

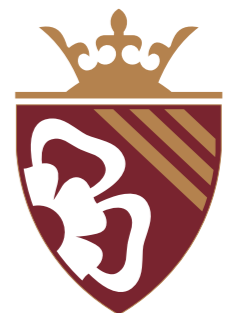


BROMLEY
INDEPENDENT GRAMMAR

Sixth Form Booklet
2021 – 2023

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A-Levels

Bromley Independent Grammar School offers a broad and varied A-Level Curriculum delivered by subject specialists. As sixth form study is far more independent and challenging than GCSE, students will find our very small class sizes, and the extra personal support from teachers and form tutors, invaluable in making the transition successfully.

We will be offering the following A-Level Courses:

- Mathematics
- English Literature
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Environmental Science
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Psychology
- History
- Ancient History
- Sociology

All courses are for two years. We are able to be fully flexible with subject combinations. A number of additional courses will also be available via our sister school, Sackville School based in Kent.

Entrance Requirements.

To be considered for A-Level study, all students should have 5 GCSE passes (at grade 4 or above) including Maths and English. Students who do not have the required grades in Maths and English may be able to resit these GCSEs while concurrently beginning the A-Level course at the school's discretion. In addition to this, students need to meet the specific requirements of their chosen subjects, as outlined in this booklet.

Mathematics



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above at GCSE. However, it is strongly advised that you speak to your Mathematics teachers to discuss your suitability for A-Level before applying.

Course Content

A-Level Mathematics builds upon the knowledge gained at GCSE Level. The core aims of the course are to:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment, and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study
- Use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems, both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly
- Read and comprehend mathematical arguments, including justifications of methods and formulae, and communicate their understanding

There are three main study areas:

- Mathematical Argument, Language and Proof (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Logarithmic Differentiation, Integration and Numerical Methods)
- Mathematical problem solving (Vectors, Statistical Sampling, Data Handling, Probability Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Momentum)
- Mathematical Modelling (Vectors, Statistical Sampling, Data Handling, Probability Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Momentum)

Assessment

There are three 2-hour written examination papers.

Paper 1 covers Mathematical Argument, Language and Proof.

Paper 2 covers Mathematical Problem Solving.

Paper 3 covers Mathematical Modelling.

Career Opportunities

A-level Mathematics is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. A-level Mathematics is an important qualification and it is a requirement for the vocational qualification related to these areas. This qualification opens doors for many career opportunities in STEM including aerospace engineering, chartered accountancy, banking, business studies and many more.

English Literature



A Level

Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in either GCSE English Language or English Literature. Students should have a love of literature, should enjoy reading for pleasure and are expected to read widely as an essential part of their learning. It is also vital to read literary criticism to inform their responses to texts.

Course Content

Component 1:

Drama. Two drama texts are studied.
One Shakespeare play plus one other drama text

Component 2:

Prose. Two prose texts from a chosen theme. One must be pre-1900, one may be modern

Component 3:

Poetry. A range of poetry from a literary period or a range of poetry from a named poet. Two essays, one of which will be comparative.

Component 4:

Non-exam assessment. A free choice of two texts. Chosen texts must be:

- Different from those studied in Components 1, 2 and 3
- Complete texts and may be linked by theme, movement, author or period
- May be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

Assessment

Component 1:

Drama - 2 hours 15 mins written examination (30% of total)

Component 2:

Prose - 1 hour written examination (20% of total)

Component 3:

Contemporary Poetry - 2 hr 15 mins examination (30% of total)

Component 4:

Coursework, internally assessed 2500-3000-word assignment (20% of total)

Career Opportunities

This course gives students a thorough grounding in the English literary heritage. It develops analytical skills, understanding, evaluating and communication, and an understanding of cultural and historical influence on English literature. Communication skills are vital for any managerial post. The ability to express oneself clearly in both written and spoken English is the hallmark of a professional person. Journalism, the law, the media, education and medicine are all career paths which an advanced qualification in English could help the student embark upon.

Chemistry



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

An APS of 6+ and Grade 6s in GCSE science (must have 6 in chemistry) and a grade 5 in mathematics.

Course Content

A-Level chemistry builds upon the knowledge gained at GCSE. The course includes a higher level of mathematical content and overlaps with some topics taught in physics. The core aim of this course is to:

- Develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills
- Carry out experimental and investigative activities, including appropriate risk management, in a range of contexts

There are three main areas of study:

- Physical chemistry (bonding, redox, reactions, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibria)
- Inorganic chemistry (group VII reactions, transition metals, periodicity)
- Organic chemistry (alcohols, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymerisation, halogenoalkanes)

Assessment

The exam is split into three 2-hour written examination papers.

Paper 1 covers inorganic chemistry and some relevant physical chemistry.

Paper 2 covers organic chemistry and relevant physical chemistry.

Paper 3 covers the practical skills along with any content studied over the 2-year period.

Career Opportunities

A-Level Chemistry is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in higher education. It is needed for a degree apprenticeship in a wide range of STEM careers, including engineering and astronomy, and is useful for futures in medical disciplines, pharmacology, environmental studies, forensics, psychology and more.

Biology



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Biology/Science

Course Content

This A-level course is linear, meaning that students will sit all the AS exams at the end of their AS course and all the A-level exams at the end of their A-Level course.

- 1 Biological molecules
- 2 Cells
- 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-Level only)
- 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A-Level only)
- 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A-Level only)
- 8 The control of gene expression (A-Level only)

Assessment

In each paper, candidates sit a mix of essay questions and long-answer application questions.

AS level: Two written examinations, 1 hour 30 minutes each. Each exam is 50% of AS grade.

A-Level: Three written examinations, 2 hours each. First exam is 35% of the A-level qualification, second exam is 35%, and the third exam is worth 30%.

Career Opportunities

The study of life itself, A-level Biology explores the theories and principles involved in living systems, in all their intricate beauty. Topics you will learn about include: lifestyle, transport, genes and health, development, plants and the environment, the natural environment and species survival, energy, exercise and co-ordination, as well as practical biology and research skills. By the end of the course you will know about the principles of genetics, molecules, taxonomy, natural selection, evolutionary theory, global warming, bacteria and viruses and more.

You will gain an understanding of how society makes decisions about scientific issues, as well some of the ways in which the scientific community contributes to the success of the economy and society.

A-Level Biology is a highly respected academic A-Level and is an excellent choice, offering you access to a wide range of university courses and careers. You will need biology for most degrees in medicine, biology, biomedical sciences, dentistry, dietetics, physiotherapy, orthoptics and veterinary medicine. Biology is usually required or recommended for courses in biochemistry, environmental science, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, sports science, physiology and speech therapy.

Physics



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

An APS of 6+ and Grade 6s in GCSE science (must have 6 in physics) and a grade 6 in mathematics. It is strongly advised that you speak to your physics and mathematics teachers to discuss your suitability for A-Level before applying, as it has a higher level of mathematical content

Course Content

A-Level Physics builds upon the knowledge gained at GCSE. The course includes a higher level of mathematical content.

The core aim of this course is to:

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- Use theories, models and ideas to develop scientific explanations
- Use appropriate methodology, including information and communication technology (ICT), to answer scientific questions and solve scientific problems
- Develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical, and problem-solving skills

This course has two components: Core and Optional. Core subjects cover measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences and nuclear physics. Optional subject includes astrophysics, medical physics, engineering physics, turning points in physics, and electronics

Assessment

The exam is split into three 2-hour written examination papers.

Paper 1 covers measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics, materials and electricity

Paper 2 covers further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences, and nuclear physics

Paper 3 is split into two sections:

Section A:

Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis

Section B:

Optional subject

Career Opportunities

A-level physics is needed for a degree or apprenticeship in a wide range of STEM careers, including engineering, pilot studies, astronomy, and is very useful for futures in finances and medical disciplines.

Environmental Science



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in English, Science or Psychology.

Course Content

- The living environment
- The physical environment
- Energy resources
- Pollution
- Biological resources
- Sustainability
- Research methods

Assessment

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessments at the end of the course.

There are two 3-hour written exams, each worth 50% of the total A-level grade.

Career Opportunities

Planet Earth is the only planet we can all live on, so we must look after it. If we are to manage it well we must:

- Study Earth to see how it works.
- Understand how we rely on environmental resources and services for our survival.
- Understand that human actions are reducing the ability of Earth to support us and the other species with which we share the planet.
- Develop sustainable lifestyles.

To achieve this, we must study how the Earth and human society interact to gain a better understanding, on which we can make better decisions.

A-Level in Environmental Science is a perfect qualification for those wishing to acquire knowledge and understanding of the subject, to enable them to study at a higher level at university.

It also provides a progression route for further training whilst in employment.

Economics



A Level

Board: Edexcel

Entrance Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 or above (including English and Maths). Students should be interested in current affairs. It is important that students keep up to date with the news as this will enable them to apply theory to the real world.

Course Content

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure.

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts and will cover the nature of economics, how markets work, market failure and government intervention.

Theme 2: The UK economy performance and policies.

Here students will study macroeconomic concepts. They will develop an understanding of measures of economic performance, aggregate demand and supply, national income, economic growth and macroeconomic objectives and policy.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market.

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. Students will develop an understanding of business growth, objectives, revenues, costs and profits. They will study market structures, labour market and government intervention.

Theme 4: A global perspective.

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. This includes the study of international economics, poverty and inequality, emerging and developing economies and the financial sector.

Assessment

100% examination: three examination papers, each 2 hours long.

Career Opportunities

We live in a world of infinite wants; however, the resources we have are limited and, as a result, we have to make decisions about what to produce, how to produce and who to produce for. As a student of economics your focus will be on solving this problem and understanding the decisions people, firms and governments make. Economics is a constantly changing and evolving subject and one that is highly respected by employers and universities. Economics A-Level is a sound preparation for many degrees and areas of work. Due to the nature of economics and because it encourages a rounded, analytical study of society and current affairs, an Economics A-Level will be well-received and an excellent pathway to many careers and further education courses.

Business Studies



A Level

Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 or above (including English and Maths).

Content

Theme 1: Marketing and people.

Students will develop an understanding of meeting customer needs, markets, marketing strategy, entrepreneurs and managing people.

Theme 2: Managing business activities.

This involves the topics of finance, financial planning and management, managing resources and external influences.

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy.

Students will develop an understanding of business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques, influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness and managing change.

Theme 4: Global business.

This unit of study will develop concepts introduced in Theme 1. This will involve globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing and multinational corporations.

Assessment

100% examination: three examination papers, each 2 hours long.

Career Opportunities

A great advantage of studying business is the degree to which it applies to many aspects of our lives. Young people already know much about the topics in this subject and therefore find this course very relevant to everyday experiences. It is challenging academically and requires rigorous intellectual study. A big focus on this course is decision making, understanding the content and then applying it to business problems, evaluating decisions based on economic outlook and a range of business issues and constraints. Students need to be able to write clearly and effectively. For these reasons a Business A-Level is looked upon very favourably by employers and universities. It is an excellent base for most degree courses, as there are many transferable skills that help with other subjects. It is very useful for apprenticeships and employment, as it gives a great insight into all areas of work. Students can pursue careers in small to medium enterprises or multinational corporations, the media, marketing, human resources or ICT. It can also provide many exciting opportunities to study and work abroad.

Psychology



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Science, Maths and English.

Course Content

Unit 1 of the course investigates the different theoretical approaches taken to the study of social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. Social influence covers topics such as group behaviour and investigates why and how people are influenced by others. Memory involves investigating how memory works and focuses on the reliability of eyewitness testimony. Attachment refers to relationships in early childhood and how these affect later adult experiences. Psychopathology concerns behaviour and disorders such as phobias and depression.

Unit 2 involves the extensive study of research methods. Students will develop their own research skills by conducting experiments. In this unit students also study biopsychology, which looks at how biology affects behaviour.

Unit 3 involves the option to study topics from the following units: cognition and development in childhood, schizophrenia, gender, relationships, aggression, and forensic psychology.

Assessment

Three 2-hour examinations

Career Opportunities

A psychology A-Level will involve exploring the human experience and behaviour and how they interact, develop and function with each other. It will prepare students for many different types of employment, including clinical, educational, occupational psychology, teaching, management, human resources, counselling, social work, sales, police and government, to name but a few. An A-Level in psychology is also viewed as providing excellent grounding for a very large number of university courses, including those offered by the Russell Group. It is a well-respected A-Level as it is an indicator of intellectual rigor, analytical thinking, excellent communication skills, problem solving and the ability to handle and manipulate data.

History



A Level

Board: Edexcel

Entrance Requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE History

Course content

A-Level History is a study of three fascinating periods in history, covering a different area of study and focusing on particular historical skills. For the examined units, we offer a study of searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century, examining American history 1917-1996 and South Africa 1948-94. In addition, we explore the relationship between authority and mass agitation in England, the struggle for greater representation in England, and the ways in which the interests and concerns of individuals in society could make themselves known in Britain 1780-1928. The final element is the coursework, which will be set through consultation between the student and the teacher, to provide the opportunity to engage in a topic they are interested in, along with guided alternatives.

Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA c.1917-96

Paper 2: South Africa, 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'

Paper 3: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c.1780-1928

Non-exam assessment coursework: Topic decided via negotiation

Assessment

Paper 1: Written examination, 2 hours, 15 minutes. 30% of total qualification

Paper 2: Written examination, 1 hour, 30 minutes. 20% of total qualification

Paper 3: Written examination, 2 hours, 15 minutes. 30% of total qualification

Coursework: Internally assessed 4000-word essay. 20% of total qualification

Career opportunities

The wide range of skills that students develop is useful in any career that requires an understanding of people, the mastery of complex bodies of knowledge and critical thinking. Whilst History is a particularly facilitating subject for law, politics and journalism, it is also helpful for a career in diverse areas such as finance, business and the heritage sector.

Ancient History



A Level

Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in History or English

Course Content

The A-Level will be examined by two components:

The first covers topics relating to Ancient Greece: (i) relations between Greek states and between Greek and non-Greek states in the period 492-404 BC; and (ii) The rise of Macedon, 359-323 BC.

The second covers topics relating to Ancient Rome: (i) the Julio-Claudian emperors in the period 31 BC-AD 68; and (ii) The breakdown of the Late Republic, 88-31 BC.

Assessment

In each paper, candidates will face a mixture of essay questions and questions asking them to analyse sources and historical interpretations.

Component 1:

Written examination, 2 hours, 30 minutes.
50% of total qualification

Component 2:

Written examination, 2 hour, 30 minutes.
50% of total qualification

Career Opportunities

By studying Ancient History, you will gain a rich understanding not only of Greece and Rome themselves but the peoples of 'unknown and mysterious worlds' that they encountered. Ancient History is a rigorous academic subject that is respected by every university. It will develop your analytic and evaluative skills through the study of both source material and the competing historical explanations it has led to. It will teach you how to articulate cogent arguments in a clear written form. These are skills that will benefit you across a range of subjects and beyond.

The wide range of skills that students develop is useful in any career that requires an understanding of people, the mastery of complex bodies of knowledge, and critical thinking. You should consider studying A-Level History if you intend to take a degree in History or a closely related subject such as Politics, or if you intend to follow a course in higher education for which history is a suitable preparation, such as law, journalism, teaching and museum curation.

Sociology



A Level

Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in English, History or Religious Studies.

Course Content

AS Compulsory content:

Education, Methods in context, Research methods

Optional:

Culture and Identity, Families and Households, Health, Work, Poverty and Welfare

A-Level Compulsory content:

Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods

Optional:

Beliefs in Society, Global Development, The Media, Stratification and Differentiation

Assessment

There are a series of five exams for this course spread over the two years. During the first year there will be two 1-hour exams, each worth 50% of the AS in this subject. In the second year there will be three 2-hour examinations, each worth 33.3% of the A-Level.

Career Opportunities

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups. A-Level Sociology examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops, and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race. A-Level Sociology also looks at the institutions and forces which shape and are shaped by groups within a society, such as the media, religion and education.

A-Level Sociology focuses on contemporary society, providing an awareness of the importance of social structure and actions in explaining social forces and issues.

A-Level Sociology helps you to develop knowledge and understanding of the essential sociological theories and methods (such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism) with which sociologists make sense of the diversity of societies, and of the forces which have and will continue to shape social change.

Sociology provides an excellent starting point for any social science degree from Economics, Psychology, and Politics to Criminology and Philosophy. You do not need to have an A-Level in Sociology to take Sociology at university, although it helps.



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