



BADMINTON
SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2026



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HELLO!

WELCOME TO OUR

SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at Badminton offers you a wealth of opportunity; you will benefit from a bespoke programme that focuses on your individual goals, ambitions, future life and career.



Badminton offers you a truly holistic educational experience where academic excellence is achieved through exceptional teaching and active engagement with every subject beyond the classroom as well as access to first class resources and facilities.

The broad and varied co-curricular programme provides you with opportunities to apply your skills and knowledge and really 'get under the skin' of academic subjects while developing valuable qualities for life beyond school. At Badminton we provide you with the tools to become an independent learner; able to confidently pursue your next steps.

You will enjoy the chance to be part of the vibrant global community in our Sixth Form Centre, you will develop your confidence as a self-directed learner, plan for your future and make the most of events in and around school to help prepare you for what follows Badminton.

In the background, we provide a strong network of subject teachers, tutors, house staff and specialists. The Sixth Form team keep a close eye on your development, ensuring that support is put in place when the need arises. Our Higher Education and Careers Officer is also a key figure in Sixth Form life, leading our 'Broadening Horizons' programme, coordinating a wealth of higher education information and training opportunities, as well as access to internships, apprenticeships and work experience.

There is not one type of Badminton journey. Our aim is to enable you to enjoy this final chapter of your school story to the full, enabling you to achieve your ambitions through rising to challenges and opportunities, preparing you for the future with confidence and a strong sense of purpose.

Mr Dan Avis, Head of Sixth Form

OUR TUTOR PROGRAMME

Lydia Reeder, Deputy Head of Sixth Form



To thrive, we know it is important for you to feel part of a supportive network. At Badminton, the tutor group system is central to Sixth Form life. Your tutor groups will be small and comprise of a mixture of students from all academic disciplines and all walks of life. At the heart of our Sixth Form tutor programme are the school's core values: curiosity, aspiration, courage and courtesy.

The Sixth Form tutor programme has three key strands: integration, global citizenship, and academic and pastoral mentoring. Throughout the year there are activities designed to help you get to know each other and form meaningful bonds. This begins with our induction days, where you take part in fun team-building activities such as escape rooms, axe throwing or high ropes. We know that it is important for the whole Sixth Form to come together as a community; regular Sixth Form assemblies offer individual tutor groups opportunities to take turns to lead on topics of interest such as cultural days, green issues, current affairs or wellbeing.

At Badminton we provide the best preparation for thriving in a global society. The tutor programme encourages you to look outwards at wider issues and current affairs to foster a global perspective. This is achieved through sharing news items, discussion and debate. You will also work on your research and communication skills by presenting on topics and literature of interest. In the

Lower Sixth, this development of skills culminates in the highly regarded English Speaking Board Examination Grade 8 (worth up to 30 UCAS points).



We have a highly experienced team of Sixth Form tutors (see page 3) who offer 1:1 advice on higher education and future pathways, as well as mentoring and monitoring academic and extracurricular progress. Activities in tutor time also prepare you for university and the workplace, tying in with and building upon sessions delivered in our Broadening Horizons programme (see page 4).

At Badminton every student is known and offered tailored support so that you can achieve your full potential.



OUR SIXTH FORM TUTORS



Jacqui Thomas
Head of Art



Jennifer Steer
Head of English



Polly Simson
Teacher of History and
Politics



Harriet Richardson
Head of German



Lesley Hart
Head of Biology



Helen Pascoe
Head of Chemistry



Owain Hutchings
Head of Physics



James Hope
Head of Computing,
Teacher of Science



Anastassia Myers
Head of Mathematics



Sam Rawlings
Head of Philosophy,
Religion and Ethics



Lewis Davies
Head of History and
Politics



Anna Proudman
Teacher of English



Sue McEvoy
Head of Geography



Natasha Walton
Head of French, Head
of Languages

HIGHER EDUCATION

Liam Sapsford, Higher Education and Careers Officer



The Higher Education and Careers provision at Badminton culminates in the Sixth Form where you will look to your next steps following your school career. The Lower Sixth is dedicated to research and exploration of pathways that align with your aspirations and academic potential and the Upper Sixth sees the Higher Education application cycle start in earnest.

BROADENING HORIZONS

The Broadening Horizons Programme helps you understand much more about post-18 choices and life skills at a professional and personal level. We see this as our 'Outduction' process, helping you transition successfully to life beyond Badminton.

We have a compulsory dedicated Broadening Horizons session each week filled with a whole host of information. These sessions range from talks from universities or subject specialists, to industry professionals discussing their sector, life skills sessions and talks and activities on a wide variety of personal, social, health, citizenship or economic topics. As students enter their Upper Sixth year, these sessions form our 'Outduction' programme, helping with practical skills for university and being self-sufficient.

Our aim is to broaden your understanding of the world around you, your and others' communities, pathways available to you and life skills needed as you look to progress from Badminton into the wider world. This is part of Badminton's commitment to providing the best preparation for students living and working in a global society.

VOLUNTEERING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

During your time in the Sixth Form, we actively encourage you to seek out and undertake volunteering and work experience opportunities. You are responsible for finding your own placements, although we support you through the process and flag appropriate opportunities as they arise and are always there to guide.

Many students volunteer in the local community engaging with children, the elderly or in the charity sector. We strongly support a regular volunteering commitment and students tell us they find the chance to help others hugely rewarding.

Students undertake work experience in fields ranging from medicine and law, to engineering and business placements. This experience is critical when making decisions about your future and also helps to elevate and differentiate your Higher Education applications when the time comes.

BOARDING AT BADMINTON

The boarding environment at Badminton is tailored to support each student as an individual. We provide a supportive and encouraging community which enables you to flourish while committing to the development of your future.

Through a focus on recognising your talents, skills and interests, we enable you to find your place in the wider school community. Students live in a dedicated Sixth Form Centre which creates a more independent atmosphere. Day students also have study rooms in the building to ensure complete integration into the life of the school. Boarders in the Lower Sixth share a bedroom with one other student, empowering them to foster strong social bonds within school from the very beginning. Students in the Upper Sixth have their own bedroom giving them a little extra space and independence. Bedrooms are carefully and thoughtfully allocated and change every term, with preferences taken into account.

The atmosphere in the boarding house is one of friendship and community. This creates a unique environment in which you can make the most out of your time with us, study effectively and develop lifelong friendships. We are proud of the extensive programme of activities available in the evenings and at weekends, allowing you to form connections across the Sixth Form and ensure a balance with your academic days. There are a wide range of trips organised throughout the year. Previous trips have included Thorpe Park, Windsor Castle, Ninja Warrior, Bath Christmas Markets, Exmouth beach and the London Dungeons.

We see Sixth Form boarding as distinctly different from boarding in the Senior School as it is an important steppingstone to, and preparation for, life at university and the wider world. The increasing freedom and independence offered gives you an appropriate challenge whilst remaining supported by the Sixth Form team, who are available throughout the day.



"The atmosphere in the Boarding House is one of friendship and community which creates a unique environment."

Ms Davies, Sixth Form Housemistress



LOWER SIXTH CURRICULUM CHOICES

Over the last few years, Badminton has continued to enjoy A Level results success alongside new study options to ensure that the Sixth Form remains an outstanding place to study.

Updates to our A Level programme have brought exciting changes to courses; content has been updated allowing students to benefit from fresh new study opportunities. At Badminton, our A Level provision ensures that students have access to subjects that combine rich content with academic challenge. Furthermore, our A Level subject offering embraces not only the familiar favourites, but also choices like Psychology, Business, Politics, PE and Economics.

All students are required to choose three A Level subjects to study with a fourth academic 'plus option' (see opposite).

In short, whilst three A Levels are the core, students design their own curriculum by picking further A Levels, AS Levels, GCSEs, or other courses from our wide offering.

The 'plus options' might take the form of an EPQ, Creative Writing or an AS. It might even be outreach work or volunteering; the breadth of opportunity is one of the key features of the Sixth Form at Badminton. The Sixth Form experience is one in which students will benefit from a wealth of subjects and enrichment choices to help form a well-honed university profile, which is the hallmark of a Badminton education.

Please note:

When considering which subjects are appropriate for Sixth Form study, students are strongly recommended to achieve at least a grade 7 at GCSE (where applicable) in order to access the A Level curriculum and to go on to achieve the high standards that Badminton aspires to for all of its students.

All subject pages are correct at the time of publishing but are subject to change.

Subjects (both A Levels and plus options) which are undersubscribed may, in some cases, not run. Students should consider a back up option to prepare for this unlikely eventuality.

We also offer a wide range of co-curricular activities – please see pages 7-11.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Our Learning Support Department offers specialist support to students with special educational needs or where English is an additional language.

Students can access one to one or small group support as appropriate to support them. We can also support with study skills, lessons to prepare for IELTS or we can offer screening and assessment if an underlying need has been identified.

Learning Support prides itself on offering a supportive nurturing environment, where learners thrive and are equipped with the necessary strategies to become independent learners.

If you would like to enquire about additional lessons or would like to understand how we can support you, please contact Mrs Underwood, our Learning Support and SEND Co-ordinator.

underwood@badmintonschool.co.uk

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ENRICHMENT SKILLS FOR LIFE

In the Sixth Form, we foster an environment that combines academic excellence with opportunities for students to realise their full potential across a wide range of activities.

Through carefully selected enrichment programmes, we equip our students with the skills, experience and confidence to become part of and thrive in a competitive, global society.

OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY INCLUDE:

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Volunteering in the local community
- Peer Mentoring
- Prep School Volunteering
- Science Outreach
- Senior Physics Challenge - Lower Sixth
- Physics Challenge - Upper Sixth



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

With over 50 clubs and societies taking place every week at Badminton, students have the opportunity to augment their academic studies or develop other skills by getting involved in a host of enrichment activities.

From climbing to art, debating to gardening, there is something to interest everyone. Our list of clubs and societies evolves each year and if a club does not yet exist, Sixth Form students are encouraged to create one! Our current list of clubs and societies includes:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • AV Club | • Drama Stage Crew | • Model United Nations | • Senior Swim Squad |
| • Badminton Club | • Duke of Edinburgh's Award | • Netball Club | • Sign Language Club |
| • Badminton Theatre Company | • Economic Forum | • Photography Club | • Symphony Orchestra |
| • Board Game Club | • Environmental Committee | • Programming Club | ...and many more! |
| • Ceramics Club | • Film Club | • Psychology Club | |
| • Chinese Culture Club | • Fitness Club | • Public Speaking | |
| • Climbing Club | • French Conversation Club | • Senior School Choirs: | |
| • Dance Club | • Gardening Club | - Schola Cantorum, | |
| • Debating Club | • Iris Classics Society | - Senior Choir | |
| • Diversity Club | • Law Club | • Science Outreach | |
| | • MedSoc | • Science Research | |

ENTERPRISE

Fusing academic and enterprise learning gives our students the skills to be truly prepared for a global employment market.



**PETER JONES
FOUNDATION** 

Living within a rapidly changing world as we do, we recognise young people are increasingly needing to be resilient, innovative, tenacious and intellectually curious – all key characteristics of entrepreneurs.

In the Sixth Form we offer students the opportunity to hone these skills and develop these characteristics by taking part in the Tycoon Enterprise Challenge, run by the Peter Jones Foundation.

The Foundation was founded in 2005 by successful entrepreneur and star of Dragons' Den, Peter Jones CBE. Each year this national competition is entered by schools across the country, with students challenged to create and run a social enterprise that addresses a social or environmental issue.

The Challenge involves teams of four creating a business plan in order to be granted a start-up loan from the Foundation.

Once approved they then use the money to develop their business idea, create and manufacture a product, market it and then sell it at numerous events during the year. If successful in their venture, finalists are invited to Buckingham Palace for the competition's finale and prize giving.

The process gives students real life responsibility in running a business and advances many skills including teamwork, marketing and financial planning; all of which positively impact and empower students with 'future ready' skills.

There is no need to be studying business at A Level or have studied business previously to enter the competition. This competition searches for people who have ideas and can make things happen, regardless of experience. All teams meet once a week and are supported by staff from the Business and Economics Department.

GAIN INVESTMENT CHALLENGE

The GAIN Investment Challenge is an annual 6-week stock pitch competition which aims to provide students in Lower Sixth with a unique insight into the world of investment management and key analysis skills.



Each team will be assigned a company (the stock) to research and then assess whether to buy, hold, or sell the stock as an investment opportunity. They will be supported by an industry mentor who will meet with them online on a regular basis.

Teams will research all aspects of their company to make the investment case. The final investment pitch will be a persuasive 3-minute-long video presentation showcasing their findings as well as a short report. Submissions will be judged by a panel of professionals within the investment industry.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CREATIVE ARTS

Our stunning Creative Arts Centre is the backdrop for a wide range of creative arts, including drawing, painting, printmaking, jewellery, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, graphic design, photography and digital media.

No one can resist being creative in such a stimulating environment.

Professional artists are invited to meet our students, share their creative experiences and work alongside them on projects. Recent artist visits and workshops include Paul Brandford (charcoal sketching), Lu David (screenprinting) and Rupert Bathurst (portraiture).

Students enjoy success in numerous competitions launched throughout the year in art and photography and are welcome to spend time in the Creative Arts Centre outside of their timetabled curriculum, either engaging with structured enrichment activities or to pursue their own creative interests. Students are encouraged to explore contemporary industry-based routes as well as traditional pathways post Sixth Form. Destinations of recent alumnae include University of Arts London, Institut Français de la Mode Paris, Parsons School of Design New York, Courtauld Institute of Art London, Falmouth School of Art Cornwall and Architectural Association School of Architecture London.



MUSIC

Badminton would not be the same without music. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to music in school, from the beginner to the most accomplished.

Sixth Form students have a plethora of opportunities for getting involved in music. These include the auditioned chamber choir Schola Cantorum (who won the Girls School Association Choir of the Year in 2025!), Senior Choir, Symphony Orchestra and other instrumental ensembles as well as music theory and aural classes. A major concert takes place each term, with the highlight being the Spring Concert at Bristol's foremost venue – St. George's Bristol.

A high proportion of students study at least one musical instrument and there is a wide variety of choral and ensemble groups in school. These include choirs, orchestra, chamber ensembles and other groups which reflect students' talents and interests, which range from classical to jazz and musical theatre. We have over 20 visiting music teachers in school each week, so students can study a wide range of instruments.

Masterclasses are arranged in school and students from other local schools are welcomed. Students regularly attend concerts

locally and nationally, to experience a variety of music as well as regular overseas tours. In recent years Badminton students have performed choral and instrumental works in Budapest, Bruges, Brussels, Barcelona, Florence, Leipzig and most recently Berlin.



DRAMA

Our annual senior production presents opportunities to perform or be part of the backstage team. Alternating between a musical theatre show and a play performance, the production is an exciting and engaging way to get involved.

Regular trips to local theatres are organised and students enjoy participating in local drama groups, including Bristol Youth Theatre. Old Badmintonians have gone on to study at RADA and to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Globe Theatre. Speech and Drama classes are popular, culminating in LAMDA examinations across the school year.

In the Sixth Form, students can play a pivotal role in a range of performances. Whether it is being involved in the annual school production or working alongside students in lower year groups on their performance projects throughout the year. Sixth Form students can also take part in developing their own performances as part of the Edinburgh Festival, creating a theatre company and taking their work on a week long performance tour.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCIENCE OUTREACH

Badminton offers pupils the chance to develop their public speaking skills from Year 10 onwards, delivering science shows in schools and in the wider community.

The Science Outreach Programme is very popular across the school, with many of our best presenters not being scientists!

Our programme is designed to enable all our students to take part, with most of the content being delivered to primary school age children. No matter whether our students have a science focus, whether they are drawn to languages, humanities or the creative arts, or whether they are still finding the path that suits them, the preparation, organisation and presentation skills which they will develop are extremely valuable and transferable.

The Science Outreach team have previously:

- Presented at 25 Primary schools per year
- Provided a show in Geneva as part of our visit to CERN
- Worked with a local academy to train their Sixth Form students to give shows
- Presented at STEM events such as the UK Big Bang, which boasts 40,000 visitors, and the Northern Ireland Science Festival
- Delivered shows at music festivals including WOMAD and Green Man

In the Sixth Form there is far more depth to the programme as students join the Science Outreach Leadership Team and become role models for younger pupils at Badminton.

The leadership team trains presenters for shows and larger events. They also help to plan, organise, deliver and publicise events. Some students research new demonstrations, some become logistics experts, while others get involved in writing scripts and directing higher profile shows such as talks at summer festivals.

Meanwhile there are always opportunities for creative talent to shine, through creating artwork, audio-visual media and social media content that is used in our shows, and to publicise them.

As the year progresses, a lot of opportunities and responsibility are given to members of the Sixth Form Outreach Leadership team, giving plenty of material to strengthen all aspects of their UCAS applications.

Further information is available from Dr Beer

cbeer@badminton-school.co.uk



Our Outreach Team present at a variety of locations and to different audiences, including at the prestigious Big Bang Fair.



The Outreach team demonstrate what happens to a balloon when submerged in liquid nitrogen.



The popular popping Pringles tin demonstration is presented at a local primary school, enthusing the next generation of STEM professionals.

PLUS OPTIONS AND THE WIDER SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

Alongside the core A Level choices, our 'plus options' give the opportunity for balance and enrichment through opportunities for wider acquisition of academic and vocational skills. The courses range from AS Levels, to sporting qualifications or bespoke diplomas such as Creative Writing.

We believe that sustaining a range of interests and activities is as vital as academic excellence (and in fact helps promote it!). Students are encouraged to complement or contrast their main A Levels with one of our 'plus options' or to think more holistically about their

learning. Pupils should see this as a chance to do something a little bit different to develop key transferable skills, independent research skills or a chance to embrace some creativity.



AS LEVELS

Our AS Level courses are optional extras run in the Sixth Form.

Studying an AS Level has proved to be a very popular option. Some of the AS Levels that we have historically offered include those below.

THINKING SKILLS AS LEVEL

One of our key educational commitments at Badminton is to lifelong learning and to the importance of encouraging students to think about how they learn.

In the Sixth Form, we offer students the opportunity to do an AS Level in Thinking Skills as run by the CIE exam board.

The Thinking Skills subject content is divided into two parts: problem solving and critical thinking; which assist students with organising and processing information, analysing data and being able to evaluate and use evidence.

It gives students not only the opportunity to think more critically, but also to help them work towards university aptitude tests in the future.

Further information is available from Mr Rawlings
srawlings@badmintonschool.co.uk

MATHS & FURTHER MATHS AS LEVEL

For students wanting to continue their mathematical studies beyond GCSE but not wishing to undertake a full A Level, there is the option to study the Maths or Further Maths AS Level with the same exam board.

This course is essentially the first half of the A Level and covers the same three main areas – pure, mechanics and statistics. The AS Level is also entirely exam assessed.

An AS Level is also available in further mathematics for those studying a full mathematics A Level and wishing to extend their studies further.

These courses take place over one year.

To read more about the maths specification, please click [here](#) and select 'AS Mathematics' from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.

For full details of the Further Mathematics course specification, please follow this [link](#) and select 'AS Level Further Mathematics' from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.

Further information is available from Mrs Myers
amyers@badmintonschool.co.uk

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

AS LEVEL

Classical Civilisation is the study of ancient Greek and Roman cultures through literature, history, art and philosophy – it is the ultimate humanities subject.

The huge influence of the ancient world on Western society makes studying classical civilisation a unique conduit for thinking critically about some of our most fundamental moral and political ideas. Chiefly through reading Greek epic and tragedy, students on this course will explore timeless themes of war, gender, honour, free will and mortality – in short, what being human is all about.

The core 'World of the Hero' module offers students the chance to read in-depth the earliest surviving work of Western literature - Homer's profound epic poem, The Iliad. In the 'Greek Theatre' option, we study not only the famous tragedies Bacchae and Oedipus, but also the material setting and cultural importance of the Athenian theatre itself, alongside the raucous and highly satirical comedy Frogs.

Many students find classical civilisation a superb complement to A Levels such as English, history and PRE, while others

choose to study it simply for interest. Unlike Latin, there is no language component at all – every text is studied in English translation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- AS Level course
- 2 modules
- 2 written papers, each 50% of the AS

MODULE 1: WORLD OF THE HERO

- Homer's Iliad

MODULE 2: GREEK THEATRE

- Tragedy: Sophocles' Oedipus, Euripides' Bacchae
- Comedy: Aristophanes' Frogs
- Material sources

Further information is available from Mrs Mayes
jmayes@badmintonsschool.co.uk

GRAPHICS

AS LEVEL

Our two year AS Level Graphics course provides students with the opportunity to develop visual communication skills for their future careers.

Graphic design is the visual communication of complex ideas in the simplest form and during the course, students can study a wide range of specialisms from branding and advertising to packaging design. Both analogue and digital techniques are explored to respond to design briefs, and students learn about editorial design, product design, information design and typography. The course is entirely coursework focussed, no examination, 100% portfolio assessment. In class, students explore professional industry-used Adobe Creative Suite, in particular Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, providing them with technical skills to help in whatever career route they choose in the future.

Graphic design has been hugely popular since we first offered it to Sixth Form students as an optional extra and it is studied by some students as a way of complementing an existing base of creative subjects, or by others as something a bit different to their main A Level choices. Either way, it gives students every opportunity to

develop their creative and technical skills.

Students who have previously studied graphic design have found the course informs and fuels their interests in marketing, media, animation, architecture, editing and publishing. The course is instrumental for anyone considering a career in any aspect of design or communication. In learning about aesthetics and visual language, students gain essential understanding and skills relating to presentation content design and portfolio creation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The qualification is awarded by Eduqas within their Art and Design AS specification, more information can be accessed about the course structure [here](#).

Further information is available from Miss Thomas
jthomas@badmintonsschool.co.uk

SPANISH

AS LEVEL

For students wanting to continue their Spanish studies beyond GCSE but not wishing to undertake a full A Level, AS Level Spanish with AQA is an excellent choice.

This course gives students the opportunity to discuss current affairs and trends, and learn about historical figures, events and developments that have influenced Hispanic culture. It is essentially the first half of the A Level and covers the same three main areas – the study of the film *Volver* and two themes. Please follow this [link](#) for further details on the content.

The AS Level is entirely exam assessed, with three exams in May/June in Lower Sixth or the possibility of continuing with the full A Level course and completing exams in Upper Sixth.

To read more about the AS Spanish specification, please click [here](#).

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Two themes
- 1 Film

THEME 1: ASPECTS OF HISPANIC SOCIETY

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights

THEME 2: ARTISTIC CULTURE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage

Further information is available from Ms Vila
mvilasimo@badmintonschool.co.uk

For full details of the AS Spanish assessment process, please follow this [link](#).

There is also an option of studying DELE as private tuition.

GERMAN

AS LEVEL

For students wishing to take their German studies beyond IGCSE but not wishing to take the full A Level or the DaF, it is possible to take German AS during Lower Sixth.

Pupils join the A Level lessons as the course follows the same content and will also have an additional lesson with our German assistant. Course content takes in the first half of the A Level and covers the main areas of Aspects of German-speaking society (family, digital world, youth culture), Artistic culture in the German-speaking world (festivals and traditions, art and architecture, Berlin) and Film study (currently Goodbye, Lenin!).

Three papers are taken in the Summer Term of Lower Sixth. These are:

PAPER 1: Listening, reading and writing

PAPER 2: Writing

PAPER 3: Speaking

Further information is available from Mrs Richardson
hrichardson@badmintonschool.co.uk

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages Department is pleased to offer students the opportunity to continue with languages in the Sixth Form even if a language does not form part of their three core subject choices.

The DELF (French), TestDaf (German) and HSK (Chinese) are all available in the Lower Sixth as a fourth option as part of the enrichment programme for those students that want to capitalise on, but not specialise in, the language they studied for GCSE.

There are examination seasons in the spring and autumn to give flexibility. Previous Sixth Form students have had great success with these qualifications, which are scaled to be appropriate for all abilities. Students will join the A Level language lessons part-time

to experience the group interaction that is so crucial to language learning, but will also have dedicated tuition to best prepare them for the qualification and level they will sit.

These internationally recognised diplomas follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and are therefore ideal for those hoping to study or work abroad in the future.



CHINESE HSK

HSK is the abbreviation of Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi and is an international standard skill test for persons who are not native Chinese Language speakers. HSK is the official Chinese exam for foreigners, like Cambridge for English. The test was introduced in 2010 by the Chinese government. The HSK exam consists of two separate sections: a written and oral examination. The written exam consists of six levels from HSK level 1 to HSK level 6, and the oral exam is sub-divided into three stages of HSK Basic, HSK intermediate to HSK advanced. As you apply to study in China, this is one of the requirements for Chinese taught Master's and Bachelor's Degrees.

Why take HSK?

The test is designed to help Chinese education institutions and companies evaluate the language level of non-native speakers. The HSK examines many of the most common words and grammatical structures that one will meet in both everyday and professional situations.

For more information, please contact Miss Blood
jblood@badmintonschool.co.uk



FRENCH DELF

The DELF Junior is an official Diploma of French Language Studies issued by the French Ministry of Education and is recognised worldwide. The junior version of DELF is perfect for students up to the age of 18. It is divided into 4 levels: A1, A2 and B1, and B2 corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

We offer the B1 (Junior) diploma to extend the foundations of language learnt at GCSE. This option is not appropriate for a student with no prior knowledge of French. These highly regarded qualifications focus on language proficiency in the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

You will have a weekly one-to-one lesson with our French assistant.

Candidates can either enter the exam in November or June/ May. For the B1 qualification, the oral has three components: a short presentation about yourself, a role play and a short text which serves as a stimulus to a discussion. This lasts 12-15 minutes.

The other three components are tested in an exam of 1 hour 55 minutes. To pass the qualification the candidate must score more than 50% in all four skills.

For more information, please contact Mrs Walton
nwalton@badmintonschool.co.uk



GERMAN GOETHE-ZERTIFIKAT

Goethe-Zertifikat diplomas are official indications of competency and mastery of the German language. The focus of the certificate is on language and obtaining a highly regarded qualification indicating proficiency. You will join half the A Level lessons to continue acquiring new language and also have a weekly one-to-one lesson with our German assistant.

The German exams offered by the Goethe-Institut correspond to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and range from level A1 for beginners to C2 for the most advanced language learners. More information can be found online: <https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/prf/prf.html>

Examinations are sat at the Goethe Institut in London.

ASSESSMENT

The Goethe-Zertifikat examinations are divided into different groups, and depending on the level, they vary on length and complexity of tasks. The skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed at all levels.

For more information, please contact Mrs Richardson
hrichardson@badmintonschool.co.uk



CREATIVE WRITING

Badminton School is one of a small group of schools that offer the Creative Writing Apprentice of Fine Arts (AFA) qualification.

This is a relatively new qualification designed to encourage aspiring writers to develop their skills in a supportive and collaborative way. The course complements A Level English Literature, but taking A Level English Literature is not a requirement. In fact, many students opt to take the course as an alternative to their chosen A Levels and see it as an opportunity to pursue creative endeavour beyond their more formal academic subjects.

In lessons, students read a range of stimulating texts by contemporary writers and use these to inspire their own work in different forms: prose (fiction and non-fiction), poetry and script. They also participate in a weekly workshop, where they share work in progress and give constructive feedback to others.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students complete a portfolio of exploratory and polished work, and sit two terminal examinations that assess their commissioned and responsive writing skills.

“The creative writing course has allowed me to expand not only my knowledge and control of the English language, but also my understanding of the different forms and my appreciation of the joys of writing.” Mar, Lower Sixth.

For more information contact Ms Steer

jsteer@badmintonschool.co.uk



FILM STUDIES GCSE

This relatively new addition to the Badminton curriculum offers students a chance to engage with the world of Film, from the classics of Hollywood through to World Cinema and independent movies.

This course would suit those with an interest in this field, but it also provides an opportunity to develop discursive and analytical skills and to widen cultural awareness. Students will be equipped with the language to analyse the moving image, covering the concepts of cinematography, sound, editing and mise en scene. They will also consider case studies to explore the technological and industrial changes in this ever-evolving industry.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Texts studied include Submarine, The Farewell, Slumdog Millionaire, Dracula, The Lost Boys and Whiplash. The non-examined element requires students to use their creativity and apply the theoretical pillars of how film interacts with its audience to create their own short film or screenplay. There is a final examination which draws all the analytical skills together in a series of critical essays.

For more information contact Mrs Sapsford

csapsford@badmintonschool.co.uk



PLUS OPTIONS

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

In the Lower Sixth, students are given the opportunity to broaden and enhance their range of academic skills with a research project called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

This is a standalone qualification which has significant UCAS value and is very highly respected by many leading universities.

Although not a mandatory part of the Sixth Form programme, in this course students enjoy the freedom to carry out an extended piece of research into any topic chosen by them and this can take the form of a written thesis or even some form of practical outcome.

Since its launch a number of students have opted to include this qualification as a key part of their Sixth Form studies and the range of topics has been diverse. Reports have been written on areas ranging from Ebola, Diabetes and the fall of France in 1940, to Buddhism, airline safety and clinical trials.

Whilst some students opt to do the EPQ as a way of enhancing a university application, for others the motivation is the pleasure of learning. The EPQ may be the only occasion in a student's school life when they can produce an extended piece of work on a topic chosen by them, researched and honed by them and at the end presented to a gathered audience. For others, it presents an opportunity to explore an area of study linked to a degree course which cannot be covered in any A Level course such as medicine, accountancy or aspects of law. The EPQ is the ideal way to prove a commitment to a university subject.

For further information contact Mr Rawlings
srawlings@badmintonschool.co.uk



CLASSICAL GREEK GCSE

Classical Greek was the language spoken and written down in the ancient Greek world: it is the language, for example, of Homer's epic poetry, Euripides' tragedies, the histories of Herodotus, and the philosophy of Plato.

During this course, students will build up the language skills to enable them to read adapted stories from classical myth and history, and to study two Greek authors in the original language.

The OCR GCSE program is academically challenging and stimulating: the course is therefore a good fit for those who have taken the ICCG qualification in Year 11, or those who have enjoyed and excelled at GCSE Latin. We follow John Taylor's excellent 'Greek to GCSE' course.

For further information contact Ms Mayes
jmayes@badmintonsschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The texts for examination in 2026 will be selections from 'Oydssey, Book 10', and selections from 'Tales of Herodotus'.

Examination at the end of Upper Sixth takes the form of three written papers: one language, and two literature.

MODULE 1: LANGUAGE

- Written paper: 50%
- Comprehension and translation from Greek to English

MODULE 2: PROSE LITERATURE

- Written paper: 25%
- Tales from Herodotus

MODULE 3: VERSE LITERATURE

- Written paper: 25%
- Selections from Oydssey, Book 10



PLUS OPTIONS

IVY HOUSE AWARD

We are delighted to be able to offer Lower Sixth students the opportunity to undertake the Ivy House Award. The goal of the award is to build the confidence and skills young people need to step up and take ownership of their lives.

Previously, this self-leadership learning was only available to a small percentage of Senior Executives, but it is now available to 16-18 year olds. The goal of the award is to build the confidence and skills young people need to step up and take ownership of their lives including the following: the work they choose; the relationships they build; the confidence they have in themselves and the impact they make in the world.

You can read more about The Award [here](#). The course has received immensely positive feedback and some reflections are included below.

"It was a thoroughly useful experience that allows you to consider things about yourself that you may not ordinarily think about. This allows you to explore yourself, your actions, your behaviours, and in doing so, prepares you for later life with a more enlightened perception. Additionally, Ivy House places great emphasis on interpersonal relations and how these can be improved by you yourself rather than waiting and expecting others to change, promoting proactivity and confidence. Overall, the course has been highly beneficial usage of time."

Ella

"The Ivy House Award process has allowed me a lot of time to focus on the different areas that I am good at but also which areas I should work on in the future. It has helped me to reflect on my friends, family and the different relationships I have within my life. After reflecting and considering different areas that make up my happiness, I have been able to locate my priorities easier and it has been really useful for the future."

Yijing

"Ivy house was a really valuable experience for me as it allowed me to realise how much more ownership and control you can take with your life, which can lead to better outcomes and becoming a better version of yourself."

Marina



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students attend a weekly session with a trained facilitator. In each session, students are asked to engage in discussion, watch a masterclass, complete an exercise and reflect on their learning in their journals. There is no coursework submission or examination. Successful completion of the award is dependent on verbal contributions and written reflections.

At the heart of the award are The Ivy House 7: human leadership, core strength, 100% ownership, conscious mind, courageous learner, intentional relationships and proactive wellbeing.

Further information is available from Mrs Culverwell
lculverwell@badmintonschool.co.uk

A LEVELS AT BADMINTON





In our fast-paced visual world within which the Creative Industries are growing at such a rapid rate, visual communication skills and the ability to be creative have never been so important.

Our art studios are industrious and offer diversity in terms of skills, experiences and specialisms, with a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching the A Level Fine Art course. Initially projects are set and led by teachers to ensure syllabus coverage, yet the open-ended topics are designed to foster individualised interpretation, encourage personal investigations and individualised learning.

A predominantly practical course which is lively and stimulating, it builds on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE Level and develops advanced visual research, blending theory and practice. Art is a unique subject area offering invaluable learning opportunities for students where seeing, feeling, thinking and making are combined in a powerful form of visual and tactile communication.

The qualification is awarded by AQA, more information can be accessed about the course structure and syllabus [here](#).

Further information is available from Miss Thomas
jthomas@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level specification consists of two units:

COMPONENT 1

Personal Investigation: 60% of A Level.

Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, photographers or craftspeople. A written element supports the practical work and is expected to be between 1000 – 3000 words.

COMPONENT 2

Externally Set Assignment: 40% of A Level.

Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently. Within specified time constraints, students develop a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

All work produced for both components is marked in line with the AQA A Level assessment criteria which is structured across four Assessment Objectives: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4. Each objective assesses a different set of skills:

AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations.

AO2: Explore materials, techniques and processes, review and refine ideas as work develops.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.

AO4: Present personal and meaningful responses that realises intentions and makes connections between visual and other elements.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

BIOLOGY (AQA)



Studying biology at A Level will enable you to acquire a systematic body of biological knowledge and an appreciation of its significance.

It is a subject that can provide you with great enjoyment and respect for living things. You will develop a greater understanding about your health and the pressures shaping our environment. This course develops many of the topics that you have already studied at IGCSE and introduces you to some of the exciting areas of biology in the contemporary world.

PRACTICAL ENDORSEMENT

Biology is a practical subject so you will also develop experimental skills and have a greater understanding of scientific method.

The development of practical skills is continuously assessed and reported to the Exam Board at the end of the course. The required "Practical Endorsement" involves completing a total of 12 specified practical activities over the two years of the course. You will be required to submit a write up for each individual practical. These practical skills will also be assessed in the final examinations.

The biology examination specification can be found [here](#).

Further information is available from Dr Hart

lhart@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The AS specification has been divided into four topics:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

These topics and associated practical skills will be assessed in two 90 minute written papers of equal weighting. The papers will consist of a mix of short answer and longer comprehension style questions.

The A Level topics are:

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

All eight topics and associated practical skills will be assessed in three 2 hour papers of similar weighting.

Paper 3 of the A Level examinations includes a 25 mark synoptic essay question.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



The study of business at A Level offers students the exciting opportunity to explore the business world through case study examples and a range of different contexts.

The course allows you to explore a huge variety of business areas, including marketing, finance, human resources, operations, globalisation and the economy. You will be looking at national and global businesses and analysing their behaviour using business theory. If you have ever wondered what it takes to be an entrepreneur, why a particular business is so successful, how global events affect businesses then this course should help you answer those questions.

The Edexcel specification has been bought right up to date and not only will it build your business knowledge, but also develop your decision making, problem solving skills as well as the ability to critically analyse situations. The numerical side of the specification means you will be calculating cash flow forecasts and income statements, as well as working out how to analyse investment decisions. In today's globally competitive environment, business will provide you with the solid foundations on which to build a sound understanding of the business environment around you.

The business examination specification can be found [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Luecke

wluecke@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Course Structure

THEME 1: Marketing and People

THEME 2: Managing Business Activities

THEME 3: Business Decisions

THEME 4: Global Business

These are assessed in three 2 hour written examinations at the end of the second year.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

CHEMISTRY (AQA)



Chemistry underpins our everyday existence. It is responsible for advances in the quality and comfort of our lives and is central to our understanding of the natural world.

Everyday items we take for granted such as washing powders, cosmetics, perfumes, toothpaste and toiletries were developed with the help of chemists. Exciting products such as new fabrics for sportswear, laptops and state of the art mobile phones are equally dependent on chemistry. Many of the challenges facing today's society will be overcome with the help of chemical scientists. Their work will be central to the development of new sustainable energy resources and new medicines to treat and cure diseases. Chemistry is an exciting, challenging subject that can lead to the study of a wide range of subjects and careers.

PRACTICAL ENDORSEMENT

The development of practical skills is continuously assessed and reported to the Exam Board at the end of the course. The required "Practical Endorsement" involves completing a total of 12 specified practical activities over the two years of the course.

The chemistry A Level specification can be found [here](#).

More information is available from Dr Pascoe
hpascoe@badminton.school.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level specification consists of three units:

PAPER 1: Inorganic and physical chemistry

This paper covers the following physical topics: atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, chemical equilibria, redox, thermodynamics, electrode potentials and acids, all of inorganic topics, and relevant practical skills. The paper is assessed by a 2 hour written exam, of both short and long answer questions, makes up 35% of the A Level marks.

PAPER 2: Organic and physical chemistry

This paper covers the following physical topics: amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and rate equations, all of the organic topics and relevant practical skills. The paper is assessed by a 2 hour written exam, of both short and long answer questions, makes up 35% of the A Level marks.

PAPER 3: Synoptic element and practical skills

This paper is a synoptic assessment covering the entire course. Students' knowledge and understanding of practical chemistry is examined in this paper. There is no longer a practical exam although students are expected to build and maintain a portfolio of at least 12 practical investigations. The paper is assessed by a 2 hour written exam, of both questions on practical techniques and data analysis as well as multiple choice questions, makes up 30% of the A Level marks.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (OCR)



Classical Civilisation is the study of ancient Greek and Roman cultures through literature, history, art and philosophy – it is the ultimate humanities subject.

The huge influence of the ancient world on Western society makes studying Classical Civilisation a unique conduit for thinking critically about some of our most fundamental moral and political ideas. Through reading Greek and Roman texts in translation and studying the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean world, students on this course will explore timeless themes of mortality, virtue, gender and religion – in short, what being human is all about.

The core 'World of the Hero' module offers students the chance to read in-depth the earliest surviving work of Western literature - Homer's profound epic poem, The Iliad – alongside Virgil's morally complex Roman epic, The Aeneid. In 'Greek Theatre', we study not only two famous tragedies and a raucous comedic satire, but also the material setting and cultural importance of the Athenian theatre itself. The 'Greek Religion' module offers the chance to explore an essential and intriguing part of ancient Greek identity.

Many students find Classical Civilisation a superb complement to A Levels such as English, History and PRE (Philosophy, Religion and Ethics), while others choose to study it simply for interest. Unlike Latin, there is no language component at all – every text is studied in English translation.

For more information on the Classical Civilisation specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Ms Mayes
jmayes@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- A Level course

WORLD OF THE HERO

- Homer's Iliad
- Virgil's Aeneid

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Greek Theatre:

- Sophocles' Oedipus
- Euripides' Bacchae
- Aristophanes' Frogs
- Visual and material sources

BELIEFS AND IDEAS

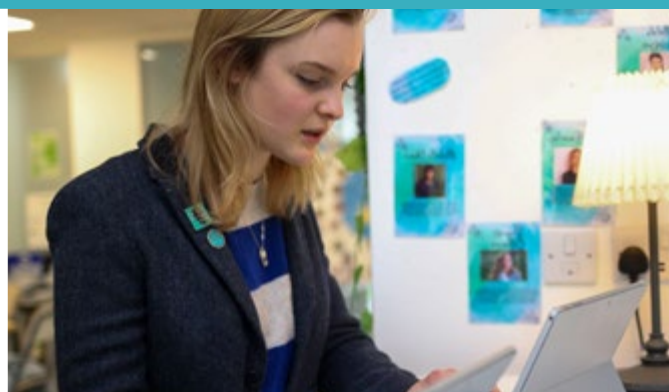
Greek Religion:

- The Olympian gods
- Cults and oracles
- Worship and ritual
- Religion and philosophy

Assessment is through written examination, with 50% of the marks available for 'World of the Hero' and 25% for each of 'Greek Theatre' and 'Greek Religion'

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (OCR)



Computer Science is a practical subject where you will learn to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems.

It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The course values computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. You will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills

Studying computer science will provide you with the core skills needed to help shape businesses and organisations. New tools, programs and development kits will help develop your knowledge and ability in areas such as I.T., games development, software engineering, design and security.

National competitions such as Cyber Discovery run by GCHQ and NCSC, will encourage you to put your skills to the test and will allow you to have real life experiences of using the skills you will be learning throughout the course.

In addition, you will have the option to take the Cyber EPQ, a Level 3 qualification, accredited by City & Guilds, worth up to an extra 28 UCAS points. There would be an additional fee associated with this and details will be shared by your class teacher.

More information is available from Mr Hope
jhope@badminton.school.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level consists of three units:

UNIT 1: COMPUTER SYSTEMS (40%)

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- 2 hours 30 mins written paper

UNIT 2: ALGORITHMS AND PROGRAMMING (40%)

- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms
- 2 hours 30 mins written paper

UNIT 3: PROGRAMMING PROJECT (20%)

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation
- Non-exam Assessment

For more information on the Computer Science specification please click [here](#).

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

DANCE (AQA)



A Level Dance allows students to explore their creativity through developing their own group choreography, as well as challenging technique and performance skills via presentation of a solo and a group dance.

The subject would sit very well alongside the school's other creative A Level options, including music and drama.

Students will engage critically with areas of study such as Ballet Rambert and American jazz dance and study the theoretical and practical works of choreographers such as Christopher Bruce and Gene Kelly. Technical, physical and interpretative skills will be challenged and developed through practical performance work.

Students will also be expected to translate their dance ideas into choreography in response to an externally set task.

For the A Level Dance specification please click [here](#).

More information is available from Ms Lewarne

jlewarne@badmintonschool.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

COMPONENT 1

Performance and choreography – practical examination 50% of A Level (80 marks)

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

COMPONENT 2

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works – written examination 50% of A Level (100 marks)

- One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study
- One optional set work within the corresponding area of study

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES (AQA)



Drama and theatre studies is an exciting, inspiring, practical and rigorous course.

It promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama and theatre as performers and/or designers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. The subject is appropriate for any level of experience and talent as long as the pupil has the ability and willingness to work as part of a theatrical team.

Students who have completed the course have gone on to top universities and Drama Schools, gaining degrees in a diverse range of subjects from drama, English and the humanities, to PPE, law, business and economics.

A Level Drama and Theatre studies offers students the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form, in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention.

For more information on the drama and theatre studies specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Chilcott
schilcott@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level consists of three units:

COMPONENT 1

Drama and theatre

- Written exam
- 40% of A Level

COMPONENT 2

Creating original drama (practical)

- Assessed via working notebook
- Devised performance
- 30% of A Level

COMPONENT 3

Making theatre (practical)

- Performance
- Reflective report
- 30% of A Level

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

ECONOMICS (AQA)



This course gives students an insight into the workings of economies. It deals with economic issues and problems being faced today in the real world by individuals, businesses and governments.

Understanding economics will enable you to make informed judgements about British, European and global issues and provide an ideal platform for further study of economics, business and accountancy at university.

Through studying both micro and macro economics you will develop a good grasp of basic economic theory as well as understanding a little economic history and exploring why economic thought is now changing.

The AQA specification has reflected recent events and you will now get the opportunity to study the financial markets as well as behavioural economics for the first time. You will learn how to analyse and understand economic data, critically evaluate information and reach justified conclusions and recommendations about the world in which you live.

With the current worldwide economic turbulence there has never been a better time to study such a dynamic and relevant subject.

Full details of the specification for economics are available to view [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Luecke
wluecke@badmintonsschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level is split into two main areas:

MICROECONOMICS:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

This includes such topics as The Law of Demand, demand and supply, elasticities, production costs and revenue, market failure and government intervention.

MACROECONOMICS:

The national and international economy.

Here we explore wider national economic issues including economic growth, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, unemployment and the balance of payments on the current account.

Assessment is via three written examinations at the end of the second year.

PAPER 1: Microeconomics. A mixture of data response and essay style questions.

PAPER 2: Macroeconomics. A mixture of data response and essay style questions

PAPER 3: A synoptic paper drawing on understanding of both micro and macro economics including a mixture of multiple choice and a synoptic data response section.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR)



The academic study of English literature gives you the chance to analyse and explore a range of texts and your personal response to language which explores culture, politics, history, philosophy, psychology and morality.

Your own writing will develop as you learn to formulate your responses into coherent, precise and eloquent prose. English literature can prepare you for a wide variety of careers ranging from journalism, to working in the media and communications.

The reformed linear A Level offers an exciting and varied range of texts written from the 16th to the 21st century.

Lower Sixth: At the beginning of the course you will have the chance to discover texts that you will not have come across at GCSE including the poetry of Christina Rossetti, Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play *A Doll's House*, and one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, *Hamlet*. For coursework, we explore literature post-1900, working towards two essays: close reading or re-creative writing on poetry, and a comparison of a novel and a play.

Upper Sixth: We will explore the topic of Dystopian Literature, studying George Orwell's masterpiece *1984* (1949) and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) as our core texts, along with a range of other extracts from dystopian fiction.

The English literature specification can be found [here](#).

For further information please contact Ms Steer
jsteer@badminton.school.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

At the end of the course there are three components that make up the A Level:

COMPONENT 1

- Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry pre 1900 – 40%

COMPONENT 2

- Close reading and comparative/contextual study in a chosen topic area (Topic: Dystopian Literature) – 40%

COMPONENT 3

- Coursework – 20%

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

FRENCH (EDEXCEL)



Studying A Level French builds on the skills acquired at IGCSE. The majority of the teaching will be in French, with discussions and debates on the topics on the syllabus as well as current affairs.

The content goes beyond just a study of France, and includes many aspects of the culture and traditions of other French speaking countries. There is a focus on translation from and into French as well oral presentation skills and essay writing. A film is studied in the Lower Sixth and a book in the Upper Sixth.

Students are encouraged to take part in a homestay visit (previous years have included Bordeaux and Nice), which not only provides some excellent tuition at a language school, but also allows you to be immersed in French. Once a week you will have an additional lesson with our French Assistant.

The Department also offers a DELF qualification; see page 17 to find out more.

For more information on the French specification please click [here](#).

More information is available from Mrs Walton
nwalton@badmintonschool.co.uk

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

- Lower Sixth

Changes in French society (family, education, work)

Political and artistic culture in French speaking countries (music, media, festivals and traditions)

The study of a film (currently 'Intouchables')

- Upper Sixth

Immigration and the French multicultural society

The occupation and the Resistance during World War 2

The study of a book (currently 'Les Mains Sales' by Jean-Paul Sartre)

Preparation of a topic to be discussed in the oral (Independent research topic)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- There are three papers for the A Level exam:

EXAM 1: Listening, reading and translation into English

EXAM 2: Written response to works (book and film) and translation into French

EXAM 3: Oral

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)



For those with a real passion and talent for mathematics, further mathematics can be an immensely rewarding and satisfying course of study.

The course consists of two compulsory modules where students extend their knowledge of pure mathematics, looking at some new interesting areas such as complex numbers and matrices.

Once these are complete there is the option of studying each of the three areas of pure, mechanics and statistics in greater depth or trying a new area of mathematics; decision mathematics. Each year we will endeavour to teach the options that best reflect the interests of the group.

Students who choose to study further mathematics will complete the A Level Mathematics material in the Lower Sixth and then move onto the A Level Further Mathematics material in the Upper Sixth. Both will be examined at the end of the Upper Sixth.

For full details of the Further Mathematics course specification, please follow this [link](#) and select 'A Level Further Mathematics' from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.

Please note that to study further mathematics a Grade 9 at (I)GCSE is required.

Further Information is available from Mrs Myers
amyers@badmintonsschool.co.uk

For mathematics, please see page 40.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students sit four 90 minute papers each contributing 25% of the final mark.

PAPER 1 AND PAPER 2: Core pure mathematics

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

PAPER 3: Option 1

Students take one of the following four options:

- Further pure mathematics 1
- Further statistics 1
- Further mechanics1
- Decision mathematics 1

PAPER 4: Option 2

Students take one of the following seven* options:

- Further pure mathematics 2
- Further statistics 1
- Further mechanics1
- Decision mathematics 1
- Further statistics 2
- Further mechanics 2
- Decision mathematics 2

*The option chosen for Paper 4 must be compatible with that chosen for Paper 3.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 9.

GEOGRAPHY



Geography is the study of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing and the interconnections between them – both locally and globally.

The concepts of sustainability are important as is the management and mismanagement of the environment in different global contexts.

Geography is a very diverse subject that sits at the interface of the sciences and humanities and provides a firm base for life-long learning. Consequently, geography graduates go into a wide variety of jobs, particularly into fields such as law, development, journalism, management, environmental consultancy and the financial sector to name a few.

For more information on the geography specification please click [here](#).

For further information please contact Mrs McEvoy
smcevoy@badminton.school.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level specification consists of the following topics:

- DYNAMIC LANDSCAPES

Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Landscape Systems, Processes and Change (Glaciated landscapes or Coastal Landscapes)

- DYNAMIC PLACES

Globalisation, Shaping Places (Regenerating Places or Diverse Places)

- PHYSICAL SYSTEMS & SUSTAINABILITY

The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity,
The Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity

- HUMAN SYSTEMS & GEOPOLITICS

Superpowers, Global Development (Migration Identity and Sovereignty or Human Rights and Intervention)

Enquiry skills will be developed through the independent investigation which is related to content within the specification and based on fieldwork experiences.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



Studying A Level German builds on the skills acquired at IGCSE. The majority of the teaching will be in German, with discussions and debates on the topics on the syllabus (see below) as well as current affairs.

Listening, reading, speaking and writing skills are developed to a high level through the study of the culture and traditions of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. There is also a focus on translation from and into German, as well as oral presentation skills and essay writing. Students study a film in the Lower Sixth and a book in the Upper Sixth with the opportunity to research a topic of their choosing for the oral exam.

Once a week you will have an additional lesson with our German Assistant.

The Department also offers a DAF qualification (see page 17), and it is possible to study German AS as a plus option with the examination being taken in the Summer Term of Lower Sixth (see page 15).

For more information on the German specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mrs Richardson
hrichardson@badmintonsschool.co.uk

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

Lower Sixth

- Aspects of German-speaking society (family, digital world, youth culture)
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world (festivals and traditions, art and architecture, Berlin)
- Film study (currently Goodbye, Lenin!)

Upper Sixth

- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society (migration, integration, racism)
- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world (Germany and the EU, politics and youth, reunification and its consequences)
- Book study (currently 'Der Vorleser' by Bernhard Schlink)
- Independent Research Project for the speaking exam

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

There are three papers for the A Level exam:

EXAM 1: Listening, reading and translation (50% of A Level)

EXAM 2: Writing (written response to works) (20% of A Level)

EXAM 3: Speaking (30% of A Level)

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

HISTORY (AQA)



The study of history allows us to explore the human experience.

Students will explore the forces which have shaped the political, cultural and intellectual world of the past. History trains you to select relevant information, assess the validity of an argument, think and write logically, make informed judgements about controversial issues and present a well-ordered case backed by supporting evidence. Thereby, the study of history equips the students for both a wide range of future study and, beyond that, a wide variety of careers.

The courses pursued at Badminton explore key moments of change in British and World History: the Tudor Dynasty and the American War of Independence. The courses follow a linear path.

This means that students of history cover two units, a breadth and a depth study, throughout the two years. There is also a coursework unit which contributes to the A Level.

For more information on the History specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Davies
ldavies@badminton-school.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- The Breadth Study

THE TUDORS: ENGLAND, 1485–1603

This unit will comprise 40% of the A Level mark.

Part One: Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty:
England, 1485–1547 (Lower Sixth)

Part Two: England, 1547–1603: Turmoil and Triumph
(Upper Sixth)

- The Depth Study

THE BIRTH OF THE USA, 1760–1801

As with the Breadth Study, this unit will comprise 40% of the A Level mark and is studied throughout the two years of the course.

Part One: The origins of the American Revolution,
1760–1776 (Lower Sixth)

Part Two: Establishing the Nation, 1776–1801 (Upper Sixth)

- The Historical Investigation

The coursework unit makes up 20% of the total A Level marks and is teacher assessed. Students will be expected to carry out a piece of research which demonstrates an awareness of historiography, includes a range of evaluated sources and must arise from the study of a period covering 100 years.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

HISTORY OF ART (EDEXCEL)



History of Art is an academic subject for those who are interested in the visual world, its language and its context.

In studying painting, sculpture and architecture from a range of cultures and periods, students who follow this course will develop an understanding of, and the ability to undertake effective visual analysis. This visual literacy is developed by building knowledge and understanding of key terminology, and the ability to analyse and interpret the choices made by artists in their art.

The study of art in its historical and contemporary forms gives students crucial knowledge of world civilisations. It teaches visual and analytical skills that can be applied in many walks of life and the tools to understand how images and objects work to shape our social and political identities. Art history develops a wide range of skills and uses a range of methodologies. Through observation, description and critical analysis of images students learn to discuss the media, techniques and formal qualities of painting, sculpture and architecture using specialist vocabulary, as well as recognise the features of individual and historical styles. Students are required to research independently, contribute to class discussions and debates, give presentations and submit essays. The course culminates in two written exams each worth 50% of the overall qualification.

Those wishing to study architecture post Sixth Form will find this course exceptionally useful in increasing their knowledge of architectural styles, issues of form and function, as well as expanding their architecture specific vocabulary. The study of art history complements many other subjects, English literature, history, modern languages, Latin, philosophy, religion, ethics and art in particular.

The qualification is awarded by Pearson Edexcel, more information can be accessed about the course structure and syllabus [here](#).

Further information is available from Ms Loring-Melia
jloring@badmintonschool.co.uk or Miss Thomas
jthomas@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

PAPER 1: Visual analysis and themes

War in art and architecture

Identities in art and architecture

PAPER 2: Periods

Invention and illusion: the Renaissance in Italy (1420-1520)

Rebellion and revival: the British and French Avant-Garde (1848-99)

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the contexts of art.

AO2: Analyse and interpret artists' work, demonstrating understanding of visual language.

AO3: Make critical judgements about art through substantiated reasoned argument.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



Latin is universally recognised as a rigorous academic subject, which has had a profound influence upon every aspect of Western civilisation, both in the sciences and the arts.

Studying Latin at A Level provides plenty of scope for discussion and sharing ideas as students develop their translation and literary criticism techniques. There are regular translations set to allow consolidation of grammar, vocabulary and syntax systematically. As skills develop, students are able to read original Latin texts unseen, on topics as diverse as advice for dealing with unrequited love (Ovid) to the early foundation myths of Rome (Livy).

Reading the literature set texts, students will find themselves discussing and exploring some surprisingly modern topics. In the first year of the course, oratory and rhetoric is explored through examination of Cicero's politically savvy speeches. Themes of duty, heroism and identity are also addressed in sections from Virgil's great epic, The Aeneid. Students then have input as to which texts they may be interested in studying in the second year of the course.

In Latin, students are required to develop analytical, literary and linguistic skills; these are deservedly respected by employers. Latin may be read at university as a subject in its own right, as part of a dazzling array of Classics degrees, or jointly with other languages, ancient and modern.

For more information on the Latin specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Ms Mayes

jmayes@badmintonsschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- A Level course

LANGUAGE

Students will focus on developing their translation skills so that they are able to tackle the reading of un-adapted texts from two important Roman authors.

PROSE LITERATURE

Students will explore the works of Roman historians, orators and political commentators.

VERSE LITERATURE

Students will delve into the work of the epic poet Virgil.

Assessment is through written examination, with 50% of the marks available for language and 50% for literature.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)



Mathematics is a subject that provides excellent transferable skills that can be applied to a wide range of subjects.

Universities place a high value on this subject because it shows the individual is capable of in-depth, independent study.

The Edexcel 9MA0 course covers three main areas of mathematics: pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics. Within the course all students are required to study all three areas. Through studying A Level Mathematics students will learn how to construct and present mathematical arguments and proofs and develop their problem solving skills.

The course places an increased emphasis on the application of mathematics to the real world and mathematics students will therefore learn the highly valuable and transferable skills of mathematical modelling.

In mechanics, students learn about the simplified assumptions needed to enable us to model real world situations. In statistics, students will learn hands-on data handling and statistical inference by working with a large data set. They will learn about the issues that can arise with real world data such as missing data points, outliers and errors.

The minimum mathematics (I)GCSE grade requirement for A Level Mathematics is a Grade 7. For more information on A Level Mathematics outcomes achieved by pupils achieving Grades 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE, please click [here](#).

To read more about the maths specification, please click [here](#).

Further Information is available from Mrs Myers
amyers@badmintonschool.co.uk

For Further Mathematics, please see page 34.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Students sit three 2 hour papers each contributing 33.33% of the final mark.

PAPER 1 AND PAPER 2: Pure mathematics

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors

PAPER 3: Statistics and mechanics

- Sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Hypothesis testing
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



Studying music in the Sixth Form is the ideal stepping stone for those wishing to pursue music at university, or for those with a deep love of the art form.

Our A Level course offers the opportunity to develop proficiency across a broad spectrum of skills, from an individual performance to orchestral collaboration.

Students interested in studying Music are advised to have reached a minimum of Grade 6 in their main instrument or voice at the beginning of the Sixth Form and should receive individual instrumental or vocal tuition for the duration of the course.

Full details of the course specification are available to view [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Lapthorn-Graham
jlapthorn-graham@badmintonschool.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level course consists of three components:

- performing
- composing
- listening and appraising

PERFORMING

Students perform a recital lasting at least 10 minutes as a soloist, accompanist or in an ensemble on any instrument or voice. The performance must take place between March and May in the examination year. The performance is then sent to the examiner as an audio recording for external assessment.

This component makes up 35% of the total marks.

COMPOSING

Students will be required to submit at least two separate pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 4 minutes and 30 seconds.

- One composition to a brief set by AQA. There are seven briefs to choose from, each one relating to one of the course's areas of study (see below).
- One composition is a free composition, in which students are free to choose all aspects of their composition.

This component makes up 25% of the total marks.

LISTENING AND APPRAISING

Through the study of set works and related repertoire drawn from the areas of study, students will be able to develop knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.

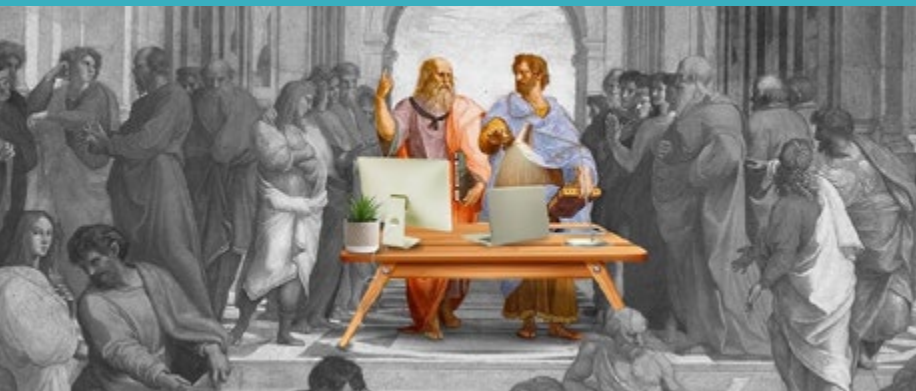
Students must choose to study at least three of the seven areas of study:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910.

This component makes up 40% of the total A Level marks and is assessed by a 2 hours 30 minutes written examination.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND ETHICS (OCR)



Philosophy, religion, and ethics (PRE) is the essential pursuit for students looking to cultivate, articulate and argue complex ideas. From law to journalism to policy, PRE is recognised by top universities as one of the most intellectually challenging A Level disciplines.

The three core areas of study are:

- Philosophy of religion
- Christian thought
- Ethics

In philosophy we start with Socrates and run right through to contemporary thinkers like Judith Butler. The course centres around ultimate questions of the Western canon: what is consciousness? What is real? What does it mean to have free will?

Ethics is the study of moral judgement and human conduct.

At A Level we study classic theories such as utilitarianism, kantian and situation ethics, applying them to new contemporary dilemmas, such as euthanasia, artificial intelligence, business, and sexuality; as well as meta-ethical philosophy where we consider questions like 'what do we actually mean by 'good'?

In Christian thought we examine theology. From the "Problem of evil" to "Gender theory" and "Marxist liberation theology". Theology involves analysing the ideas and beliefs that underpin religious culture. You do not need to have completed GCSE Religious Studies to pursue philosophy at A Level.

We also offer AS philosophy, religion, and ethics as a 'plus' option in Lower Sixth.

For more information on the philosophy, religion, and ethics specification please click [here](#).

Further Information is available from Mr Rawlings
srawlings@badminton.school.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Course structure

ETHICS

Natural moral law
Kantian ethics
Utilitarianism
Situation ethics
Applied ethics - euthanasia
Applied ethics - business ethics
Meta-ethics
Sexual ethics
Conscience

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Human nature
Death & the afterlife
Knowledge of Gods' existence
Jesus Christ
Moral principles / moral action
Pluralism & theology / pluralism & society
Gender & theology
Secularism
Liberation & theology & Marx

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Plato and Aristotle
Soul, mind and body
Teleological argument
Cosmological argument
Ontological argument
Religious experience and language
Attributes of God

- Exams

A Level is examined in three 2 hour exams and there will be a choice of three out of four questions to be answered.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

PHOTOGRAPHY (AQA)



Photography students are encouraged to develop their technical and creative ability.

The course is taught by specialist teachers with specialist facilities. We are lucky enough to have a purpose-built darkroom for traditional black and white 35mm photography, Canon EOS digital cameras, studio backdrops and lighting, and a computer suite with full Adobe Creative Suite access, including Photoshop, Lightroom and Illustrator. In the early stages of the course, students engage in a period of creative experimental studies under the guidance of specialist teachers, to develop personal responses to a range of starting points. This leads into students identifying their strongest areas of interest to further develop into personal investigations.

The greatest value of the A Level Photography course is that it teaches the aesthetic skills used in a whole range of visually orientated careers, from architecture to fashion, television and digital media to graphic or theatre design, marketing and product development.

Students develop ideas and present their work in a creative and professional manner. Through both manual analogue and digital platforms students gain understanding of composition, tonal values, focusing, aperture and shutter speeds. Learning to analyse the work of other photographers becomes a valuable support to the development of their own work and aesthetic sensibilities.

In the second year of study, practical work is accompanied by a written element, within which students express their ideas and their creative journey.

The qualification is awarded by AQA, more information can be accessed about the course structure and syllabus [here](#).

Further information is available from Miss Thomas
jthomas@badmintonsschool.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level specification consists of two units:

COMPONENT 1

Personal investigation: 60% of A Level.

Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, photographers or craftspeople. A written element supports the practical work and is expected to be between 1000 – 3000 words.

COMPONENT 2

Externally Set Assignment: 40% of A Level.

Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently. Within specified time constraints, students develop a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

All work produced for both components is marked in line with the AQA A Level assessment criteria which is structured across four assessment objectives: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4. Each objective assesses a different set of skills:

AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations.

AO2: Explore materials, techniques and processes, review and refine ideas as work develops.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.

AO4: Present personal and meaningful responses that realises intentions and makes connections between visual and other elements.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AQA)



Studying A Level Physical Education will give you an insight into the fast paced world of sport.

The difference between winning and losing in high performance sport is often marginal and won by 100ths of a second or centimetres. Physical education is an increasingly diverse subject and the A Level course offers an excellent overview of the varying factors which contribute towards achieving the optimal athletic performance.

This is a multi-dimensional course which enables students to acquire a range and depth of knowledge across a variety of inter-related disciplines.

Full details of the physical education course specification are available to view [here](#).

Further information is available from Mrs McAnuff
pmcanuff@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

SECTION A: Anatomy and physiology

SECTION B: Skill acquisition

SECTION C: Sport and society

- Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

SECTION A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

SECTION B: Sports psychology

SECTION C: Sport and society and technology in Sport

- Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

SECTION A: Practical performance as performer or coach in one chosen activity (15%)

SECTION B: Written/verbal analysis of performance (15%)

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



Taking A Level Physics will give you the opportunity to explore how the universe works and encourage you to approach the world not just logically, but with curiosity and a sense of wonder.

It will allow you to acquire and develop skills relating to the scientific method that are not only relevant to your science studies, but can be applied to other disciplines and to everyday life.

An ability to express yourself clearly and concisely whilst using scientific terminology accurately is necessary. The maths involved is more of a basic arithmetic requirement than anything else.

If you can rearrange an equation and then enter values into it to calculate an answer then you are qualified to do the course.

Physics is often taken with other scientific subjects and mathematics. However, in the past, students have even studied physics as a contrast to their other subjects such as art and modern languages.

For more information on the physics specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Hutchings
ohutchings@badminton.school.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Physics content is split into six teaching modules:

The modules can be summarised as:

MODULE 1: Development of practical skills

MODULE 2: Foundations of physics

MODULE 3: Forces and motion

MODULE 4: Electrons, waves, and photons

MODULE 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics

MODULE 6: Particles and medical physics

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.



Political decisions shape all of our lives both in the present and in the future.

Every person should be aware of how their system of government operates. Who wields the power, how, and does the system work? You should also be able, as informed citizens, to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

A Level Politics is an ideal preparation for exercising the privileges that we enjoy as citizens of the United Kingdom or other democratic nations around the world. Moreover, the study of politics is an exciting intellectual challenge where students develop and deploy a variety of skills: debate and discussion, the ability to create an effective argument, to analyse information and to make valid judgements to name but a few.

No other course demands such a blend of historical context and contemporary analysis, with students consuming both traditional and new media, bringing their ideas and opinions into the classroom to share, debate and consider.

For more information on the politics specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mr Davies

ldavies@badminton-school.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In the first year of the course we look at the British system of government and the way in which democracy operates in the UK. We focus on the three branches of government and their relationships as well as the way that elections and democratic participation operates in this country.

In the later part of the year we turn to political ideologies: looking at the core philosophies of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism as well as Nationalism.

We visit the House of Parliament, attend political lectures throughout the year, as well as exploring international politics through participating in Model United Nations.

In the second year we widen our scope to look at Global Politics, exploring the way in which states act as part of international communities, such as the United Nations, European Union or Arab League. We look at how nations can engage in both conflict and cooperation over issues such as poverty, climate change and human rights and how they can try to enforce their desires on the global community through economic power, diplomacy or military force.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7 in a Humanities or English.

PSYCHOLOGY (AQA)



The human mind is often thought of as the ultimate unexplored frontier. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour.

Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to investigate the way people think, feel, act and interact. These findings are then applied in numerous fields including mental health, forensics, education, business, research and sport.

Studying psychology will enable you to develop skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application, which are well received by both universities and employers. Lessons are a vibrant mixture of debate, discussion, lectures, group work and practical work.

Psychology is a relatively new discipline but has many overlaps with biology and medicine. Advances in neuroimaging techniques are enabling neuropsychologists to answer questions around consciousness, perception and emotion. Psychology is an exciting and broad subject which suits those with a curious and critical mind. Psychology is a Science A Level and universities often list it alongside other science subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths when outlining their entry requirements for certain courses.

"I love A Level Psychology because it covers a diverse range of topics that I find intriguing and relevant to our daily lives. From understanding attachment in infancy to exploring optional topics like relationships and stress, the course covers issues that are significant to Sixth Formers like us." ~ Katie, Upper Sixth

For more information on the psychology specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Mrs Schofield
cschofield@badmintonschool.co.uk



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The A Level specification has been divided into three sections:

PAPER 1: Introductory topics in psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

PAPER 2: Psychology in context

- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

PAPER 3: Issues and options in psychology

- Issues and debates in psychology
- Choice of relationships, gender or cognition and development
- Choice of schizophrenia, eating behaviour or stress
- Choice of aggression, forensic psychology or addiction

These topics will be assessed in three two hour written papers of equal weighting. There are a range of question styles including multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, with an emphasis on application of theories and knowledge. At least 10% of the overall assessment will contain mathematical skills and at least 25-30% of the overall assessment will assess skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to research methods.

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

SPANISH (AQA)



A Level Spanish is ideal for students who are passionate about the language and eager to deepen their understanding of Hispanic history and culture beyond GCSE.

This course gives students the opportunity to discuss current affairs, trends and know about individuals, events and developments that have influenced Hispanic culture, while perfecting the language through four skills, plus translation.

The A Level is entirely exam assessed, with three papers in the May or June of the Upper Sixth. Students will also have one period per week dedicated solely to work on their speaking skills.

For information about the Spanish specification please click [here](#).

Further information is available from Ms Vila
mvilasimo@badmintonschool.co.uk

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

• Lower Sixth

Theme 1: Aspects of Hispanic society

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage

Study of the film *Volver*

• Upper Sixth

Theme 3: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society

- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies and dictatorships
- Popular movements

Study of a novel *Como agua para chocolate* by Laura Esquivel, Mexico

IRP – Independent Research Project

EXAM 1: Listening, reading and translation into English (50% of the A Level)

EXAM 2: Translation into Spanish and essays on the studied film and novel (20% of the A Level)

EXAM 3: Speaking – discussion of one sub-theme and findings in the IRP (30% of the A Level)

For full details of the assessment process, please follow this [link](#).

Please note: The recommended minimum GCSE grade for access to this course is Grade 7.

NOTES

Badminton School
Westbury Road
Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol BS9 3BA

T: +44 (0) 117 905 5200
E: admissions@badmintonschool.co.uk
badmintonschool.co.uk