



COURSE GUIDE FOR
SIXTH FORM
AT TIFFIN

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INTRODUCTION TO A LEVEL CHOICES

This is an exciting time in your school career. For the first time you will have the opportunity to choose a study programme for the next two years that really reflects your interests and enables you to study these subjects in more depth.

If you are already studying at Tiffin, the Careers and Progression team are here to support you to make an informed choice about the best study options for you. We offer impartial advice and guidance and the Year 11 careers programme is tailored for you to explore and reflect on your options. For those students thinking about joining us in September 2024, there will be the opportunity to have a meeting with us at the start of the academic year to talk through your study programme and any future aspirations.

Having supported many previous cohorts through the process of choosing their A Levels, we have compiled answers to some common questions that students and parents ask ([frequently asked questions](#)).

Please use all of the available information to make informed choices and to make your own choice about what is right for you.

Mr Ryde
Careers and Progression Adviser
Tiffin School

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ART & DESIGN (EDEXCEL 9ADO)

Art & Design introduces students to a range of intellectual and practical skills. It provides students with regular opportunities to think imaginatively and creatively across a variety of media.

What will you study?

Students studying Art & Design will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of art media, processes and techniques. Traditional methods are studied as well as new media – the use of drawing for different purposes is examined, using a variety of methods and scales. Students will work in one or more areas of Art & Design such as drawing and painting, mixed media (collage), print-making, photography, ceramics, sculpture, film and architecture. Relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design are investigated.

The course enables students to learn how to reflect critically and analyse visual culture. Students will learn to think and make decisions as artists, applying themselves creatively and with visual intelligence. Students will be encouraged to develop confidence and technical competence, whilst their imagination and creativity is stimulated.

How is it assessed?

Component 1: Personal Investigation
60 % of A level

Set and marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel in June.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
40% of A Level

Set by Edexcel marked by the teacher and moderated by AQA in June.

An exhibition of students' work will conclude the course.

Enrichment opportunities?

Students have the opportunity to take part in a vast range of visits to London's museums and galleries both as teacher-led activities and as self-directed outings. Workshop opportunities at the major London galleries and art colleges are built into the course. Every year there is a residential art trip to a European city. Recent trips have included Venice, Rome, Barcelona and Berlin.

Students are encouraged to attend life-drawing classes as an integral part of the course. Students regularly submit their

work to National Art competitions. Recent success includes a British Film Institute award, work exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Academy. The Art & Design course also aims to help students to make decisions about University and further education choices in the creative industries. Excellent support is given in the preparation of portfolios and for Art School interviews.

Where might it lead you?

Many of our Art & Design students go on to higher education and secure degree places at internationally renowned Art Schools, such as Central Saint Martins and Camberwell. Past students have gone on to study Architecture, Fine Art, Film Studies, Gaming and Graphic Design amongst other disciplines. As a department, we aim to fully meet the professional criteria required by the creative industries in the UK.



BIOLOGY (AQA 7402)

Biology is an exciting, cutting edge science. The understanding of cell and molecular biology, ecology, genetics and evolution is essential to the continuing progress of society.

What will you study?

The school follows the AQA specification. The course is split up into eight modules, which will allow clear progression pathways, from GCSE to A Level, through to higher education. Each module covers different key concepts of Biology.

Topics covered in Year 12 are:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Exchange of substances between organisms and their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Topics covered in Year 13 are:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- The response of organisms to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics throughout the course.

How is it assessed?

The A level is a two year linear course with all exams taken in the Summer of Year 13. There are three exam papers:

- Paper 1: assessing topics 1 to 4
- Paper 2: assessing topics 5 to 8
- Paper 3: assessing any topic, but will focus on a synoptic approach and in assessing evaluation and analysis skills

Practical methods will be examined in the above papers, but there is also continual assessment of practical skills throughout the course:

- Practical Endorsement: 12 teacher-assessed practical activities

Enrichment opportunities?

A key part of the A Level will be covered during a residential course at a UK field centre at the end of Year 12. Students will have the opportunity to study biology out in the real world gaining practical skills and developing a real understanding of how science works.

Students also have the opportunity to attend off-site lectures delivered by internationally renowned biologists, to participate in national biology competitions, and to experience a university-led practical session.

Where might it lead you?

Although the course is complete and worthwhile in itself, it is also a suitable preparation for those intending to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science, and especially relevant to students wishing to pursue a degree course in one of the many Biological Sciences.

An A level in Biology prepares you for a range of careers in the science and health sectors including, but not limited to, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, zoology, biomedicine, forensics, biochemistry and science teaching, and provides you with transferable skills opening up opportunities in research, further education and other career areas.



CHEMISTRY (AQA 7405)

Chemistry is essential to understanding the world around us. The chemistry specification is a stepping-stone to future study and is fundamentally a practical subject.

What will you study?

The specification has separated the areas into physical, inorganic and organic chemistry to help students clearly identify which branch of chemistry they are studying and help with the progression through from GCSE to A level. This is particularly useful for students wanting to study chemistry at University and take up research opportunities in their chosen specialised field.

Physical chemistry builds on many topics from GCSE, such as atomic structure, bonding and rates then develops these into quantitative topics.

Inorganic chemistry builds upon group 1&7 looked at in GCSE and brings in new concepts looking at trends and patterns in the periodic table.

Organic chemistry opens up the massive area of chemistry linking simple molecules to molecules in the body, how and why

they react as they do.

How is it assessed?

A Level Chemistry is assessed at the end of the two years of study. There are 3 papers with Paper 1 looking at Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, Paper 2 covering Physical and Organic Chemistry, Paper 3 covering the 12 core practicals and is synoptic over the whole course with multiple choice questions.

There is also a separate practical endorsement, involving different practical skills and is used to demonstrate practical competence.

Enrichment Opportunities

During the two years there are many ways that chemistry aims to help students gain an understanding of science in the real world and help make decisions about career choices. Some examples are guest speakers speaking in our lecture period, taking part in Spectroscopy in a Suitcase (with the RSC) and visits to external lectures.

Where it might lead you?

Chemistry is a good basis for many careers in a wide and surprising range of sectors including medicine, dentistry, vet-

erinary science, pharmacy, biomedical sciences, agriculture, petrochemicals, aerospace engineering, biotechnology, accountancy and law. The A level is also highly regarded by all university courses as a challenging option requiring lots of skills.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (EDEXCEL PRODUCT DESIGN)

Good design is vital to our world and economy, and it is important, therefore, that we enthuse students with a passion for designing their futures.

What will you study?

Students following a course in Design and Technology (Edexcel Product Design) will further their appreciation of design, focusing to an extent on industrial techniques and practices. They will also develop their own design and technological capabilities through the designing and manufacture of high quality products. In addition they will analyse and, where appropriate, modify existing products and systems, and examine the implications of industrial production. The main areas of study are Design and Technology in Society, Materials, Computer Aided Design and Manufacture, and Product Analysis.

How is it assessed?

A Level Design and technology course is linear so assessment of student's knowledge takes place at the end of the two years of study. Within year 12 you will concentrate on developing an understanding of the subject which allows students to develop a range of skills and outcomes. This will be via theory sessions and practical design and make activities.

In Year 13 students are given the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired and developed to design and make a product of their own choice. The final assessment comprises of 50% coursework and 50% written paper.

Enrichment opportunities? Where might it lead you?

Design and Technology prepares you for a range of careers:

This includes all areas of Engineering, Product design and Industrial Design. The subject also supports careers in Architecture and Graphical communications.

There are considerable transferable skills which include development and demonstration of manipulative skills communication and project management.

Within Design and Technology we have links to industrial experience and input from a number of universities.

We actively encourage students to extend their experience via STEM, Smallpeice Trust and Arkwright Scholarships.



DRAMA (AQA 7262)

Drama emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances. Students choose to develop as a performer, a designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets), a director or a combination of these options. Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

What will you study?

The A Level Drama course will be made up of three key components; Drama and Theatre, Creating original Drama and Making Theatre. Students will be required to study two complete and substantial performance texts and three key extracts from a range of texts spanning different social, historical and cultural periods in theatrical history. Two theatre practitioners are studied from a practical perspective. The focus will be on exploring their

artistic intentions, their working methods and collaborations and applying them through practical exploration.

How is it assessed?

Component 1, Drama and Theatre, focuses on knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Students study in detail two set texts and are asked to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre. As a Drama Department we aim to visit the theatre at least twice every term. This component is assessed at the end of the course with a three hour written paper.

Component 2, Creating original Drama, is a practical component asking students to create their own devised performance that is influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner, chosen by the teacher. This work is assessed internally.

Component 3, Making Theatre, students are assessed on practically exploring and interpreting three published plays. Students are asked to use their understanding and methodologies of a theatre practitioner and apply that to their extract three performance, which is assessed by an external examiner. Students write a reflective report, using a holistic approach, analysing and evaluating their theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Enrichment opportunities?

This A Level is explored practically and theoretically. Students have opportunities to visit professional productions, at a reduced price, to develop greater insight into live theatre. We organise talks from professionals who have chosen a career path in Drama that allow students an opportunity to ask direct questions about their jobs. The Drama course aims to help students make decisions about University and further education. Students also have an opportunity to display their talents by performing in school productions and House Drama competitions.

Where might it lead you?

The AQA Drama course refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully work on their own creative ideas. Students learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-level Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.



ECONOMICS (EDEXCEL 9ECO)

Economics is an exciting, intellectually robust and highly relevant academic subject. Economics is both a body of knowledge and a set of principles. Economics is increasingly used to give insights into human and societal behaviour.

What will you study?

The Economics A Level is split up into four themes:

In Theme 1 you will study individual decision making and the operation of free markets – introductory microeconomics. You will consider the limitations of “free” markets and how the behaviour of “free” markets might be modified. In Theme 2, you will be introduced to introductory macroeconomics in order to gain an understanding of how national economies behave and how governments implement economic policy. Theme 3 deals with industrial organisation and business economics and finally in Theme 4 you will explore aspects of monetary economics and taxation as well as international and development economics. Throughout the course you will learn that Economics is a contested subject and that there exist de-

bates between different schools of economic thought.

How is it assessed?

You will sit three examinations.

Paper 1 covers Themes 1 and 3

Paper 2 covers Themes 2 and 4

Paper 3 covers all Themes

Each examination lasts for 2 hours and comprise short answer questions and calculations, data response questions and short essays.

Enrichment opportunities?

We have encouraged student teams to enter the Student Investor Challenge run by the London Institute of Banking and Finance and selected students have represented Tiffin in the Bank of England Target 2.0 Competition. Students have submitted work to a range of essay writing competitions and students have attended Royal Economic Society’s annual schools lecture as well as lectures at the London School of Economics.

Where might it lead you?

A Level Economics does not prepare you for any specific career, rather Economics should give you a grounding for you to engage with debates and take your place as a critically aware citizen. Lord Keynes summed up the characteristics of an economist thus:

“The master-economist must possess a rare combination of gifts He must be mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher—in some degree. He must understand symbols and speak in words. He must contemplate the particular, in terms of the general, and touch abstract and concrete in the same flight of thought. He must study the present in the light of the past for the purposes of the future. No part of man's nature or his institutions must be entirely outside his regard. He must be purposeful and disinterested in a simultaneous mood, as aloof and incorruptible as an artist, yet sometimes as near to earth as a politician.”

If you become a master economist then Economics will lead wherever you wish to go.



ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR H472)

Far be it from me to suggest why you ought to study English Literature at A Level. If you are reading this, the chances are you are already thinking about it. And for that I commend you.

What will you study?

You are required to study a minimum of eight texts, including at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole.

This includes:

- at least three texts published before 1900, including at least one text by Shakespeare
- at least one work first published or performed after 2000
- at least one unseen text

How is it assessed?

There are two examined components and one coursework component. The two exams are equally weighted and offer opportunities for you to provide extended exploratory responses.

The first exam component 'Drama and Poetry Pre-1900' offers you the opportunity to engage in close reading of Shakespeare's use of language. You will answer a two-part question; the first part will focus on an extract from your chosen

Shakespeare play and the second part will be an essay question which will assess wider knowledge of the play as a whole. In the second section you apply a combination of one drama text and one poetry text to a set of non-text specific but literary questions.

The second exam component 'Comparative and Contextual Study' will consist of a close reading (unseen exercise) and a comparative essay. The paper will be split into different topic areas. Chosen topics include: American Literature 1880-1940, The Gothic, Dystopia, Women in Literature and The Immigrant Experience. You will have a choice of texts (from a list of core set texts and suggested set texts) from within their chosen topic area. For the first part of this exam you will approach an unseen prose extract, from within your chosen topic area. The second part of the exam will offer you a choice of three questions of which they must answer one question on the set texts you have studied in your chosen topic area.

The coursework component requires you to study three texts from across the genres of poetry, drama and prose. Task one offers a choice between a critical piece and a recreative piece with a commentary. Task two is a 'linked texts' essay focusing

on connections and comparisons between two texts.

Enrichment opportunities?

Well, immersing yourself in the ways the greatest writers have used language to express the human condition is a continual enrichment in itself. Other specific opportunities include, theatre visits, workshops and external study days.

Where might it lead you?

That very much depends on you. The analytical, empathetic, discursive and interpretative skills (to mention just a few) that you will develop through studying English Literature are skills valued by academic institutions, all potential employers as well as potential life partners. According to the Russell Group's guide *Informed Choices*, English Literature is a 'facilitating' A Level. Certain A Levels are known as 'facilitating' because choosing them leaves open a wide range of options for university study. So there is that.



FRENCH (AQA 7652)

The study of French is not just the study of one of the world's most beautiful languages. This A level course opens the door to an immensely rich, multi-faceted and attractive culture, and is likely to have a fantastic impact on your personal development and career prospects.

Lessons are interactive, fun and varied. If you are looking for an infinitely rewarding, fun and enriching A level course, a highly respected qualification that is complementary to your other A level choices then French would be an excellent option.

What will you study?

The French A level consists of: 6 topics of study, the study of one film and one novel, and one individual research project on a topic of your choice. Underlying all these components is a continuing study of French grammar, aimed at enabling students to communicate with ever-greater ease and precision. Your study of topics will allow you to delve deep into certain key aspects of the French-speaking world's culture, examining current trends and current issues, as well as artistic culture and political life. The study of a film in the first year of A level, a novel in the second year and the Individual Research project will all serve to further deepen students' understanding and appreciation of the French-speaking culture whilst providing a stimulating variety of themes.

How is it assessed?

A level French is a linear course so assessment of students' knowledge takes place at the end of the two years study. The A level consists of 3 papers. Paper 1 is a Listening, Reading and Writing paper (the Writing element of which involves translation) and is worth 50% of the A level. Paper 2 is a Writing paper consisting of two essays, one based on the film studied and one on the novel studied. The Writing paper is worth 20%. Paper 3 is a Speaking paper which will focus on topics studied and the student's individual research project. The Speaking paper is worth 30%.

Enrichment opportunities?

The French A level course at Tiffin offers students numerous opportunities to immerse themselves in the French language. All A level students have weekly one to one sessions with a native French speaker. The department offers students the opportunity to take part in our long-standing and highly successful French exchange with a school in Caen and to engage in Work Experience trip abroad. The department also runs a number of trips aimed at broadening students' knowledge and understanding of French speaking culture, as well as a weekly film club.

Where might it lead you?

Further Education: The study of French A level not only promises to be life chang-

ing on a personal level – it is also likely to have a highly positive impact on your career prospects. The study of a language as part of a degree is recognised to have an impact on selection at top universities. The national shortage of language students and the excellent A level results obtained here at Tiffin combine to give our students a highly competitive advantage in relation to students studying other subjects. Former A level students have gone on to study a huge variety of subjects at degree level and whilst some students choose to major on Languages many opt for one of the immense number of combined degree courses that are on offer at top universities; all these courses then offer the advantage of a spending a year abroad.

Employment: Due to the emphasis placed on communication in languages, the transferrable and rare nature of skills language students develop, and the international nature of the world's market place, language students are highly sought after by employers in a huge variety of sectors ranging from Journalism, the Arts, Marketing, Banking, Law, Engineering, Accountancy, Academic research, and the Diplomatic service. The study of French at A level allows students to surpass national boundaries in their areas of expertise and to put themselves on the international playing field.



GEOGRAPHY (AQA 7037)

If you have a sense of discovery and enjoy studying a subject that is challenging, and both relevant and engaging, then this is the course for you. Geography has long been the subject that bridges the divide between the arts and sciences, making it one of the most valued A Levels in university applications for any academic field. It is essential to meeting the challenges of a fast-changing world in its embrace of environmental and current affairs.

What will you study?

During Year 12, the course comprises Water and carbon cycles, Coastal systems and landscapes, Contemporary urban environments, and Changing places. In Year 13, we continue with studies of Natural hazards, Global systems and global governance, and a fieldwork study. A range of research and fieldwork skills is examined in these units and is delivered throughout the topics covered and in a one-week residential fieldtrip to Devon & Dorset. These units allow in-depth research of climate change, water and energy security, superpower politics, human rights, and how London is changing as a world city.

How is it assessed?

A Level Geography is linear so assessment of student's knowledge takes place at the

end of the two years of study.

Component 1: Physical geography. Section A: Water and carbon cycles Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes. Section C: Hazards. Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes = 40% of A-level

Component 2: Human geography. Section A: Global systems and global governance Section B: Changing places. Section C: Contemporary urban environments. Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes = 40% of A-level.

Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation report of 3,000 – 4,000 words. 60 marks = 20% of A-level.

Enrichment opportunities?

As a fieldwork report is an intrinsic part of the course, a residential trip to Dartmoor and the Isle of Purbeck (staying at well-equipped field-centres) will give students the opportunity to study hydrology, coastal environments and the impact on the landscape of climate change. This will enrich study of the specification as well as provide the basis for their Component 3 report, learning how to measure and test aspects of the environment, developing practical and analytical skills that are highly regarded by both universities and employers. We also conduct an extended

project, that many students opt to follow, working with Royal Holloway (University of London) on a topic of each student's choice. These have been very valuable in student UCAS applications for a whole range of subjects, not just geography. We also attend a range of evening lectures at London universities through our links with these establishments.

Where might it lead you?

Geography, with its analytical bridging of sciences and arts, prepares you for a very wide range of careers and adds some unique skills to a CV and application. Typical destinations for geographers, from an extensive list, include:

- the Civil Service;
- environmental consultancies & protection agencies;
- information systems organisations;
- public utility companies;
- Investment banking;
- law;
- meteorology/climatology
- engineering
- surveying.

GERMAN (AQA 7662)

German is a language with a rich cultural heritage, as well as offering access to Europe's most influential economy.

What will you study?

The German A Level covers a range of topics, that focus on German speaking societies and their social and cultural change. In the first year social issues and the artistic culture in the German speaking world are covered. The main areas of focus are the changing family life in Germany, the digital world and youth culture, as well as German Festivals, Art and Architecture and Berlin's past and current cultural heritage. Studying the Oscar winning film "Das Leben der Anderen" will offer a deep insight into Germany's history, and the students will benefit from analysing an internationally celebrated piece of art, allowing them to develop a deeper understanding of the East/West conflict of the 20th century and the ability to eloquently analyse cultural and literary themes.

Our focus on grammar & higher level language skills empowers all students to bridge the demands between GCSE and A-level.

In the second year all students will have gained a solid basis, enabling them to grasp how the German speaking society is becoming more multi-cultural and dealing with topics, such as immigration, integration and racism. Furthermore the current political life of the German speaking world forms an essential part of the second year, discussing Germany and the EU, youth in Germany

and politics, as well as the reunification of Germany and its consequences. The second year will be enriched with the study of the internationally celebrated novel "Der Vorleser", where students will gain insight into a contemporary social topic, and adapt language utilised in a piece of literature.

How is it assessed?

A Level German is linear so assessment of students' knowledge takes place at the end of the two years of study. All topics covered over the two years of the course will be utilised and assessed in Paper 1. Students will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics within the linguistic skills listening reading, writing and translations. These topics will also build the basis of the speaking exam, where the students will have to engage with a stimulus card, based on course content and demonstrate their cultural and linguistic achievements. Their chosen research project builds the core of the Oral Exam. The third assessment, paper 2, comprises of 2 essays based on the film and novel that students have studied. The German A-level course will have enabled the students to analyse these effectively and write an engaging essay, targeting a core question.

Enrichment opportunities?

Gaining experience and insight into the German speaking culture is the foundation of the A level course. All students will have the opportunity to spend one week in Neu-

wied, near Cologne. Staying with a host family will ensure that all students gain an insight into everyday life along with practising their language skills on a regular basis. We have strong links to the German School in Richmond and year 12 collaborates with students from the German school in order to create a language workshop for all y7 Tiffin boys. A highlight is the trip to Berlin in y13, offering an extensive range of cultural and linguistic insights for all students. At this stage we aim to focus on the wealth of all cultural knowledge on offer in Berlin that will greatly support the students in their exams.

Where might it lead you?

As the largest economy in Europe, German is a crucial foreign language required for jobs in the UK and around the world. Germany's reputation for manufacturing, engineering and design is well known, and it is obvious that employers in these sectors highly value German language skills. What might not spring to mind as readily are the many other professions that actively seek German speakers. Germany and Switzerland have strong insurance and financial services sectors with operations all around the globe, including a strong presence in the UK.

Combining German with another subject at university will facilitate the development of transferable skills along with knowledge and open the doors to a variety of career paths.

HISTORY (OCR H505)

“I believe that the more you know about the past, the better you are prepared for the future”

Theodore Roosevelt

What will you study?

In Year 12 you will study the bloodiest of the English civil wars; the Wars of the Roses. The unit begins in 1450 with Cade’s Rebellion and ends with Henry VII’s death in 1509. Also in Year 12 you will study the French Revolution and the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte. In Year 13 the course focuses on Russian history. Like the French revolutionaries before them, Russia’s communists were idealists who intended to build a better society but their radicalism led to violence and repression on an enormous scale. You will study the last three tsars and the first three communist rulers, starting in 1855 and ending in 1964. Also in Year 13 there is a coursework unit which involves writing a 4,000 word essay on a topic of your choice.

How is it assessed?

There are three exams and a coursework essay. The weighting of the units are as follows: Wars of the Roses (25%), French Revolution & Napoleon (15%), Russia and its Rulers (40%) and coursework (20%). The coursework is submitted before Easter in Year 13 and all exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

Enrichment opportunities?

In the autumn we run a one day trip to Leicester to visit the Richard III museum; his tomb in Leicester Cathedral and the Bosworth battlefield. We have also run a multi-day trip to Paris to visit sites associated with the French Revolution and Napoleon. A Sixth Form History Society is run by the History Prefects on a weekly basis. We support entry into university essay competitions at the end of Year 12 for those wishing to study History at university and we run Oxbridge preparation sessions in the summer and autumn.

Where might it lead you?

Firstly, History provides you with contextual knowledge of past and thus a greater awareness of how the present has come to be as well as an awareness of the diversity of human society. Secondly, it also equips you with the ability to evaluate information critically and communicate arguments effectively. Therefore History prepares you for a career in law, policing, journalism, accountancy, the civil service and teaching to name but a few paths open to you as a historian.



LATIN & GREEK (OCR H443 & H440)

Dead languages are very much alive at Tiffin and have a solid presence within the Sixth Form. Studying Latin and Greek in our Classics Department is an ideal environment for anyone who is intellectually curious about the Ancient World and about language, and although it is academically very intensive, there is also a lot of time to expand and explore as people. The achievements of the Greeks and Romans have had an enormous influence on nearly every aspect of our own culture and students will find the study of Classical texts both provocative and challenging.

What will you study?

Both Latin and Classical Greek offer students a chance to explore the language, literature and civilisation of the Ancient World in breadth and depth. In the Sixth Form, students of Latin and/or Greek have the opportunity to study prose and verse literature in the original language, as well as building on linguistic skills acquired at GCSE. There is a lot of focus on prose composition and translation work. Small class sizes mean that students enjoy considerable support and individual attention, as well as tutorial style lessons.

How is it assessed?

A Level Latin and Greek are both linear so the final assessment comes at the end of

Year 13 in the form of two language and two literature papers. All the content is covered over the two year course. In addition, we currently offer students the opportunity to study Greek as a stand-alone AS subject in Year 12 or 13 which is examined via two papers after one year.

Enrichment opportunities?

The courses are enhanced by a vibrant programme of extra-curricular activities including: visits to the theatre both in and outside London, visits to museum collections, lectures, and trips to classical sites abroad. In recent years, students have participated in excursions to various sites across Italy, Turkey and Tunisia. We also encourage students to participate in Classics Summer Schools, such as Bryanston, UCL and Wells Cathedral Latin Camp in order to prepare them for University. We also have a very extensive University admissions programme, including visits to Oxbridge Colleges, meetings with Oxbridge academics and a full range of practice interview opportunities.

Where might it lead you?

Latin and Greek are certainly demanding A Level subjects, but ones which are endlessly rewarding. They can – and are – studied in combination with just about

every subject offered in the Sixth Form at Tiffin. They complement both Arts and Sciences. Examination results are very good indeed and the Department is proud of the steady stream of students that go on to study Classical subjects at University level, especially at Oxbridge and Russell Group establishments. Those who don't pursue Classics directly often find their Classical studies, the skills they have developed and the support provided by the Department not only enhance their university applications, but also support the work they go on to do in other fields, as diverse as Law, Medicine and Engineering.

MATHS (EDEXCEL 9MA0)

Mathematics is a very popular and much enjoyed subject at Tiffin. In an increasingly technological age, the skills and insights gained through a course in Mathematics are highly valued by employers.

What will you study?

The Maths course covers many of the topics you will have encountered in Maths GCSE but in greater depth. It also introduces new concepts such as logarithms, calculus and parametric equations. The course also includes Mechanics (the foundations of Engineering) in which forces, friction, projectile motion, Moments, dynamics and kinematics are taught. The Statistics section introduces students to different statistical distributions, hypothesis testing, correlation and regression. The course has a strong emphasis on problem solving and applications building skills that serve our students very well in the world beyond Tiffin.

How is it assessed?

Maths is taught over two years and assessed by three papers: two in Core Maths and one in Statistics and Mechanics.

Enrichment opportunities?

In addition to rigorous preparation for A Levels we strive to retain an excitement in the subject and offer opportunities for further involvement, for example through participation in the UK Maths Challenges and other competitions, lectures by prominent mathematicians, and the opportunity to research for an extended project. The department's weekly Riemann Zeta club caters for those who want to study maths beyond the curriculum and classes are run in preparation for STEP Maths and other university admissions tests. Many students support and mentor younger mathematicians through the Maths Prefect program.

Where might it lead you?

Maths is also an entry requirement for many Higher Education courses. In addition to Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Economics, Geology, Materials Sciences, Statistics, Business and Accounting courses often require maths A Level. It can also support courses including Medicine, Psychology, Biochemistry, Human Sciences, Management, PPE and Linguistics to name a few.



MATHS & FURTHER MATHS (EDEXCEL 9MA0 & 9FMO)

Further Mathematics is also a very popular and much enjoyed subject at Tiffin. It allows students to study the subject in greater depth and demonstrate even greater mathematical aptitude.

What will you study?

The Further Maths course builds on the A Level course with further study of key areas like calculus and proof. It also introduces further new concepts such as matrices, complex numbers polar co-ordinates. The course allows student to specialise and at Tiffin we offer three different specialisms in Mechanics, Statistics and Pure Maths. Student do not need to choose their specialisms until the second year by which time they will have a greater understanding of what these areas involve.

How is it assessed?

Elements of the Maths A Level and Further Maths A Level are both taught during the first year. Both the Maths A Level Further Maths A Level are assessed at the end of Year 13.

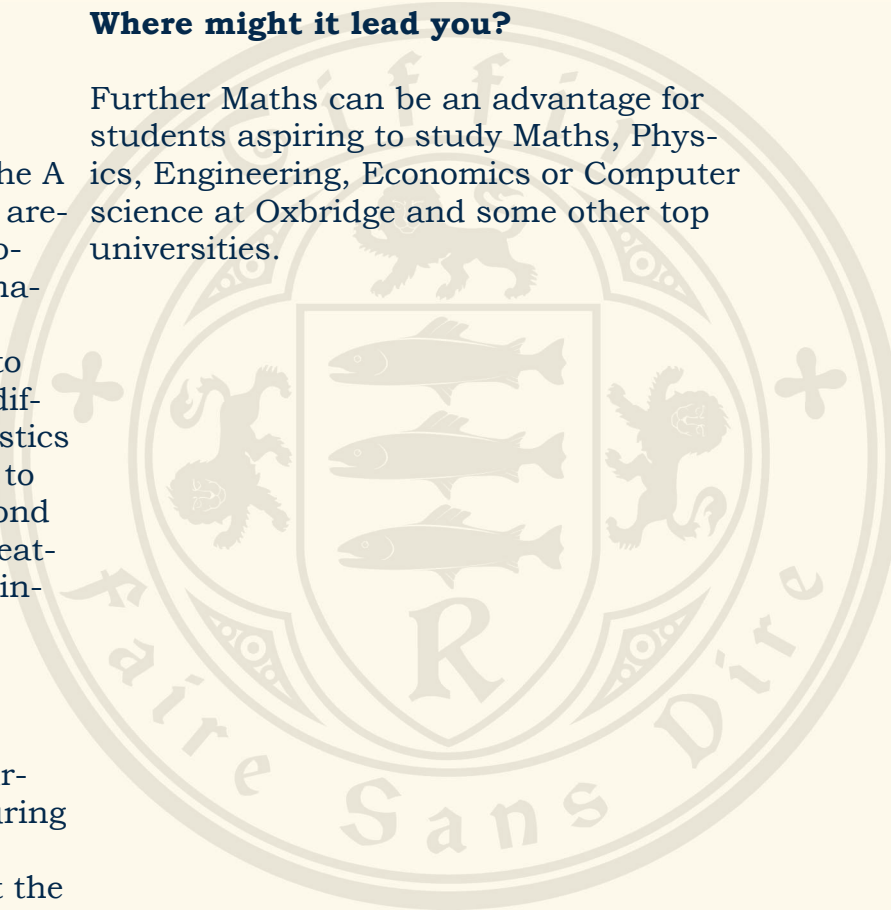
Enrichment opportunities?

All the enrichment opportunities available

to students studying Maths are also available to these studying Maths and Further Maths.

Where might it lead you?

Further Maths can be an advantage for students aspiring to study Maths, Physics, Engineering, Economics or Computer science at Oxbridge and some other top universities.



MUSIC (EDEXCEL 9MU0)

Music A Level is the perfect course for students who enjoy playing a musical instrument or singing and now wish to develop their understanding and appreciation of the music they perform. A level musicians perform, compose and analyse: a combination of activities which makes this subject especially engaging and varied, setting it apart from others. This course rewards students who have devoted their time and talent to music outside the classroom by recognising their achievements in the form of an A level.

What will you study?

Performing: Students perform on their chosen instrument or voice throughout the course. They have the opportunity to work with their instrumental or vocal teacher, the school's accompanists and fellow students to present recorded performances to their class, to the school community and to the public in lunchtime and evening recitals. A level music students develop their skills as performers through participation in the school's extensive co-curricular music programme, which includes the school's instrumental ensembles and choirs, among them Tiffin Boys' Choir.

Composing: Through their study of the set works, students develop their understanding of a wide range of compositional techniques. Additionally, they study in detail the techniques of J.S. Bach who es-

tablished conventions, many of which continue to be followed by composers today. Using the music of their favourite writers as models, students compose their own music, developing their ideas through draft compositions. Students complete exercises in which they apply the techniques they have learned to simple melodies.

Appraising: Students listen to, analyse and write about a wide variety of music, including set works from the Edexcel Anthology of Music. These range from Vivaldi's Concerto in D minor to Bernard Herrmann's film music for Psycho; from Stravinsky's Rite of Spring to Kate Bush's Hounds of Love. Students write about features of the music and its social and historical context. They compare this music to other music they have heard, performed, or studied.

How is it assessed?

Performing (30%): Students record practice recitals throughout the course and, at the end, submit an 8 minute recorded recital of approximately Grade 8 standard (a 6 minute, Grade 7 standard recital is required at AS level).

Composing (30%): Students develop their ideas through draft compositions, one of which is extended into a final composition of 5 minutes in length. In this unit, pupils also use the compositional techniques of J.S. Bach to harmonise melodic material, completing and submitting a harmonised

chorale melody in April/May of the examination year.

Appraising (40%): In a final exam, students listen to, analyse and write about a wide variety of music, focussed on set works from the Edexcel Anthology of Music. Students respond to both short-answer and long-answer (essay) questions, commenting on features of the music, on its social and historical context and its relationship to other music they have heard, performed, or studied.

Enrichment opportunities?

At Tiffin, all A level musicians benefit from participating in the school's extensive co-curricular programme. Tiffin musicians regularly perform in major venues (Royal Albert Hall, Barbican, Festival Hall, Royal Opera House) with the UK's top orchestras (LSO, LPO, Philharmonia), on radio and television (BBC, ITV, Classic FM), and on film (The Hobbit, Philomena). They have toured Europe, China and Australia. Among the ensembles which rehearse and perform regularly at school are the Tiffin Boys' Choir, Chamber Choir, Oratorio Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Swing Band, Wind Band and various chamber groups. Many advanced musicians also join the Thames Youth Orchestra and Thames Youth Jazz Orchestra based at the Tiffin schools. In recent years, members of Tiffin's choirs and instrumental ensembles have been awarded

MUSIC cont. (EDEXCEL 9MU0)

music scholarships to study a wide variety of subjects at Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and at music conservatoires. You are encouraged to visit the music department website where you will find more information, including an events calendar and weekly rehearsal timetable on the homepage:

<https://sites.google.com/tiffin.kingston.sch.uk/music>



Where might it lead you?

The best reason to study Music A level is that you enjoy and have a talent for the subject, leading you to work hard and achieve an excellent result. Recognised by all universities as a rigorous, academic course, involving analysis, application of formulae, and essay writing,

the A level music qualification will prepare you to study a wide range of degree subjects, including sciences, humanities, languages and arts. Similarly, those who go

on to study music at university follow a wide variety of careers, not limited to music. Common music graduate destinations (as identified by the Russell Group) include law, finance, government, consultancy, media, publishing and IT. For those who wish to pursue a career in music, Music A level is also the perfect course. Music graduates become not only performers and composers but also presenters, producers, recording engineers, arts managers and administrators.



PHYSICS (AQA 7408)

What will you study?

In year 1 you will study Particle Physics, Quantum Physics, Waves, Mechanics and Electricity. In year 2 you will study Electric and Gravitational Fields, Magnetic fields, Further mechanics, Thermal Physics, Nuclear Physics and finally Astrophysics.

You will also learn to apply practical skills throughout the course during a range of practical activities which take place during normal lessons.

How is it assessed?

The conceptual content is assessed in three, two hour exams at the end of the two year course. The papers contain a mixture of short and long answer questions, with about 20% of marks given over to multiple choice. The first two papers cover roughly the first and second year of the course respectively. The third paper assesses Astrophysics and practical skills.

A separate practical endorsement is awarded at the end of the course if, during the practical lessons throughout the year, the student has successfully demonstrated each skill within the Core Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) specified by the joint exam boards.

Enrichment opportunities

There are two student-led societies which tend to involve Physics students more than any other – the Engineering Society and the Physics Society. Both societies organise regular events such as competitions, trips as well as lunch time lectures from visiting academics and ex-Tiffinians.

The Physics department runs a two week 'extended project' at the end of the Summer term in Year 12. This is a chance for students to team up and design a machine, piece of software or experiment that has recently captured their imagination. The projects are accredited by the British Science Association's CREST scheme. Every year around 30 students achieve Silver although occasionally some teams put a bit of extra effort over the Summer to get to the Gold standard. As well as this, a small number of Physics students are selected for the Engineering Education Scheme which is hosted by BP and Air Products.

Last year, the department took 20 boys to the Joint European Torus, a fusion reactor in Oxfordshire. Around the same number of students also visited Saipem, a multinational oil and gas service company who have their headquarters in Kingston town centre. Teacher led societies include Astronomy club, Rocket club and Camford

Club. All Year 12 students attend a lecture every two weeks as part of their timetabled lessons. The majority of these lectures are given by Physicists and Engineers who have been generous enough to come to Tiffin and talk about their careers. Past visitors have included an F1 Engineer, A radiologist, Physicists from NPL, Pipeline Engineers and Pharmaceutical analysts.

Where might it lead you?

Every year roughly ten students go on to study Physics at university, and around twenty go on to study Engineering. Two years of A-level Physics will develop your problem solving skills, numerical and spatial ability and perhaps most importantly will give you some insight into how engineers and scientists solve (sometimes only partially) real world problems. A combination of imagination, reasoning and determination. "a problem well-stated is half-solved." Charles Kettering.



POLITICS (EDEXCEL 9PLO)

'I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy.'

John Adams (2nd President of the United States 1797-1801)

Politics defines every aspect of our lives from jobs and education to healthcare and internal relations. Studying politics gives you a greater understanding of who makes these defining decisions and how they are reached.

What will you study?

The Politics A-Level is divided into 3 units covering different aspects of UK and global politics. Unit 1 covers issues of political participation including political parties and voting behaviour as well as the core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism. Unit 2 examines the structures of UK government as well as a further political ideology, in our case nationalism. Unit 3 is a comparative study of the US political system in which American political structures, parties and participation are compared with their British equivalents.

How is it assessed?

As a linear subject, Politics is assessed at the end of the two year course of study.

Each unit has equal weighting (33.3%) and has its own paper (3 total), each lasting 2 hours. Papers 1 and 2 consist of two essay questions (a 30 mark and 24 mark question, each from a choice of two) with one being based on a given source. Paper 3 has two 12 mark questions (the first being from a choice of two) and two 30 mark essay questions (from a choice of three).

Enrichment opportunities?

As part of studying UK Government (Unit 2), Year 12 students travel to Whitehall for a visit to Parliament and the UK Supreme Court to see how these key institutions operate first-hand. Beyond this, the Department runs mock general elections to parallel to the real thing, regularly hosts external speakers/debates including a recent visit by Zac Goldsmith MP and there is a student led mock parliament where issues of the day can be vigorously debated. All of these opportunities gives students a taste of the political world around them.

Where might it lead you?

Politics provides excellent grounding for a range of university courses and career possibilities. The course's emphasis on critical thinking, research and debate lends itself to developing the key skills

needed to thrive in university education. However a Politics A-Level is particularly relevant to those exploring the possibility of a social science/humanities course (History, Economics, PPE, Sociology, English, etc.) but also to those looking to gain a broader perspective of the world. Beyond higher education, a Politics A-Level traditionally prepares students for careers in finance, law, journalism, marketing, public relations, civil service, social advocacy and naturally politics.

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY(OCR RELIGIOUS STUDIES H573)

Philosophy and Theology is a unique A Level subject that helps students to “know thyself”, recognise the philosophical assumptions of their other subjects and provide different frameworks for integrating the humanities, sciences and arts in a unified whole.

What will you study?

The Tiffin Philosophy and Theology A Level is taught as a survey course covering the history of Western metaphysics, epistemology and ethics from the time before Socrates to our own (from the “Presocratics to the Postmoderns”). Political philosophy, moral philosophy, applied ethics (business ethics, sexual ethics, etc.), philosophy of science, anthropology, theology, psychology and the philosophy of mind are some of the main themes of the course. In Year 12 we study foundational scholars from antiquity, medieval and early modern periods such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume and Kant. In Year 13 we study more advanced topics with reference to 20th and 21st century philosophers, thinkers and movements including Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Marxism, Logical Positivism, Pragmatism, Psychoanalysis (Freud), Existentialism (Sartre and De Beauvoir) and Radical Orthodoxy.

How is it assessed?

The course is linear and formally assessed at the end of two years study. In addition to take home essays, we also have timed mock exams at the end of Year 12 and in the Spring term of Year 13.

Enrichment Opportunities

In order to assist the UCAS process, students use departmentally developed booklets (designed especially for Oxbridge applicants). For a number of years we have been invited by academics from the University of Oxford to attend undergraduate style seminars designed especially for Tiffin students. We also intend to visit notable centres of philosophical, theological and cultural interest.

Where it might lead you?

Many go on to study philosophy, politics and economics in PPE courses, double degrees (Philosophy with Physics, etc.) or as standalone subjects.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA 7582)

Physical Education and sport play a large part in student life at Tiffin school. The ability to study it at A level has returned, after a brief hiatus, and we look forward to developing students enthusiasm, understanding and knowledge of sporting environments, psychology and physiology. A hugely enjoyable course which relies heavily on an individual's passion for all things sport as a performer and an official.

What will you study?

Students will look at the physiology behind a sports person at different levels and discover how this reflects on performances, whilst also applying theories of biomechanics and skill acquisition. Sports' impact on society and its relationship with the media and technology is constantly evolving and what this does to its image plays a big part in the course. The great mix between the practical and written aspects of the course are the key draws to studying Physical Education at A level.

How is it Assessed?

There are two papers each of which are two hours long. Paper one contains applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society. Paper two contains exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology, society and technology in sport. There is also a non-examined element (NEA) of the course in which a student is assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity, which is worth 30% of the course.

Enrichment opportunities?

The course will include opportunities to gain qualifications for officiating and coaching. Following this exposure to matches in school competitions which may lead to opportunities to more advanced and paid coaching, officiating and leadership roles outside of school. Trips to fixtures, competitions and lectures make the experience of studying such a broad subject more exciting. In addition, there are certain perks which may include priority entry to the school sport facilities including our state-of-the-art gym.

Where might it lead you?

Physical education is a subject which can be combined with any other studied at Tiffin school and the opportunities beyond A level are vast. It is often seen as even more advantageous when combined with sciences and this can enhance experiences in those subjects at A level. There are obvious paths you can take following A level PE including: coaching, psychology, sports development and management, physiotherapy, osteopathy, sociology, nutrition and naturopathy, personal training, teaching, sports science, professional athlete and so much more. The skills such as analysis and evaluation, communication, social and physical performance gained from this course can be transferred across so many different platforms and this is one of the courses greatest strengths.

PSYCHOLOGY (AQA 7182)

The Psychology course provides students with many varying approaches and viewpoints within the discipline. Psychology is a highly scientific subject incorporating mathematical elements, with the comprehensive study of statistical tests. Psychology also requires strong extended writing skills to meet the high demands of the examination assessment.

What will you study

Over the course, you will study topics such as social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology and schizophrenia to name but a few. The different approaches used within Psychology (Biological, Cognitive, Behavioural and Psychodynamic) will encompass the topics visited and provide a rounded understanding of the many arguments within the discipline. We also learn about, and can try for yourself, some of the research methods used by psychologists. As well as this, you will take an in-depth look at ways of testing your results for significance. Teaching involves discussion and practical investigation wherever possible and you will be encouraged to critically evaluate the research you meet, an essential skill for higher education.

How is it assessed

There is no coursework component. Your grade will be provided through examinations taken at the end of the course which include multiple choice, short and long answer essay style questions.

Enrichment opportunities

We offer visiting speakers, HE and extension activities and an independent research project.

Where might it lead you

Psychology students can go into a vast array of careers which are both directly and indirectly related to this subject. Typical fields include: Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Mental Health Work, Teaching, Sports Psychology, Medicine, Sales and Marketing and many more.

The subject is popular, both in school and at university, attracts a wide range of students studying both arts and science subjects and can lead on to a variety of careers. Many students continue Psychology at university. Others pursue the full spectrum of careers including medicine.

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SPANISH (AQA 7692)

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages across the world, and is an official language of 21 countries spanning Europe and the Americas. Contemporary Hispanic society has a diverse history and revolutionary politics, world-renowned creative arts, music and literature and is a melting pot of rich and widely varied cultures. Spanish is the third most spoken language globally, with almost 500, 000, 000 native speakers of Spanish worldwide and an estimated 9 million people learning the language. Why not become one of them?

What will you study?

Spanish A level is divided into 4 core modules. In Year 1 (Year 12) you will study Aspects of Hispanic Society and Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World. These modules include a range of subtopics such as cyberspace, celebrity culture, women's rights, regionalism and cultural heritage across the Hispanic world. In Year 2 (Year 13) 2 further topics are introduced: Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society which examines contemporary issues such as rac-

ism, integration and immigration; and Aspects of Political Life in the Hispanic World exploring monarchies, dictatorships and social movements in Spain and Latin America. In addition, students study two cultural topics during the course: the cinema of the renowned Spanish film director Pedro Almodóvar (Year 12) and a play by Andalucía's Federico García Lorca (Year 13).

How is it assessed?

Spanish A level is a 2-year linear course with all assessments taking place upon completion of the course as final examinations. Students will be assessed over all contemporary and cultural topic areas studied during the course. Separate papers tests skills in all four core language skills. Paper 1 is Listening, Reading and Writing; Paper 2 is a Speaking examination and Paper 3 is a Written Paper designed to test key essay writing and translation skills in the foreign language.

Enrichment Opportunities?

Study of the cultural topics will include day trips to theatre and cinema to enrich

students' understanding of the cultural topics through (interactive) workshops. There will also be opportunities to visit Spain.

Where might it lead you?

Spanish is a sought after and increasingly popular language across a range of careers, research opportunities and further education. 'A level' Spanish is a gateway to a career as a linguist (translator or interpreter), and is highly valued as a specialised and transferable skill for those wishing to pursue a career in education, law, international business and finance or global health economies.



Notes: While every attempt has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is correct, there may be some changes before the start of the year. You may combine any A Level subjects although on rare occasions the timetable may make some combinations impossible, or it may be necessary to cancel an advertised course.