



GLENALMOND



SIXTH FORM GUIDE

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About Glenalmond Sixth Form

A large proportion of a pupil's time in the Sixth Form is spent on their chosen subjects, making it extremely important to arrive at a coherent choice of course. Subjects in the Sixth Form are considerably more demanding than GCSEs and will require much more private study and background reading. The pupil should have a real interest in the subjects to be studied as well as a good level of competence in them.

Time is set aside within the Sixth Form timetable for private study. In order to gain maximum benefit from it, a pupil needs to develop the self-discipline required to work effectively on his or her own, thereby deepening understanding and laying the foundation for the approach to study needed in Higher Education. There is an expectation that pupils in the Sixth Form will work on their own initiative beyond the lessons, study periods and evening prep - Lower Sixth six hours, Upper Sixth eight hours per week. Sixth Form pupils should also expect to do some work during the holidays.

The College has a central Library which is available for use by Sixth Formers and provides a unique and stimulating environment for private study. Where appropriate, departments run tutorials and lectures outside the formal timetable and make use of the school's audio-visual and ICT resources as part of the teaching programme. In the Lower Sixth, study time is supervised by staff.

It is hoped that the subject descriptions given in this booklet will help all concerned to support a pupil in making an appropriate choice of Sixth Form course. The entries are, of necessity, brief, but Heads of Department and subject teachers are always willing to give further advice on their own areas.

For pupils already at Glenalmond, the main link that parents have with the College is the Head of Sixth Form, Housemaster or Housemistress, and they are the best people to supply overall guidance. Parents of all Fifth Form pupils are invited to Glenalmond in the Lent Term to meet the staff and understand the requirements of our senior qualifications. Needless to say, GCSE results gained at the end of the Fifth Form will have a significant influence on the ultimate choice of a pupil's Sixth Form courses, as will career ambitions and intentions.

Subject Choices

Option 1 A Levels

Option 2 BTECs

Additions EPQ and IELTS

Option 1

If a pupil decides that A Levels are the right option for them, they will choose three A Levels (some may choose four). There will be no external AS examinations at the end of Lower Sixth. All A Level courses will be taught in a linear fashion e.g. no modules, and at the end of two years, the pupils will take all of their A Level examinations. This will allow further time for study throughout the two years and more time for revision at the end of the course.

The 20 A Level subjects we offer are: Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Design & Technology, Drama, Economics, English, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Politics, Psychology, and Spanish.

Option 2

If a pupil decides that BTECs are a better option for them, they can choose from three different subjects. The BTEC courses offered are largely modular with pupils completing a portfolio of assignments during the course and sitting a single examination taken in the Lower Sixth. The BTEC is equivalent to one A Level and is accepted by many universities.

The 3 BTEC subjects we offer are: Countryside Management, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, and Sport and Exercise Science.

As our A Levels and BTECs are taught on a timetable of 12 lessons per fortnight over two years, pupils may wish to choose a mixture of A Levels and BTECs. This should be discussed with the Head of Sixth Form before any decision is made.

Additional Qualifications

The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a stand-alone qualification designed to develop skills in independent research and project management. By selecting and managing their own project, the EPQ allows pupils to extend their abilities and prepare for university or their future careers. It is worth half an A Level (28 UCAS points for an A*) and so can be used to earn extra UCAS points; some universities make offers with an EPQ grade included. The EPQ is completed by Trinity half-term in Lower 6th.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is the world's most popular English language proficiency test for higher education. If you are a non-native English speaker and want to attend an English-speaking university, then your university offer will include achieving a certain level in the IELTS test, usually 6 and above. It is recognised by universities and companies globally so when you take this test, you know that educational institutions and employers will recognise it. Both the EPQ and IELTS qualifications can be taken in addition to the two options above.

Entry Requirements for the Sixth Form

Pupils entering the Sixth Form will normally have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C or above. Pupils from other schools who wish to enter the Sixth Form at Glenalmond should normally have achieved similar qualifications at GCSE. For those who have followed SQA National 5 courses, a minimum of five passes is expected.

Support, Enrichment and Extension

Head of Sixth Form - Mr Darren Tolan is the main point of contact for information regarding the choice of course or subject and the grades required to progress to higher education. Our Careers department contains an extensive library and there are various lectures throughout the year to help pupils prepare for life beyond Glenalmond.

Academic Tutoring - Throughout the Sixth Form, each pupil is assigned an academic tutor. His or her responsibility is to guide their tutees' progress by monitoring their performance, assisting with career choices and university entrance requirements, and to offer support when it is required. Tutors meet formally with their tutees several times each week and informally as and when necessary as well as leading them through the tutor programme and the Academic Review. All tutors are attached to their tutees' House.

The Lecture Programme - All Sixth Form pupils take part in a lecture programme which covers areas such as current affairs, personal development, choice of degree subject, choice of and application to university, interview techniques, careers, gap year options, etc. There is also a series of lectures and visiting speakers which provide PSHE information - Personal, Health, Social and Citizenship Education.

Gifted and Talented Coordinators - Mr Tolan (Head of Sixth Form) and Mr Pounder have overall responsibility for the most able pupils in the College. Mr Tolan co-ordinates the Sixth form 'Aspire' group whilst Mr Pounder runs the William Bright Society. They will advise on university choices and subject choices and liaise with the Heads of Department to arrange practice interviews.

UCAS Tariff Points

A Level	BTEC	EPQ
A* (56)	D* (56)	
A (48)	D (48)	
B (40)		
C (32)	M (32)	
		A* (28)
D (24)		A (24)
		B (20)
E (16)	P (16)	C (16)
		D (12)

University Entry Requirements

Please see below the entry requirements for some common courses in the UK.

Course	University	A Levels
Computer Science	Manchester	A*A*A*
Medicine	Plymouth	A*AA - AAB
Law	Edinburgh	A*AA
Psychology	Bristol	A*AA - AAB
Politics	Newcastle	AAB
Classics	St. Andrews	AAA
Engineering	Exeter	AAB - ABB
Economics	Heriot-Watt	ABB - BBC
Microbiology	Reading	ABB - BBB
Business	Aberdeen	BBB
Nursing	Liverpool	BBB
Accounting	Oxford Brookes	104 UCAS Tariff Points
Agriculture	Harper Adams	96 - 112 UCAS Tariff Points

Staff Contacts

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A Level Subjects

Art and Design: Fine Art

The course should be seriously considered by pupils who have a natural ability in art-based disciplines, visual literacy and creativity. Pupils should have attained a good grade in GCSE Art and Design or arrive with a detailed and varied portfolio for interview. This course is fast-paced, challenging, practical and contextual. You would be expected to be self-motivated and driven. You will be taught how to be the most creative version of yourself. Creativity is highly sought after in the job market and the range of transferable skills you learn in Art and Design ranging from problem-solving, purposeful risk-taking, idea generating and action-based research will prepare you for your future career.

Course Content and Assessment

- Understanding how to develop a project from an initial starting point.
- Experimenting with materials, concepts and ideas.
- Presenting a series of mini projects on a theme.
- Learning to analyse your own work and the work of others in a contemporary, historical and cultural context.
- Beginning of the Coursework element of the course.
- A specialist project built on the skills and knowledge acquired when studying the Lower Sixth units
- A related Personal Study between 2000 and 3000 words fully referenced.
- Personal investigation (01) 120 marks non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated). This will consist of 60% of the A Level.
- Externally set task (02) 80 marks 15 hours non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated). This contributes 40% of the A Level.

Careers and Higher Education

The diversity of employment for Art and Design graduates is greater than many people realise. As well as the traditional practice carried out by an Artist or Designer working in their own studio, other potential careers are many and varied. These include advertising, graphics, illustration, multimedia, web design, games design, film, television, animation, architecture, interior design, product design, applied arts such as fashion, textiles, ceramics, jewellery, museum and gallery work, styling and buying for the retail and publishing sectors, community education and art therapy, education.

Biology

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that is not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you are bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the doors to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

Course Content

The course, "AQA A Level Biology 7402", is taught over two years, and is assessed by three terminal written examinations. Over the two years, there are eight topic areas taught:

In the Lower Sixth, we teach the first 4 out of the 8 topic areas (Cells, Biological Molecules, Exchange, Variation). During the year, 6 key practical experiments which support the learning also have to be carried out.

In the Upper Sixth, we teach the final 4 out of the 8 topic areas (Energy Transfer, Homeostasis, Genetics, Gene Expression). During the year, 6 key practical experiments which support the learning also have to be carried out which will complete the 12 required in total.

A "Science Practical" endorsement element that covers experimental work is also covered (this involves "12 core practicals" which are externally moderated). This part does not influence the marks or final A Level grade but a pass or fail in this section is recorded on the pupil's A Level certificate alongside the grade.

Assessment

Paper 1 - 2 Hour Written Paper (91 Marks, 35% of A-Level)

Paper 2 - 2 Hour Written Paper (91 Marks, 35% of A-Level)

Paper 3 - 2 Hour Written Paper (78 Marks, 30% of A-Level)

Careers and Higher Education

According to bestcourse-4me.com, the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Biology are Biology, Psychology, Sport Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology and Toxicology. However, we have also had pupils going on to study Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Business, Journalism and French in recent years.

Studying A-level biology opens up all sorts of interesting career options, including; Doctor, Geneticist, Conservation Officer, Pharmacologist, Research Scientist, Vet, Science teaching, Marine Biologist, Dentist, Physiotherapist, Nurse, Midwife.

Business

This course focuses on the skills required to successfully set up and run a business or third-sector enterprise.

Course content

Glenalmond College follows the AQA 7132 Business A Level syllabus. The main topics covered are:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision-making
3. Decision-making to improve marketing performance and operational performance.
4. Decision-making to improve financial performance and human resource performance.
5. Analysing the strategic position of a business
6. Choosing strategic direction and methods of following strategies.
7. Managing strategic change

In the Lower 6th pupils investigate how businesses operate. This includes the functional areas of business such as Marketing, Human Resources, Finance and Operations. In the Upper 6th, pupils will learn about how the business environment provides opportunities and imposes constraints on the pursuit of short-term and long-term objectives and strategy.

Assessment

Paper 1: (33% of the final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made up of multiple choice questions and essay questions.

Paper 2: (33% of the final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made up of three data response questions.

Paper 3: (33% of final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made of data response and essay questions.

Careers and Higher Education

Business is one of the most popular A Level subjects nationwide and will combine well with a range of A Level options. The AQA Business A Level course taught at Glenalmond will act as an excellent introduction to any Accountancy, Business, Commercial, Financial or Managerial course at University, and is widely recognised by any future employer.

Chemistry

A Level Course Description

We study A-level Edexcel Chemistry which includes the classic organic, inorganic and physical chemistry elements of the subject. There is a lot of emphasis on understanding bonding and structure with an up-to-date study of modern analytical techniques. Practical work remains core throughout the course along with quantitative problem solving.

Assessment

The A Level course is taught linearly, over two years, and is assessed by three terminal written examinations (300 marks). There are a total of 19 subject topics; topics 1-10 are covered in the Lower Sixth with the remainder covered in the Upper Sixth. 9CHO/01 examines topics 1-15, 105 minutes, 90 marks; 9CHO/02 examines topics 1-10 and 16-19, 105 minutes, 90 marks and 9CHO/03 is a synoptic paper which covers all topics 1-19, 150 minutes, 120 marks.

A "Science Practical" endorsement element that covers experimental work is also covered (this involves "core practicals" which are externally moderated). This part does not influence the marks or final A Level grade but a pass or fail in this section is recorded on the pupil's A Level certificate alongside the grade.

Careers and Higher Education

As the titles of the topics studied suggest, Chemistry finds application in a variety of areas; indeed, it is essential for some, notably the medical sciences. In its pure form, it is excellent training in logical thought and is a very versatile numerical undergraduate degree from which to progress to a variety of careers.

Classical Civilisation

(OCR, H408) The study of the Classical world gives us invaluable insight into how we think, live, and behave today. The texts are all in English translation (so no need to know any Latin or Greek), and we also study various visual and material sources, some of which are in the College's own collection, to bring the learning experience to life.

Course Description

The World of the Hero (Examination: 2 hr 30 minutes, 100 marks, 40%)

Homer's *Odyssey* (Lower 6th) and Virgil's *Aeneid* (Upper 6th)

The *Odyssey* was considered by the Greeks themselves to be a cornerstone of Greek culture, marking the beginning of the Western literary canon. Telling the story of the hero Odysseus' ten-year journey home, this is simply one of the best stories ever told. With its brilliant characters and vivid narrative, the *Odyssey* has been enjoyed since its composition. Studying it allows us to appreciate Homer's lasting legacy and to explore his attitudes and values as much as our own. Virgil's *Aeneid* is a landmark in Western literature. Drawing inspiration from Homer, as well as from his own cultural and political context, Virgil explored what it was to be a hero and created a work that has proven enduringly popular.

Greek Religion (Examination: 1 hr 45 minutes, 75 marks, 30%) - Lower 6th

This paper explores the function, status, and significance of religion in the Greek world. We study the nature of the gods and their relationship with mankind, as well as some of the most famous archaeological sites in Greece, several ancient works of art, as well as some ancient philosophy and theology.

Greek Theatre (Examination: 1 hr 45 minutes, 75 marks, 30%) - Upper 6th

We read three plays in detail for this paper: Sophocles *Oedipus the King*, Euripides *Bacchae*, Aristophanes *Frogs*

Still performed, these are among the most famous works of Greek drama. Studying these plays gives us a vivid picture of how the ancient world relied on visual imagery as much as literary; in turn, we consider and compare our own world in relation to the ancient to help us understand many aspects of our own lives. This paper puts the plays, and drama in general, in their cultural, historical, and theatrical contexts.

Careers and Higher Education

Classical Civilisation develops strong skills in analysis and evaluation of a wide range of sources, as well as the ability to think coherently and argue clearly. As such, it serves as an excellent foundation for any university course. Obvious career paths might be Law, Journalism, Marketing, Publishing, and PR, but Classics graduates end up in a variety of jobs (including Prime Minister...).

Design and Technology: Product Design

Design and Technology: Product Design seeks to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding, skills and applications for designing products. Product Design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. Products that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants and needs, enhance our day-to-day lives, and, most importantly, allow pupils to demonstrate their design and technology capability.

The study of A Level Design and Technology aims to:

- provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their own creativity, capability and entrepreneurial skills
- apply knowledge and understanding to a range of technological activities
- develop critical thinking and collaborative skills.

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

Written examination: 3 hours

50% of the qualification, 100 marks

Topic 1: Designing and Innovation

Topic 2: Materials and components

Topic 3: Processes

Topic 4: Industrial and Commercial Practice

Topic 5: Product analysis and systems

Topic 6: Human Responsibility

Topic 7: Public interaction - marketing and research

Component 2: Designing and making principles Project (Paper code: 9DT0/02)

Non-examined assessment

50% of the qualification, 100 marks

Careers and Higher Education

This subject could lead to the following courses in Higher Education: Product Design; Furniture Design; Industrial Design; Interior Design; Materials Science; Graphic Design; Computer Graphics; Art and Design; Engineering

Drama

The A Level Drama and Theatre Studies specification (Edexcel) is designed to provide a balance across a range of learning activities. This specification combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements.

Unit 1: Devising

Unit 2: Text in Performance

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Course Content

Unit 1: This internally assessed unit requires pupils to devise an original performance piece from a stimulus in the form of an extract from a play. A portfolio submission of written work on the creative process must also be included. Worth 40% of final grade.

Unit 2: This is an externally assessed unit. The first section requires pupils to perform either a monologue or duologue. The second section requires pupils to contribute towards a performance of a professionally published play. Worth 20% of final grade.

Unit 3: This externally assessed unit takes the form of a 2 hour 30 minute written exam which requires pupils to explore plays, from a choice of set play texts, from the point of view of a director and a theatre reviewer in both an academic and practical way. Worth 40% of final grade.

Assessment

Internal: Unit 1

External: Unit 2 Lent Term dependent on visiting assessor

June exam series: Unit 3

Careers and Higher Education

All universities and degree-awarding institutions recognise Drama and Theatre Studies A-Level as a valid qualification. The transferable skills you will gain through this course will be of use to you even if your career ambitions have nothing to do with Drama. You will develop a problem-solving approach to your learning, which should develop your intelligence and capacity to deal with challenging situations. You will also learn to work well with others. You will be open to active participation in decision-making, you will know when to take the lead, and you'll be used to listening constructively to other people's ideas.

Economics

This course focuses on developing an understanding of the operations of markets and the economic system using the framework of economic theory.

Course content

Part 1: The operation of markets and market failure

Topics include: the economic problem and economic methodology; The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets; Individual economic decision making - this includes "Behavioural" Economics; Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly; The labour market; and The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality.

Part 2: The National Economy in a global context

Topics include: The measurement of macroeconomic performance; How the macro-economy works: the circular flow of income, Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply analysis, and related concepts; Economic performance - eg: GDP growth, inflation, employment; Macro-economic policies - eg Monetary Policy; Government Fiscal Policy - taxation, spending and borrowing; Supply-side Policies. Financial markets and monetary policy; Fiscal and supply-side policies; and The international economy.

Assessment

Paper 1: (33% of the final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made up of data response questions and essay questions.

Paper 2: (33% of the final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made up of data response questions and essay questions.

Paper 3: (33% of final mark) This is a 2-hour paper made of multiple choice questions and data response questions.

Careers and Higher Education.

At University, Economics can be studied as a Single Honours subject. However, it is frequently combined with Politics, Law, Business and other Social Sciences or a Modern Language. University Admissions Officers [and future Employers] consider Economics A-level to be a very high-powered, rigorous and widely recognised "hard currency" foundation for all Accountancy, Business, Economics, Financial, Legal, Managerial and Professional Service degree courses.

English Literature

English Literature is at the heart of our culture. This course opens many doors to a life-long acquaintance with both language and literature and provides opportunities for an intelligent study of poetry, drama, essays and the novel. At the same time, pupils are encouraged to develop their skills in writing to deadlines, analysis, debate and contextual concerns. Different styles of writing are attempted such as analytical essays and comparative essays.

English results at A Level are strong with few of our pupils scoring below a C and a high proportion of them gaining A*/A grades. This is down to the dynamic and engaging teaching in the department and the work of a skilled and dedicated team of enthusiastic and experienced English teachers.

Course Content and Assessment

A Level English Literature is an exciting course and covers a wide range of literature, from medieval to modern. Reading, discussion, analysis and essay writing are central features of the course, as is the enjoyment derived from studying and developing ideas that stem from reading literature. This is an ideal subject for pupils willing to think on their feet in light of the knowledge they have acquired. The personal and social benefits of studying human behaviour through the relative safety of fictional characters is not to be underestimated.

The Components are broken down in the following manner:

Component 1 -	40%	Shakespeare (1 text) Drama and Poetry pre-1900 (2 texts)	Exam	2 hrs	30
Component 2 -	40%	Close Reading - unseen Comparative and Contextual Study (2 texts)	Exam	2 hrs	30
Component 3 -	20%	Analytical Essay (1 text) Comparative Essay (2 texts)	Coursework		

Careers and Higher Education

The A Level English Literature Course is a valuable qualification for entry into virtually any Higher Education course. The skills developed in the study of this subject will stand the pupil in good stead, no matter what the chosen career is. Obvious career paths might include law, publishing, journalism, broadcasting, editing, PR, marketing or advertising but English graduates end up in a wide range of fields.

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics classes run every year and its popularity is increasing year on year. We teach the new specification offered by Edexcel as it allows some flexibility in the topics we can offer. Please note that pupils must choose Mathematics alongside Further Mathematics.

Course Content

In Lower Sixth, the Further Mathematics class completes all of the Mathematics topics (see specific page) and extends into some Further Pure Mathematics.

Solving polynomial equations	Tangents and Normals
Complex Numbers	Matrices
Numerical solution of equations	Summation of finite series
The parabola	Proof by induction
Cartesian and parametric equations	

In Upper Sixth, Further Mathematicians then study more Further Pure topics which are a compulsory part of the course. We then teach a wide variety of Applied Mathematics topics which can be chosen from Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Mathematics. This allows pupils to choose topics they have more of an interest in and that are likely to be more beneficial for their degree course.

Assessment

Further Mathematics is assessed at the end of the two-year course by four 1.5 hours papers. Paper 1 and Paper 2 are Further Pure Mathematics papers. Papers 3 and 4 can be chosen by pupils from a list of Mechanics, Statistics, Decision Mathematics or another Further Pure paper.

Careers and Higher Education

A Level Further Mathematics is a challenging course that suits those thinking of studying Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Economics, Business, Finance, Statistics, Accountancy, Architecture or Computer Science at University.

Geography

In an increasingly interconnected world facing emerging global challenges, geographical understanding is becoming ever more important to help us navigate our lives and ever more valued by employers. The Edexcel A Level syllabus provides a broad introduction to contemporary geographical issues and allows students to begin developing the skills they need to address them throughout their lives and careers.

Course content

Students cover tectonic processes and hazards, coastal landscapes, the water and carbon cycle including water and energy security in the physical geography section of the course.

In the human geography section of the course, students cover globalisation and geopolitical power, contemporary rural and urban change, global development and human rights.

The physical and human geography sections of the course are usually taught concurrently by subject specialists in each field over the two-year course.

Assessment

Both the human and physical geography sections are assessed in a 2 hour and 15 minute exam - each is worth 35% of the overall marks.

The third assessment, also 2 hours and 15 minutes, is a synoptic paper in which students respond to resources that link together content and themes from the compulsory units of study in both human and physical geography. This is worth 20% of the total marks.

Students also complete an independent investigation on a topic of their choice linked to the specification. This is written up in a report which is usually around 4,000 words in length. This is worth 20% of the total marks.

Careers and Higher Education:

Around 50% of students studying A Level Geography at Glenalmond go on to choose to study geography or a directly related subject at university. These related courses include earth sciences, environmental science or management, geoscience, geology and international development.

Geographers are highly sought after for both their knowledge and skills which include high levels of literacy and numeracy, the ability to make synoptic links and independent research skills. Furthermore, the "green" job market is growing, giving good employment prospects for geography graduates. Geographers go on to careers in business, construction, environmental management, geospatial analysis, law, international development, planning and urban development.

History

At Glenalmond College, we offer the Edexcel A Level History course, a comprehensive and engaging programme that allows students to explore key moments in history, developing both their analytical and research skills. This course is designed to provide a deep understanding of significant historical events, while also encouraging the critical thinking that is essential for a wide range of career paths.

Course Content

The Edexcel Route H History A Level consists of four core components, offering a rich variety of topics that span British and American history. The course is well-suited for students with a passion for the past, as it encourages the development of key skills such as analysis, argumentation, and independent research. Studying history at A Level provides an excellent foundation for higher education and is highly respected by universities and employers alike.

Course Units:

1. Britain Transformed, 1918-97
2. The USA, c1920-55: Boom, Bust, and Recovery
3. Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603
4. Coursework Module

Careers and Higher Education

A pupil who has studied the course should aim to emerge with the ability to research, evaluate and synthesise information, to present a logical argument, and to write analytical and objective reports. Such skills make historians in demand in many different fields of employment. Many of our historians go on to study at major Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Manchester, King's College London, Leeds, St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Historians are to be found not only in the more obvious fields such as archive and museum work and teaching, but also in management, banking and commerce, the media, politics, publishing and the law. History graduates include several well-known TV personalities like Jonathan Ross, Louis Theroux, Jeremy Bowen, Dermot Murnaghan, and Michael Palin. They also include those who have made their name in industry such as David Sainsbury (CEO of Sainsbury's), Roland Smith (former Director of the Bank of England, Director of Manchester United), Anita Roddick (founder of the Body Shop), Anthony Hudson and Charles Smith (former CEOs of ICI). Other celebrities such as the comedian Al Murray, the Hollywood actor Edward Norton and the pop star Shakira also have degrees in History.

Latin

(OCR, H443) Whether reading Latin poetry to explore ideas about modern morality, savouring the power of Virgil's *Aeneid* to remind us of our place in the universe, analysing Cicero with an eye on contemporary politics, or using Tacitus to compare celebrity cultures, Roman writers resonate strongly today. The course comprises two strands: language, and literature.

Course Content and Assessment

Unseen Translation (Examination: 1hr 45 min, 100 marks, 33%)

The focus is on translating unseen passages of poetry (Ovid) and prose (Livy).

Comprehension or Prose Composition (Examination: 1hr 15 min, 50 marks, 17%)

Prose Literature (Examination: 2 hr, 75 marks, 25%)

Over the two years, we study two prose texts. For 2027, these will be as follows:

Cicero *Pro Roscio Amerino* - Defending a man on the charge of patricide, with this speech Cicero took on the establishment (and won!) setting up his brilliant future career.

Tacitus *Annals* 14 - Tacitus' imaginative approach to writing history is far from dry. This brilliant selection from the *Annals* is about the emperor Nero, and the campaign in Britain featuring the queen of the Iceni, Boudicca.

Verse Literature (Examination: 2 hr, 75 marks, 25%)

Over the two years, we study two verse texts. For 2027, these will be as follows:

Virgil *Aeneid* 4 - The passionate but doomed love affair between Aeneas and Dido. This story has inspired artists of all genres throughout history.

Ovid *Metamorphoses* Book 7 - The central story is of Jason (golden fleece) and Medea (murderous witch). Ovid's inimitable style and clever turns of phrase make this a wondrous read. The noted Oxford academic Jasper Griffin liked Ovid's *Metamorphoses* so much that he read it every summer.

Careers and Higher Education

Latin A Level sharpens skills in close analysis and evaluation of texts, as well as clear and accurate communication of ideas. A Level Latinists tend almost without exception to read for Honours Degrees, many reading Classics or Classics plus a Modern Language or some combination involving Ancient History or Archaeology, as well as Law, Publishing, Journalism, Marketing, and PR. Classics graduates have a very good record of finding employment in a wide variety of areas: Boris Johnson himself read Classics!

Mathematics

Mathematics is a popular A Level subject with almost half of Lower Sixth currently studying Mathematics and three classes continuing to Upper Sixth. We teach the new specification offered by Edexcel as it allows some flexibility in the topics we can offer.

Course Content

The new A Level Mathematics specification has compulsory content which is studied by all pupils. It is approximately two-thirds Pure Mathematics based and one-third applied. The Pure Mathematics sections cover topics such as:

Algebra and Functions	The Binomial Expansion
Quadratic Functions	Algebraic Fractions
Equations and Inequalities	Partial Fractions
Sketching Curves	Exponential and Logarithmic functions
Coordinate Geometry	Numerical Methods
Sequences and Series	Transforming graphs of functions
Differentiation	Differentiating functions formed by combining
Integration	Trigonometry

The applied papers cover topics such as Statistics; Mechanics; Background Statistics; Modelling; Mathematical Models; Kinematics; Representing and analysing data; Vectors; Probability; Forces; Correlation; Newton's Laws; Regression; Impulse and Momentum; Discrete; Random Variables; Moments; and The Normal Distribution.

Assessment

The new A Level Mathematics course is assessed at the end of the two years by three 2 hour papers. Paper 1 and Paper 2 are Pure Mathematics and Paper 3 is half Mechanics and half Statistics. Calculators are allowed in all papers.

Careers and Higher Education

A Level Mathematics is a challenging course which suits those thinking of studying Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Economics, Business, Finance, Statistics, Accountancy, Architecture or Computer Science at University. It is also a desirable qualification for those wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Psychology, PPE and many more.

Modern Languages: French and Spanish

A report on Britain's language needs post-Brexit identified Spanish, Arabic, French, Mandarin and German as the languages of crucial importance in the short and medium term. A second report, produced by the CBI, highlighted the demand for the global undergraduate in a world where bilingualism is the norm. We would strongly advise all pupils to continue a language post-16.

French and Spanish have similar components and requirements. The majority of the course is devoted to language work; talking, listening, reading and writing in the target language on subjects of topical interest. There is also an opportunity for the study of cinema and literature and to deepen and expand the appreciation of another culture and country. There is no coursework and both languages are externally marked. All pupils studying Modern Foreign Languages are strongly recommended to visit the country of the target language and to take advantage of the language trips offered by the school.

Course Content

The core content for each language is:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Film and literature

There is also the chance to choose a personal project on any aspect of the culture or the language that interests the pupil and to research this in detail, culminating in a presentation and discussion in the speaking test. Previous subjects have included New Wave Cinema, Street Art as a form of protest in South America, Astérix and comic strips to name just a few!

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing - written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (100 marks)

Paper 2: Writing - written exam: 2 hours (80 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking - Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (60 marks)

Careers and Higher Education

The study of modern languages can lead to many careers, including teaching, interpreting, translating, and working in business, law, and hospitality.

Music

At Glenalmond, we prepare pupils for A Level Music to the Eduqas specification. This is an excellent course that combines academic rigour with creativity and musicianship. During the course, pupils will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different styles of music, developing critical and creative thinking, and cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness. The Eduqas course has been selected as it allows pupils to perform to an external examiner, as opposed to using recordings, a format that has been subject to poor marking with alternative exam boards. It also allows pupils to elect to follow either a performance or a composition pathway, upping the marks available from 25% to 35% for that module.

Course Content

The Eduqas A Level Music course takes place over two years and is comprised of three musical components:

Component 1: Performing (25% or 35%) - Pupils must perform a minimum of two (25%) or three (35%) pieces, performed as a recital. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study (AoS); at least one other piece must reflect the characteristics of a different AoS.

Component 2: Composing (25% or 30%) - Pupils must produce two compositions totalling 4-6 minutes duration. One must reflect Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a set brief (from a choice of four). The other is a free composition (25%). Pupils must also produce three compositions totalling 9-10 minutes in duration. One must reflect Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a set brief (from a choice of four). The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study (i.e. not Western Classical). The third composition is a free composition (30%).

Component 3: Appraising (Written Examination, 2 hrs 15 mins) (40%)

Three areas of study:

- Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works. Choose one set work for detailed analysis and the other for general study.
 - o Symphony No. 104 in D major, 'London': Haydn
 - o Symphony No. 4 in A major, 'Italian': Mendelssohn

Careers and Higher Education

A Level Music is an excellent preparation for a wide range of degree courses and careers, not just music.

Physics

If you choose to study A-level Physics you will meet and handle ideas that are profound and exciting, you will also acquire skills and knowledge that will equip you for a very wide range of job possibilities. Physicists are in great demand for their wide knowledge and adaptability. Above all, a study of Physics will train you in problem-solving - a skill which is especially valued by employers.

The course, provided by Edexcel, follows a concept-led approach. This course offers a new and stimulating approach to Physics with an emphasis on up-to-date contexts and applications of Physics. We feel that this approach reflects our approach to Physics and the image of the department.

Course Content and Assessment

The A Level course will be examined as part of the three papers sat by the candidates. Paper 1 and 2 are both 1 hour 45 minutes in length and account for 30% each of the final grade and Paper 3 is 2 hours 30 minutes long and accounts for the remaining 40%. The A Level course also contains sixteen core compulsory practicals which will be assessed for the separate certificate in practical competence but they will not count towards the final grade.

Paper 1 'Advanced Physics 1' involves the Lower Sixth topics of 'working as a Physicist', mechanics and electrical circuits together with the Upper Sixth topics of Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic fields and Nuclear and Particle Physics.

Paper 2 'Advanced Physics 2' involves the Lower Sixth topics of 'working as a Physicist', Materials, waves and the particle nature of light with the Upper Sixth topics Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, together with Gravitational Fields and Oscillations.

Paper 3 'General and Practical Principles in Physics' includes questions that assess conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods (indirect practical skills) that will draw on pupils' experiences of the core practicals.

The final A Level grade will be determined by the combined scores achieved in these final three papers.

Careers and Higher Education

Pupils who have studied A Level Physics have successfully moved onto University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Science, Robotics, Medicine, Law and Finance.

Politics

This course follows the Edexcel specification. This course is designed to:

- Develop critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the political system in the UK
- Imbue the pupil with a knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of individuals to encourage more informed participation within their society
- Develop a pupil's capacity for critical thinking

Course Content and Assessment

Component 1: UK Politics

Written Examination: 2 Hours - 33.3% of the qualification (84 Marks)

Content: Political participation; democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

Core Political ideas: conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

Written Examination: 2 Hours - 33.3% of the qualification (84 marks)

Content: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

Non-core political ideas: Nationalism

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Written Examination: 2 hours - 33.3% of the qualification (84 marks)

Content: the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

Careers and Higher Education

The study of Politics requires a range of skills from oral and written communication to the analysis of complex issues and the evaluation of evidence. Ability in these areas is much in demand in many Higher Education courses and a wide range of careers.

Psychology

Psychology is important because it helps us understand human behavior and mental processes, allowing individuals to better manage their emotions, make informed decisions, improve relationships, and ultimately enhance their overall well-being by providing insights into why people think, feel, and act the way they do. It also plays a crucial role in addressing mental health issues and promoting positive societal change through research and interventions.

Course Content

Compulsory topics include: Social influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology; Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods; and Issues and debates in Psychology.

Optional topics include Relationships; Gender; Cognition and development; Schizophrenia; Eating behaviour; Stress; Aggression; Forensic Psychology; and Addiction.

Assessment

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology - written exam: 2 hours (96 marks)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context - written exam: 2 hours (96 marks)

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology - written exam: 2 hours (96 marks)

Careers and Higher Education

Pupils will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Psychology graduates can go on to work in many job roles, including Clinical psychologist, Counselling psychologist, Education mental health practitioner, Educational psychologist, Forensic psychologist, and many others.

BTEC Subjects

Countryside Management

This course is designed to provide pupils with the skills and knowledge required to manage land and land-based businesses sustainably in a changing political and natural environment.

Course Content

“Professional working responsibilities” allow pupils to develop the knowledge and skills required to complete the other practical units and they will need to work in a professional environment, focusing on health, safety, resource and waste management.

“Countryside estate skills and activities” allows pupils to develop the skills that they need to manage the countryside beginning with developing practical skills and progressing to the management of small projects including the supervision of a workforce.

“Work experience in the land-based sector” begins by introducing pupils to the range of career opportunities within countryside management and the importance of planning career progression. In the second part of this unit pupils prepare for and undertake work experience.

“Woodland management” develops the skills pupils need to manage woodland environments for commercial purposes and to improve biodiversity. Pupils survey woodlands to learn about their structure before undertaking practical woodland management projects.

Assessment

The “professional working responsibilities” unit is examined in a single 3-hour assessment, which pupils will sit during Lower 6th. Each unit is assessed through two coursework assignments. These assignments range from professional written reports such as an estate management plan to presentations including an investment pitch for their business start-up.

Careers and Higher Education

In addition to preparing pupils for further study (BTEC Nationals are recognised entry qualifications at most universities), the BTEC National Countryside Management course is designed to allow pupils to develop the skills required for direct-entry careers or apprenticeships in this sector including in agriculture, estate management and wildlife conservation.

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

The BTEC Extended National Certificate in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship focuses on giving students the skills to be confident in starting a business, or in working in an organisation.

Course content

Glenalmond College follows the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship syllabus. The main topics covered are:

Year 1

Unit 1: Enterprise and Entrepreneurs

Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign

Year 2

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

Unit 8: Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship in Practice

In the Lower 6th pupils will study enterprise and the mindset of entrepreneurs, exploring the risks, opportunities and constraints of starting an enterprise. They will also gain skills relating to developing a marketing campaign. In the Upper Sixth they will study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance and develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.

Assessment

Unit 1: This is an internally assessed unit involving a written report and an assessed individual presentation..

Unit 2: This is an externally assessed unit involving a case study and a three-hour examination..

Unit 3: This is an externally assessed unit involving a two-hour examination..

Unit 8: This is an internally assessed unit involving a written report..

Careers and Higher Education

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by Higher Education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. Pupils will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to, depending on the other qualifications they have taken.

Sport and Exercise Science

The BTEC in Sport and Exercise Science allows pupils to concentrate on the development of practical skills and knowledge required for a future career in Sports Science. Furthermore, it allows pupils to enhance their understanding of different training and coaching methods, which allows them to improve their own training and performances.

Course Content

Functional Anatomy

- Explore how the anatomy of the cardiovascular, respiratory, skeletal and muscular systems function to produce movements in sport and exercise.

Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology

- Discover the major psychological factors that can affect performers in sport and exercise environments and the interventions that can promote an appropriate mindset

Coaching for Performance and Fitness

- Develop the knowledge and ability to plan, deliver and evaluate coaching sessions that promote athletes' technical, tactical and fitness performance.

Biomechanics in Sport and Exercise Science

- Examine human movement, the movement of sport objects, forces that the human body produces and forces that act on it in sport and exercise environments.

Assessment

Functional Anatomy - External written exam

Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology - Externally assessed written task, completed under timed conditions

Coaching for Performance and Fitness - A series of internally assessed reports and video evidence

Biomechanics in Sport and Exercise Science - An internally assessed portfolio, report and presentation

Careers and Higher Education

This qualification is recognised by Higher Education providers as meeting admissions requirements for many Sport Science courses. The BTEC content provides an excellent foundation for those pupils who wish to explore a career in the field of Sports and Exercise Science.