



Nishkamschool

West London



Year 12 and Year 13 Course information Booklet

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A-Level English Literature

Subject	English Literature			
Exam Board	Edexcel			
Overview	<p>The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read widely and independently set texts and others that they have selected for themselves • engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them • develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation • explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them • undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions. 			
Course Structure	<p>The qualification requires students to study eight literary texts. Three of these have to be pre-1900 texts (including one Shakespeare play), plus one text first published or performed post-2000. There are 3 exam components to the course with one non-examination coursework: Component 1: Drama, Component 2: Prose and Component 3: Poetry. Non-examination assessment (coursework) where students will compare two chosen texts.</p>			
Assessment	<p>There are 3 exam components to the course with one non-examination coursework:</p> <p>Component 1: Drama</p> <p>Component 2: Prose</p> <p>Component 3: Poetry</p> <p>Non-examination assessment (coursework) where students will compare two chosen texts.</p>			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Journalism	Publishing	Teaching	Government
Unique Selling Point	<p>English is central to all other subjects, in developing students' literacy and teaching them to process and interpret complex ideas. Additionally, the coursework element encourages students to work independently and develop their research skills.</p>			
Further Information	Mr W Milligan and Ms A Sehijpal			

A-Level Mathematics

Subject	Mathematics			
Exam Board	Edexcel			
Overview	A-level maths builds on the knowledge gained in the GCSE course and introduces students to many fascinating and powerful new concepts that underpin much of our understanding of the modern world. Mathematics forms the backbone of many modern careers and disciplines and the A-level course prepares students for a future at university and beyond.			
Course Structure	The course has two principal strands: pure mathematics and applied mathematics. The pure component of the course introduces students to powerful tools such as trigonometry, differential and integral calculus. These topics are both interesting in their own right and have many practical applications. In the applied component students learn about mechanics – mathematical physics – and statistics – the study of data and probability. Mechanics develops students' problem solving abilities while statistics develops students' critical thinking skills.			
Assessment	<p>Students will not be externally entered for the AS exam – however AS-style exam papers will be used as assessments at the end of Year 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pure – 2 hours – 100 marks • Statistics/Mechanics – 1 hour 15 minutes – 75 marks <p>Students will be entered for an external A2 qualification with Edexcel which they will sit at end of Year 13, the papers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pure paper 1 – 2 hours – 100 marks • Pure paper 2 – 2 hours – 100 marks • Applied paper – 2 hours – 100 marks 			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Economist	Teacher	Software Engineer	Banking
Unique Selling Point	Mathematics underpins all modern science, technology, engineering and maths degrees/careers.			
Further Information	Mr Arscott and Mr Vijendra			

A-Level Further Mathematics

Subject	Further Mathematics			
Exam Board	Edexcel			
Overview	A-level further mathematics is a highly challenging and rewarding course that prepares students for further study/careers of a rigorously mathematical nature. Students study polynomial equations, calculus and trigonometry in much more depth, as well as exciting standalone topics like complex numbers. Further maths is highly sought-after for university courses such as mathematics, computer science and physics.			
Course Structure	<p>All students must study the modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Pure 1 (AS) • Core Pure 2 (A2) <p>And at - to be as synchronous as possible with the maths course - Nishkam students take the electives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Mechanics 1 • Further Statistics 1 			
Assessment	<p>Students will not be externally entered for the AS exam – however AS-style exam papers will be used as assessments at the end of Year 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Pure – 1 hour 40 minutes – 80 marks • Further Statistics 1/Further Mechanics 1 – 1 hour 40 minutes – 75 marks <p>Students will be entered for an external A2 qualification with Edexcel which they will sit at the end of Year 13, the papers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Pure 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes – 75 marks • Pure paper 2 – 1 hour 30 minutes– 75 marks • Further Mechanics 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes - 75 marks • Further Statistics 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes - 75 marks 			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Economist	Teacher	Software Engineer	Banking
Unique Selling Point	Mathematics underpins all modern science, technology, engineering and maths degrees/careers.			
Further Information	Mr Arscott and Mr Vijendra			

A-Level Physics

Subject	Physics			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	<p>The subject content discovered in A-Level Physics is relevant to real world experiences and it is interesting to learn about these in context. This specification is presented in a straightforward way, giving teachers the freedom to teach in the way that works best for our students at Nishkam School West London. This Physics specifications are a stepping stone to future study, which is why universities are consulted by this examination board to ensure that it allows students to develop the skills that they would want to see by the time they reach their first year of university. The course offered at our school inspires students and nurtures a passion for Physics thus allowing us to lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering.</p>			
Course Structure	<p>The course is linear with three papers sat at the end of Year 13 whereby the first two papers are with 34% of the qualification each and the first third paper is worth 32% of the qualification. The first two papers include standard questions based on the core content taught whilst the third paper assess the practical skills as well as their optional topic of choice.</p>			
Assessment	<p>Paper 1 Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion) Written exam: 2 hours 85 marks 34% of A-level</p> <p>Paper 2 Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8 Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1 Written exam: 2 hours 85 marks 34% of A-level</p> <p>Paper 3 Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 Written exam: 2 hours 80 marks 32% of A-level</p>			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Chemical Engineer	Astrophysicist	Nuclear Engineer	Audiologist
Unique Selling Point	<p>As part of enrichment we offer the Crest Gold award opportunity which are highly sought after by students applying to the best universities for any courses associated to physics and engineering. Aside from this, there are opportunities to take part in Olympiads aimed at post-16 students to develop the analytical view of high-order thinking information.</p>			
Further Information	Mr Patel			

A-Level Chemistry

Subject	Chemistry			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	<p>A level Chemistry studies the material world, and through chemistry we can describe and explain questions such as: "what happens when sugar dissolves in tea?"; "why is mercury a liquid at room temperature?"; "how do we make plastics?"; "what can we do about global warming?"; "how and why will I be affected if oil runs out?".</p> <p>Chemistry will continue to be at the forefront of responding the needs of society; with chemists central to making advances in designing new materials, efficient energy use, drug development, and technology, to name but a few.</p> <p>A level Chemistry courses cover a wide variety of basic concepts such as the structure of the atom; the interaction of matter and energy; how to control reactions; patterns in the Periodic Table; understanding carbon-based molecules.</p>			
Course Structure	The course is linear, students will complete 3 examinations at the end of Year 13.			
Assessment	<p>Paper 1 What's assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12) • Inorganic chemistry (section 3.2) • Relevant practical skills • written exam: 2 hours • 35% of A-level <p>Paper 2 What's assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9) • Organic chemistry (section 3.3) • Relevant practical skills • written exam: 2 hours • 35% of A-level <p>Paper 3 What's assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any content • Any practical skills • written exam: 2 hours • 30% of A-level 			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Forensic Scientist	Toxicologist	Analytical Chemist	Chemical Engineer
Unique Selling Point	Whilst studying A Level Chemistry, students will take part in workshops provided by career professionals. The students will receive a 'hands-on' experience to help them link the real-life applications of what they learn in the classroom. This will help students to stand out nationally and improve their career prospects.			
Further Information	Miss Stika			

A-Level Biology

Subject	Biology			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	<p>AQA Biology A Level equips learners with an in-depth understanding of the core Biological concepts that can translate into a range of further study at university or enable students to join stem related apprenticeships. The course covers topics such as Biological Molecules, Cells, Exchange, Genetic Variation, Energy Transfers, Genetics and Gene Technology. By covering a diverse selection of themes students get a breadth of learning opportunities enabling them to appreciate the complexity of all living organisms and their interactions on Earth. The course draws from GCSE knowledge but students drill down into the specifics and are challenged to develop their understanding more fully equipping them for their next stage of learning.</p> <p>A Level Biologists will develop and hone their practical skills by completing required practicals related to their classroom learning. Here they can gain first hand experience of the skills needed for a career in research. They prepare dilutions, improve their microscopy skills and get to use specialist equipment such as calorimeters when conducting their own planned investigations. Students are also taught how to find secondary evidence sources and evaluate these for credibility.</p> <p>This course is ideal for any student who has a passion for Biology and who has ambitions for a future career requiring strong analytical and critical thinking skills.</p>			
Course Structure	<p>The A Level course is comprised of 8 topics that are assessed at the end of Year 13. During Year 12 students will learn the theory and apply their practical skills by working through Topics 1 to 4. In year 13 the students build and extend on this knowledge by completing the learning for topics 5-8. Topic 1 - Biological Molecules, Topic 2 Cells, Topic 3 Organisms Exchange Substance with their Environment, Topic 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms Topic 5 Energy Transfer in and between Organisms, Topic 6 Organisms Respond to and Changes in their internal and External Environment, Topic 7 Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems Topic 8 The Control of Gene Expression</p>			
Assessment	<p>The course is assessed linearly and students will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 13, each 2 hours in duration.</p> <p>Paper 1 - Topics 1 to 4 - 35% of the overall grade Paper 2 - Topics 5 to 8 - 35% of the overall grade Paper 3 - Topics 1 to 8 - 30% of the overall grade</p>			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Medicine	Dentistry	Nutrition	Sports Science
Unique Selling Point	<p>Students gain a sense of independence throughout the course and are provided with relevant and engaging research articles from the Biological Sciences Review to help them broaden their understanding of the latest developments in the scientific community.</p>			
Further Information	Ms Cruickshank			

A-Level Sociology

Subject	Sociology			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	A-Level Sociology gives pupils the unique ability to understand the complex societies in which we live today. Pupils will develop a broad understanding of social theory and will be able to apply it to the topics we study. The course should foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes and change, and draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills from across the Sociology course. Pupils will study the sociology of Education with Theory and Methods, Culture and Identity, Beliefs in Society and Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Pupils will also study a range of sociological research methods and understand how sociologists produce their findings.			
Course Structure	Students will sit 3 papers at the end of year13. Each paper is a written examination and worth 33.3% of the final mark.			
Assessment	<p>Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods. Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks 2 hour written exam, 80 marks, 33.3% of the overall course.</p> <p>Paper 2: Option 1; Culture and Identity, Option 2; Beliefs in Society 2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A-level Section A: extended writing, 40 marks, Section B: extended writing, 40 marks</p> <p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods 2 hour written exam 80 marks 33.3% of A-level Questions Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks</p>			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Market Research	Journalism	Academic Research	Human Resources
Unique Selling Point	Studying A-Level Sociology gives pupils a unique awareness of how our society works. Pupils will develop a deep understanding of the social, political and economic issues that shape society and will be able to make judgments on whether or not we live in a fair and just society. Sociology will help pupils to broaden their minds and see the world in a new and interesting way. Pupils will be challenged to understand different perspectives and to formulate their own convincing opinions on the state of society			
Further Information	Ms Banks			

A-Level Business

Subject	Business			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	This course offers a comprehensive insight into the world of business, covering everything from operations and marketing to finance and strategy. It's designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for both higher education and the competitive business environment.			
Course Structure	This is a two year course where students study 10 units in total. 6 in year 12 and 4 in Year 13.			
Assessment	Students sit 3 exam papers at the end of Year 13. All papers are 2 hours long.			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Market Research	Finance	Accountancy	Entrepreneurship
Unique Selling Point	Everyone works in an organisation which is a business of some sort – so studying business is useful as you develop skills that are found in most jobs.			
Further Information	Mr Kerrisk			

A-Level Economics

Subject	Economics			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	The approach to Economics is to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, and encourage students to appreciate the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics. AQA have worked closely with teachers and universities to develop engaging and up-to-date content so that students can relate what they are learning to the world around them – locally, nationally and globally.			
Course Structure	This is a two year course split into two themes which run over the course of the two years. Micro and Macro.			
Assessment	Students will complete 3 exam papers at the end of the two years. Each paper is two hours long.			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Finance/Banking	Sales	Marketing	Insurance
Unique Selling Point	It helps you learn about how economics affects the world and the ways we live and how we can improve the economy to benefit the whole world.			
Further Information	Mr Kerrisk			

A-Level History

Subject	History			
Exam Board	Edexcel			
Overview	History A level is a two-year course which looks in both breadth and depth at Democracies in Change in the Twentieth Century and at how Britain Lost and Gained an Empire (1763-1914). In addition to the three examined units there is also a coursework element which will give pupils the opportunity to use Historian's work to reach their own conclusions.			
Course Structure	Year 12: Paper 1 (Britain Transformed) Paper 2 (The USA, 1955-92: conformity and challenge). Year 13 Paper 3 (Britain Losing and Gaining an Empire, 1763-1914, Coursework.: Britain Losing and Gaining an Empire, 1763-1914) and coursework,			
Assessment	Paper 1: 30% of final grade Paper 2: 20% of final grade Paper 3: 30 % of final grade Coursework (20% of final grade)			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Law	Archaeology	Editor/Publisher	Civil Servant
Unique Selling Point	Taking History A level will give you a wide range of skills and give you the context you need to understand the world around you. You will develop a wide range of transferable skills and will be able to apply them at degree and in the world of work. The ability to communicate effectively, to sustain an argument, to analyse, research and to problem solve are all skills that are valued by Universities and employers. .			
Further Information	Ms Gaymer			

A-Level Psychology

Subject	Psychology			
Exam Board	AQA			
Overview	Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. A-level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways			
Course Structure	Year 12 - approaches and methods related to the core areas of Psychology – cognitive, social, biological, developmental, individual differences and research methods Year 13- options Schizophrenia, Aggression and Relationships			
Assessment	<p>Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology written exam: 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level <p>Paper 2: Psychology in Context written exam: 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level <p>Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology written exam: 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level 			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Clinical Psychology	Marketing	Business	Nursing
Unique Selling Point	<p>You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers</p> <p>A mixture of hands on practical experience with theory</p>			
Further Information	Ms Chadha			

A-Level Geography

Subject	Geography			
Exam Board	Edexcel			
Overview	<p>Paper 1 topics include; Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security Paper 2 topics include; Topic 3: Globalisation 4A Regenerating Places Topic 7: Superpowers 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention</p>			
Course Structure	<p>The A-Level Geography course consists of three main components. Physical Geography covers natural processes such as the water and carbon cycles, coastal systems, and hazards. Human Geography explores themes like globalisation, regeneration and superpowers, focusing on the interactions between people and places. Fieldwork is a key part of the course, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge through practical investigations, culminating in an independent project. The course is underpinned by synoptic themes like sustainability, inequality, and global interconnections, providing a comprehensive understanding of global challenges.</p>			
Assessment	<p>Paper 1 Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks Paper 2 Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks Paper 3 Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks Non-examined assessment; Independent Study 20% of the qualification 70 marks</p>			
Career Opportunities and Further Education	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Urban Planning	Environmental Consultancy	Climatology
Unique Selling Point	<p>Combining scientific and analytical skills with a focus on real-world challenges, Geography is ideal for students keen on problem-solving and making a difference. It is also highly regarded for social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities university courses.</p>			
Further Information	Ms Gill/ Ms Tekin			