena — from motion and light to electricity and energy transfer. Practical laboratory work introduces them to measurement, data collection, uncertainty, and controlled experiment methodology.

In the second year (full A-Level), study deepens with advanced topics such as electromagnetism, fields (electric, magnetic, gravitational), quantum physics and nuclear physics, astrophysics and cosmology foundations, and advanced wave behavior. Students examine modern applications of physics — from energy systems, particle physics, electronics, to astrophysical concepts — and learn to model complex systems mathematically and conceptually. Experimental skills remain central: students learn to design experiments, analyse data with precision, understand error margins, and evaluate theoretical models against observed phenomena.

## Skills and Scientific Understanding Developed

Students emerge with high-level scientific literacy, mathematical modelling competence, strong problem-solving and analytical reasoning skills. They gain proficiency in quantitative calculations, algebraic and calculus-based manipulation, interpreting graphs and data, and applying physics concepts to real-world and theoretical problems. Laboratory work builds technical competence, precision, critical thinking, and resilience — essential attributes for STEM disciplines. The course cultivates curiosity, scientific method, hypothesis testing, evaluation of evidence and responsible scientific judgement.

## Examination Structure (IAL Physics – Units & Assessment)

The full IAL Physics qualification is assessed via **six externally examined units** combining pure physical theory, applied physics and practical investigation.

Unit	Title / Content Focus
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<b>Unit 1</b>	Mechanics, Materials & Thermal Physics — fundamental physics concepts, waves, energy, properties of matter
<b>Unit 2</b>	Electricity & Waves — circuits, electromagnetism basics, wave theory and light
<b>Unit 3</b>	Experimental and Practical Physics — practical skills, data analysis, measurement, lab techniques
<b>Unit 4</b>	Fields, Quantum Physics & Nuclear Physics — advanced topics: fields, particles, quantum behaviour, nuclear phenomena
<b>Unit 5</b>	Astrophysics & Cosmology Concepts / Further Physics Applications — modern physics applications, astrophysical theory, advanced modelling
<b>Unit 6</b>	Further Practical & Investigative Skills — experimental design, practical data work, evaluation, scientific report writing

To gain the full A-Level qualification, students must complete all six units. Units are assessed via written examinations that test conceptual knowledge, problem solving, data interpretation, and application of physical theory.

### Higher Education & Career Pathways

A-Level Physics provides a strong foundation for a wide variety of science- and technology-based university courses and careers. Typical progression routes include:

- Engineering (mechanical, civil, electrical, aerospace, materials)
- Physics, Astrophysics, Space Science, Environmental Physics
- Computer Science, Robotics, Electronics, Data Science (with strong analytical background)
- Medicine, Biomedical Engineering, Biophysics, Healthcare-related science degrees
- Renewable Energy, Environmental Science, Geophysics, Material Science
- Research, Innovation, Scientific Development, Academia, Applied Sciences

The combination of theoretical knowledge, mathematical modelling, experimental skill, and problem-solving prepares students for both academic success and professional excellence.

# A-LEVEL Design & Technology (Product Design)

Pearson Edexcel | Specification Code: 9DT0

## What will students learn?

Students on this course develop the ability to design, prototype and evaluate real-world products. They explore the full lifecycle of product design — from initial research and specification, through material selection, manufacturing processes, digital design and modelling (CAD/CAM), to testing, evaluation and refinement.

Key learning themes include: understanding different types of materials (woods, metals, polymers, smart/modern materials), their properties and performance characteristics; mastering manufacturing techniques (machining, moulding, finishing, assembly), and using digital technologies for design and rapid prototyping. Students also examine broader issues such as user-centred design, ergonomics, sustainability, environmental impact, risk assessment, manufacturing industry standards, product maintenance, design for disassembly/reuse, and relevant legislation.

Parallel to technical and theory content, students produce a substantial **Design & Make Project** which involves identifying a problem (often in collaboration with a client or end-user), researching possible solutions, generating design proposals, creating a prototype or model, testing it, and evaluating against the original specification — encouraging creative thinking, practical skills, independence and project management.

## Skills and Understanding Developed

By the end of the course, students will have developed:

- Technical drawing, CAD/CAM design, modelling and prototyping skills
- Understanding of material science: material properties, durability, sustainability, suitability for different uses
- Knowledge of manufacturing processes and production techniques — from small-batch craft work to scalable manufacturing
- Problem-solving and design thinking — identifying user needs, generating solutions, iterating prototypes, evaluating outcomes
- Project management: planning, time management, resource allocation, risk assessment, documentation and evaluation
- Environmental and ethical awareness — designing for sustainability, waste reduction, compliance with legislation and standards

These skills equip students for higher-education courses or careers in design, engineering, product development, architecture, industrial design, manufacturing, and other creative/technical fields.

## Examination Structure

The A-Level is assessed through **two components**, each contributing 50% to the final grade.

Component	Type of Assessment	Duration / Format
<b>Component 1 – Principles of Design &amp; Technology</b>	Written Examination 120 marks 50%	2 hours 30 minutes; questions include short answer, extended writing, calculations, design evaluation, technical drawing, graphs/data interpretation
<b>Component 2 – Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): Design &amp; Make Project</b>	Coursework / Project 120 marks 50%	Portfolio + practical prototype/model + evaluation. Students research, design, manufacture and test a product design solution based on a real-world problem.

Together, these components evaluate both theoretical knowledge and practical ability — ensuring students are assessed across design thinking, technical competence, creativity, and problem-solving.

## Why Choose Design & Technology (Product Design)?

- Combines **academic study and practical skills**, ideal for students who enjoy creativity, problem-solving, and making things — not just exams.
- Offers **valuable transferable skills** — engineering, design thinking, project management, sustainability awareness — useful for many modern university courses and careers.
- Provides **flexibility for university or career pathways** — from engineering and product design to industrial design, architecture, manufacturing, sustainable design, innovation, and more.
- Encourages **independent learning, initiative and self-directed projects**, building maturity and readiness for Higher Education or vocational/creative industries.

## Higher Education & Career Pathways

- **Architecture** – Degrees in Architecture, or degrees leading to careers in building design and spatial planning.

- **Civil & Structural Engineering** – University programs in Civil Engineering or Structural Engineering, focusing on infrastructure, bridges, and building frameworks.
- **Construction Management & Quantity Surveying** – Courses in Construction Project Management or Quantity Surveying for roles in planning, budgeting, and overseeing construction projects.
- **Industrial & Product Design** – Degrees in Product Design Engineering or Industrial Design, combining creative design with engineering principles for manufacturing and innovation.
- **Building Services & Environmental Engineering** – Programs specializing in sustainable building systems, HVAC, and energy-efficient design for modern construction.

# BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 – Applied Science

**Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma | Equivalent to 1 A-Level**

## What will students learn?

The Applied Science Programme provides a broad and rigorous scientific foundation across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students begin by studying fundamental concepts such as cell biology, biological molecules, chemical bonding, periodicity, energy transfer, atomic structure, waves, electricity, and material behaviour. The course is grounded in practical and applied science — meaning students not only learn the theory, but also see how science operates in industry, medicine, biotechnology, forensics, environmental work and laboratory settings.

Throughout the course, students complete controlled scientific investigations, evaluate variables, analyse experimental data and apply theoretical principles to practical laboratory work. They develop understanding of how evidence is generated, processed and validated, and how scientific knowledge is used to solve authentic problems ranging from healthcare to environmental testing.

This programme is particularly suited to students who enjoy practical laboratory work, prefer ongoing assessment rather than exam-only routes, and wish to progress into technical science fields, health sciences or combined science + A-Level pathways.

## Skills and Scientific Understanding Developed

By studying Applied Science, students will:

- Develop laboratory confidence — equipment handling, microscopy, sample preparation, chemical testing and biological techniques
  - Plan and carry out investigations, record results accurately and evaluate reliability and validity
  - Interpret experimental data, calculate values, identify variables and justify conclusions
  - Produce structured research reports using scientific language and referencing
  - Learn vocational science skills relevant to healthcare, lab-work, environmental monitoring and biochemical analysis
  - Build transferable skills including critical thinking, applied problem solving, report writing and professional responsibility

These skills prepare students well for further education in applied science, health routes, biomedical pathways or technical roles in scientific industries.

## Course Structure & Assessment

**Assessment Method:** 100% internally assessed coursework & set assignments

**Number of Units:** 4 (3 Mandatory + 1 Optional)

Students are assessed through practical assignments, investigative portfolios, written reports and evidence-based scientific work rather than traditional exams. This suits learners who thrive in continuous assessment and enjoy hands-on science.

## Units Studied

### *Mandatory Units (all students complete these)*

1. Principles and Applications of Biology I
2. Principles and Applications of Chemistry I
3. Principles and Applications of Physics I

These form the core scientific foundation.

### *Optional Units (school selects one to complete the qualification)*

9. Biomedical Science
10. Climate Change
11. Functional Physiology of Human Body Systems
12. Human Regulation & Reproduction
13. Biological Molecules & Metabolic Pathways
14. Genetics & Genetic Engineering
15. Diseases and Infections
16. Applications of Inorganic Chemistry
17. Electrical Circuits and their Applications

Capital School will confirm which optional unit will run based on student need, staffing and practical specialism.

## Higher Education & Career Pathways

This qualification supports entry into:

- Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Applied Biology
- Healthcare professions — Nursing, Radiography, Medical Sciences
- Environmental Science, Sustainability, Marine & Earth Sciences

- Laboratory Science, Quality Control, Forensic Support
- Apprenticeships, Technical Science roles or Foundation Degrees

Many students combine Applied Science with A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Mathematics to strengthen university applications for medical or laboratory-based fields.

# **BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 - Business**

**Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma | Equivalent to 1 A-Level**

## **What will students learn?**

The Business Subsidiary Diploma offers a broad introduction to essential business knowledge and skills. Students begin by exploring the fundamentals of business operations, including enterprise functions, organisational structure, market research, customer needs, human resources, and the regulatory environment. They learn how businesses start, operate, respond to demand, and manage their workforce and supply chains.

As the programme continues, students develop practical business analysis skills: financial management (costing, budgeting, cash flow, profit/loss analysis), marketing and promotions, sales forecasting, and the basics of financial record-keeping. They examine how businesses make decisions in response to internal and external pressures, assess risk and opportunity, and plan strategically for growth or sustainability.

Finally, through real-world case studies and applied assignments, learners gain insight into corporate behaviour, entrepreneurship, global trade and the ethical, legal and social responsibilities businesses carry. Students learn to analyse business environments, propose strategies, communicate recommendations, and understand the responsibilities and complexities of running an enterprise in a competitive world.

## **Skills and Business Understanding Developed**

Throughout the course, students will develop:

- Analytical and decision-making skills: interpreting data, evaluating risk, projecting outcomes, and making informed decisions.
- Financial literacy: budgeting, profit analysis, cash-flow forecasting, cost management — foundational for roles in finance, accounting or management.
- Marketing & commercial awareness: market research, customer segmentation, promotions, branding and consumer behaviour.
- Communication and presentation: preparing business plans, reports, case studies, and delivering justified proposals or recommendations.
- Strategic thinking and problem-solving: responding to changing business contexts, evaluating external factors (economic, social, legal), understanding ethical and sustainable business practices.

- Entrepreneurial skills: initiative, planning, project management, leadership, teamwork and adaptability — valuable in both corporate and independent business environments.

These skills are widely transferable — suitable for further study or direct employment in business, finance, management, marketing, entrepreneurship, and many professional fields.

## Qualification Structure & Assessment

- The Business Subsidiary Diploma is assessed through **externally set internal assignments** rather than final written exams.
- Students complete a set of **mandatory core units** and a selection of **optional units**, with ongoing coursework, project work, case studies, presentations and assessments.
- The qualification is equivalent to **one A-Level**, making it compatible with mixed programmes (e.g., A-Levels + BTEC) for Sixth Form students.

## Core + Optional Units (Typical Structure)

According to the specification, the course includes both core and optional units. Core units cover fundamental business knowledge; optional units allow students to specialise according to interest and career direction. (Note: final optional unit selection may depend on centre offerings.)

**Core (mandatory) units** typically include:

- Business Environment & Enterprise
- Business Resources & Operations
- Marketing & Market Research
- Business Finance & Financial Awareness

**Optional units** (school / cohort dependent — may include):

- International Business
- Business Decision-Making & Strategy
- Human Resource Management & Recruitment
- Event & Project Management
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development
- Digital Business / E-commerce
- Business Communication & Enterprise Skills

## Paths After Sixth Form: Higher Education & Careers

This BTEC Business qualification opens up a variety of academic and vocational pathways, including:

- Degrees in Business Management, Accounting & Finance, Marketing, International Business, Human Resource Management
- Entry-level careers in retail management, sales, marketing, operations, administration, business support, project management
- Entrepreneurship — as a foundation for starting or running a business, social enterprise or consultancy
- Further vocational training or apprenticeships in commerce, hospitality, event management or business services

Because the course emphasizes real-world business understanding, practical skills and applied learning over purely academic assessment, it suits students seeking a hands-on, career-oriented approach — or who wish to combine practical business study with other academic subjects.

# BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 – Information Technology

**Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma | Equivalent to 1 A-Level**

## What will students learn?

This programme offers a comprehensive education in modern information technology, combining theoretical knowledge with practical, real-world applications. Students explore the design, implementation, and management of IT systems, databases, software, web and app development, as well as emerging technologies.

They learn how digital systems are built and maintained, how data is managed and secured, how software programs and applications are designed, and how information technology supports business, communication, and creative industries. Through project-based assignments, learners develop programming skills, database modelling, website and mobile app creation, system integration and IT support — preparing them for further study or direct entry into technology-related careers.

## Skills and IT Competencies Developed

The course helps students build:

- Proficiency in system design and architecture, and understanding of how hardware and software integrate
- Programming and software development skills, including logical thinking, debugging, and application development
- Data modelling, database management and information systems comprehension
- Web, mobile app, and multimedia development skills — relevant for digital media, creative, business, or IT industries
- Understanding of cybersecurity, data protection, system support, and modern network management (depending on unit selection)
- Project management, technical problem-solving, creative design, user-focus and professional IT practices

These skills are valuable for higher-education IT courses, computing degrees, or vocational pathways in software, web development, IT support, digital media and more.

## Structure & Assessment

- Qualification size: **360 GLH** (Subsidiary Diploma) → equivalent to one A-Level.

- Students must complete **all mandatory units** plus a selection of optional units totalling sufficient GLH for the diploma.
- Assessment is **coursework-based** — no final terminal exam.

## Units: Mandatory and Optional

### *Mandatory Unit (all students must complete)*

Unit #	Unit Title
1	Information Technology Systems – Strategy, Management and Infrastructure
6	Website Development

### *Optional Units*

Students choose optional units to complete the required programme hours. Examples include (depending on what the school offers):

Unit #	Unit Title
2	Creating Systems to Manage Information
3	Using Social Media in Business
4	Programming
5	Data Modelling
7	Mobile Apps Development
8	Computer Games Development
9	IT Project Management
10	Big Data and Business Analytics
11	Cyber Security and Incident Management
12	IT Technical Support and Management
13	Software Testing
14	Customising and Integrating Applications
15	Cloud Storage and Collaboration Tools
16	Digital 2D & 3D Graphics
17	Digital Animation and Effects
18	The Internet of Things (IoT)
19	Enterprise in IT
20	Business Process Modelling Tools
21	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)
22	Introduction to Robotics and Automation

23	Emerging Trends and Technologies
24	Technical Fundamentals for Computing Professionals
25	Full Stack Development

*Note:* The actual optional units offered may depend on school resources, staffing, and student demand. The above list covers the full suite available in the specification.

## Higher Education & Career Pathways

Graduates of this qualification may progress to:

- Degrees in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Systems, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Web & Multimedia Design
- Vocational or technical roles in IT support, network administration, web and app development, game development, data analysis, digital media, AI, and automation sectors
- Apprenticeships or further vocational courses in computing, digital design, and IT infrastructure

Because the course is practical and project-based, it gives solid preparation for both academic pathways and direct employment in dynamic digital industries.

A number of the units in the qualification in IT partially align with Microsoft Fundamental Certifications and the Microsoft Computer Science Curriculum, giving pupils a head start in attaining industry-level accreditation to pursue technical job roles.

# BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 – Sport

**Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma | Equivalent to 1 A-Level**

## What will students learn?

The Sport course provides a comprehensive education across multiple facets of physical activity, sports science, health, fitness, coaching and the business of sport. Students study anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, exercise science, health & wellbeing, fitness programming and the principles underpinning sports performance. Through practical training and theoretical study, learners examine how the human body responds and adapts to exercise, how to optimise performance, design training programmes, and understand the science behind movement, conditioning and recovery.

Beyond physiology, the programme covers coaching methods, leadership, sports psychology, fitness assessments, and practical delivery of training — preparing students for roles such as coach, fitness instructor or sports therapist. There is also a focus on the organisational aspects of sport and fitness: understanding sports business, fitness-industry structures, regulation, client services, and the professional standards required in sports practice.

Overall, students gain a broad and vocationally relevant understanding of sport from science to management — making the course suitable for those who wish to combine athletic interest with technical knowledge, coaching, health, fitness or sports-industry careers.

## Skills and Competencies Developed

Students will develop:

- Strong practical and technical skills: anatomy knowledge, fitness testing, training programme design, performance monitoring, coaching fundamentals, nutrition and health awareness.
- Analytical and evaluative capabilities: interpreting fitness data, assessing physical performance, evaluating training outcomes, monitoring health indicators, understanding injury prevention and safe practice.
- Leadership, communication and interpersonal skills: coaching, instructing groups or individuals, motivating clients/peers, planning sessions, explaining theory, maintaining professional conduct.
- Vocational awareness: understanding sports industry standards, client management, ethical responsibilities, fitness business operations, and pathways for career or higher education in sport, fitness or health sectors.

## Structure & Assessment

- The BTEC International Level 3 Sport Subsidiary Diploma is valued at **360 Guided Learning Hours (GLH)**, equivalent to one A-Level.
- Assessment is **coursework-based**: students complete internal assignments, practical assessments, project work, presentations, fitness testing, coaching portfolios or work-based tasks. There are **no traditional terminal examinations**.
- Students typically combine this one-year/ two-year BTEC Sport qualification with other A-Levels or BTECs, making it compatible with a mixed academic-vocational Sixth Form profile.

## Units: Mandatory and Optional

Because the BTEC Sport qualification structure can vary depending on centre pathway, here is a representative outline of **core and elective units** often used for the level-3 Sport Subsidiary Diploma (or similar). Final unit list depends on school offering and pathway focus (e.g. coaching, fitness, sport science, management).

### **Common Core / Mandatory Units** (*typical for foundational Sports programmes*)

- Health, Wellbeing and Sport
- Careers in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry
- Anatomy & Physiology for Sport / Human Body Systems

### **Optional / Elective Units** (*depending on centre selection / pathway*)

Possible optional units may include:

- Fitness Training & Programming
- Coaching and Performance Skills
- Sports Psychology / Sport & Exercise Psychology
- Practical Sports Performance / Skills Acquisition
- Sports Injury Prevention / Rehabilitation / First Aid
- Sport Nutrition & Wellbeing
- Sports Business, Facilities or Event Management
- Active Leisure & Community Sport
- Self-employment or Entrepreneurship in Sport / Fitness

*(Note: this list is illustrative — the final unit composition should be confirmed with your centre according to staffing and resources.)*

## Future Pathways: Higher Education & Careers

Completion of the BTEC Sport qualification can lead directly to:

- Degrees or further study in Sport Science, Sports Coaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, Fitness & Personal Training, Sports Management, Physical Education, Health & Fitness, Outdoor Leadership or related fields.
- Vocational employment as · Gym Instructor · Personal Trainer · Sports Coach (club / school / community) · Fitness/Fitness-Centre Staff · Leisure or Sports Facility Assistant · Sports Administrator · Rehabilitation Support / Fitness & Wellness Advisor.
- Combined academic-vocational routes: many students pair BTEC Sport with A-Level sciences, business or humanities to support entry into varied university courses or professional training.

Sport remains a growth sector globally — equipping students with both practical and theoretical competence, confidence in fitness and health, and transferable skills in leadership, communication and personal development.

# **BTEC INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 3 – Travel & Tourism**

**Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma | Equivalent to 1 A-Level**

## **What will students learn?**

This Travel & Tourism course gives students a comprehensive introduction to the global travel and tourism industry. They will examine how travel and tourism businesses operate, the variety of destinations around the world, and the influence of social, economic, environmental and cultural factors on tourism flows. Students learn about customer needs, marketing in tourism, destination management, hospitality, and how tourism organisations adapt to changing demand, global trends and sustainable practices.

Throughout their studies, learners engage with real-world scenarios: they review case studies, simulate travel operations, plan customer experiences, analyse global tourism data, assess the impact of tourism on destinations and communities, and understand how transport, accommodation, hospitality and service industries interconnect to deliver experiences worldwide. The emphasis is on applied knowledge, industry awareness, and vocational readiness — reflecting the dynamic, global nature of travel and tourism.

## **Skills and Vocational Understanding Developed**

Through the programme, students gain:

- Industry-specific knowledge of travel operations, destination analysis, hospitality and tourism management
- Customer-service, communication and commercial awareness — vital for roles in tourism, hospitality, event planning or travel services
- Research, data analysis and critical thinking — assessing global trends, sustainability, socio-economic impact, and business viability
- Project-planning and operational skills — designing itineraries, marketing tourism products, managing logistics or events
- Flexibility, cultural awareness, and global perspective — preparing learners for international careers or higher education in tourism, hospitality, business and related sectors

These skills make the qualification suitable for direct entry into hospitality and tourism roles or progression on to higher education in tourism, travel management, hospitality, business, or international service industries.

## Qualification Structure & Assessment

- The BTEC International Level 3 Travel & Tourism qualification is available at different sizes (e.g. 360 GLH for Subsidiary Diploma), making it roughly equivalent to one A-Level.
- Assessment is **coursework-based / internal assignments / set assignments** rather than traditional end-of-course terminal exams.
- Students complete a selection of **mandatory (core) units** plus **optional units**, depending on the pathway chosen by the school.

## Core & Optional Units (*Subject to centre offering and cohort size*)

Below are sample unit titles from the official specification — final units offered may vary per academic year / resource availability.

### *Core / Mandatory Units (all students complete)*

- The Travel and Tourism Industry
- Customer Service in Travel and Tourism

### *Optional / Elective Units (chosen by the school/pupils)*

These allow specialisation and deeper understanding of specific areas of travel, hospitality or tourism:

- Worldwide Travel and Tourism Destination
- Marketing Travel and Tourism to Domestic and International Customers
- Travel and Tourism Enterprises
- Specialist Tourism
- Sustainable Tourism
- The Airport Experience
- Visitor Attractions
- Global and Domestic Passenger Transport
- Events, Conferences and Exhibitions for the Travel and Tourism Industry
- Investigating Overseas Working
- Work Experience in Travel and Tourism
- The Cruise Industry
- Recruitment and Selection in Travel and Tourism
- My Country as a Tourist Destination
- The Accommodation Sector in the Travel and Tourism Industry
- Researching Current Travel Trends and Key Issues in Travel and Tourism

## Higher Education & Career Pathways

With Travel & Tourism Level 3, students are well-prepared for:

- Higher-education degrees in Tourism Management, Hospitality, Event Management, International Business, Geography/Tourism, or related fields
- Vocational careers in travel agencies, hospitality (hotels, resorts), airlines, transport, cruise lines, event and conference coordination, tourism marketing, destination management, and customer service roles
- International opportunities: the global scale of tourism means graduates may work in travel industries worldwide, where cultural awareness, languages, and business knowledge are valued

The qualification emphasises practical, transferable skills and industry knowledge — making it a solid foundation whether students proceed to university or choose a vocational route.

# Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

## Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Project Qualification

Standalone qualification — designed to complement A-Levels or BTECs.

## What is the EPQ & What Students Will Learn

The EPQ offers students the chance to conduct an independent, self-directed project on a topic of their choice — either linked to their current studies, future ambitions, or personal interests. This gives learners the freedom to explore a subject in depth that is not covered as part of the standard A-Level or BTEC curriculum.

The EPQ helps students build key academic and professional skills: project planning and management, independent research, critical thinking, analytical reasoning, academic writing, presentation and evaluation. As pupils plan and execute the project, they learn to source, evaluate and interpret information; manage time and resources; reflect on their own work; and present findings clearly and coherently. These are valuable competencies for university study, professional work, and lifelong learning.

## Qualification Structure & Assessment

- The EPQ normally requires about **120 guided learning hours** — including a taught component (approx. 40 hours) plus independent study and project work.
- There are **four project-type options** — students choose one type of project depending on their interests.

Project type	Typical Output / Format
Dissertation	A structured written report (≈ 5,000 words) — suitable for academic or theoretical topics
Investigation / Field Study	A research-based study using data collection, experiments or fieldwork — good for sciences, geography, environment, etc.
Performance	A practical or creative performance (e.g., music, drama), accompanied by supporting documentation/report
Artefact	Creation of a tangible product (e.g., a design, model, artwork, website, etc.) plus a supporting report explaining process and outcomes

- Assessment is **internally marked by the school**, moderated externally by Pearson.
- No external examination — evaluation is based on the project output, a production log, a presentation, and evidence of research and planning.

## Skills and Outcomes Students Gain

By completing an EPQ, students develop:

- Independent research and information-handling: sourcing credible resources, evaluating evidence, synthesizing insights
- Project management & planning: scheduling, milestone setting, self-motivation, time management
- Critical thinking, analytical reasoning and academic writing — useful for university-level study, dissertations, essays, and analytical tasks
- Communication & presentation skills — presenting arguments, demonstrating findings or artefacts, defending methodology
- Self-reflection and evaluation: assessing strengths, limitations, reliability; reflecting on learning and outcomes

These skills are highly transferable and valued in higher education and the workforce.

## Why Choose the EPQ at Capital School? – Benefits & Value

- Students can pursue a subject or question they are passionate about — beyond what standard courses allow
- The EPQ boosts independent learning, responsibility and self-directed academic work — preparing students for university-style study or research
- The qualification is **recognised by universities and employers** — adds value on applications, showing initiative, research capability and deeper intellectual engagement.
- For many students, especially those aiming for competitive degree courses (Medicine, Engineering, Humanities, etc.), the EPQ offers a chance to stand out and deepen understanding or explore complementary fields