



Sixth Form
Course Guide
2011

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AS and A2 Choices for September 2011

This booklet gives you an outline description of subject choices and course content available to you at Casterton.

Most universities will make offers based upon particular grades in 3 A2 subjects. However, some institutions make offers based on the number of points scored.

The majority of girls at Casterton take 4 AS and 3 A2 subjects.

In some cases it may be more appropriate for a girl to take 3 AS subjects, as the workload associated with 4 subjects can be very demanding. In addition, in rare cases, a girl may take 4 A2 subjects. (Some girls will also take General Studies or an EPQ)

Girls will make their provisional choices at the end of the Easter term and the option blocks will then be constructed to allow as many combinations as possible. The School will make every possible effort to accommodate the first 3 choices.

When making your choices, it is important to speak to your subject teachers, the careers staff or to myself. Your choice of A level courses is a very important decision and this booklet should be a useful starting point. Remember that we are all here to help you. For those with little idea of their future career, it is sensible to choose subjects that you enjoy and feel comfortable with.

Casterton girls have always achieved an extremely high success rate at A level and the results are outstanding.

Ms H Rowland (Head of Sixth Form)

Subject:	Art and Design: Option B – Fashion and Textiles	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: aqa.org.uk
Specification:	Textile Design	
Assessment:	50% coursework module and 50% externally set assignment module	

Description of the course:

Students study fashion and textiles as part of a module of coursework designed to support exploration and experimentation. Areas of study include fashion design, printed and dyed fabrics, constructed textiles and textile installation. Each student is encouraged to develop a body of work in response to an idea, theme, issue or concept. This involves demonstrating an involvement with working processes, evidence of research and the development of ideas. The modules of coursework are supported by visits to museums, galleries and exhibitions as well as a series of workshops by practising artists and designers.

AS

Module 1:	Coursework	50% AS Marks	25% Total A Level Marks
Module 2:	Externally set assignment (Exam)	50% AS Marks	25% Total A Level Marks

Students have a maximum of 4 weeks to produce preparatory work for a 5 hour terminal test. Students can specialise in an area of study; fashion design, printed and dyed fabrics, constructed textiles and textile installation.

A2

Module 3:	Coursework	50% AS Marks	25% Total A Level Marks
Module 4:	Externally set assignment (Exam)	50% AS Marks	25% Total A Level Marks

Students have a maximum of 4 weeks to produce preparatory work for a 15 hour terminal test. Students can specialise in an area of study; fashion design, printed and dyed fabrics, constructed textiles and textile installation.

General Comments:

Students are encouraged to develop as independent learners in a supportive and creative atmosphere. Students respond to ideas and concepts through diverse techniques and materials involving critical thinking, historical context and an awareness of contemporary visual culture.

Head of Department: Mrs V Eden

Subject:	Biology		
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address:	www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	5416/6416		
Assessment:	AS Two written papers - 1h 15 min, 1h 45 min A2 Two written papers - 1h 30 min, 2h 15 min Investigative and practical skills are assessed internally in both years		

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1 Biology of Disease

Unit 2 The Variety of Living Organisms

Unit 3 Investigative and Practical skills

Unit 3 replaces the traditional coursework component and consists of an internal teacher assessment carried out in timetabled lessons. The work has been designed to be similar in style to the practical assessments carried out at GCSE level.

The level of demand of AS examinations is that expected of a candidate half way through a full A level course.

A2

Unit 4 Populations and Environment

Unit 5 Control in cells and Organisms

Unit 6 Investigative and Practical skills

The A2 specification requires that field work is completed. To fulfil this, girls intending to take Biology in the U6 attend a four day residential field course in the last week of the summer term in the L6.

The level of demand at A2 level is greater than at AS. Candidates are expected to show knowledge and understanding of facts and principles from different areas of Biology and to apply them in unfamiliar contexts. Questions will be set that test content from more than one module.

General Comments:

Examinations in units 1 and 2 can be retaken in the U6.

It is desirable that girls have studied Chemistry at GCSE.

Head of Department:	Mr R J Sanders
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Subject:	Business Studies	
Examination Board:	OCR	Web address: www.ocr.org.uk
Specification:	3811 / 7811	
Assessment:	AS: Two papers - 1 hour (sat in Jan), 2 hours (sat in June) A2: Two papers - 2 hours (sat in Jan), 2 hours (sat in June)	

Description of the course:

This course introduces students to the operation of modern business enterprises. Each function of a firm is studied with particular emphasis placed on the ability to understand how firms are affected in different situations. The subject examines the behaviour and tactics of different firms, encouraging students to adapt their learning and understanding according to the business context given. The course develops the skills of the student so that she is able to analyse different business scenarios and apply the theory learned in the classroom.

AS

The different types of business ownership, their objectives and the external business environment are considered with their varying impact on stakeholders. The main functions of marketing, human resource management, operations management, accounting and finance are covered using different business scenarios to develop the skills of application. One of the examinations is based on a pre-issued case study so that the context of the business can be discussed in preparation for the exams.

A2

The course examines marketing in more detail. There is a strong emphasis on mathematical techniques such as sampling, sales forecasting, normal distribution curves and time series analysis. Students need to be able to develop synthesised strategies for businesses in different situations and provide strong arguments for their decisions. The final examination in June is based on a pre-issued case study.

General Comments:

The course demands an interest in business related issues with an ability to learn key business terms and to develop the skills of analysis and evaluation. At least GCSE grade B in both Maths and English Language is needed to manage the solutions for various business contexts. Business Studies combines well with all subjects. ICT in particular complements Business Studies, as many business activities involve the use of business software such as spreadsheets and databases. However, there is no formal ICT component in the course.

Head of Department: Mrs C E Compton
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Subject:	Chemistry		
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address:	www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	1421/2421		
Assessment:	Two written papers in L6 of 1¼ and 1¾ hours Two written papers in U6 of 1¾ hours. Coursework is assessed in both L6 & U6.		

Description of the course:

AS

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| Unit 1 | Chemistry 1 | Foundation Chemistry |
| Unit 2 | Chemistry 2 | Chemistry in Action |
| Unit 3 | Chemistry 3 | Investigative and Practical Skills in A/S Chemistry. |

AS units are examined at the end of L6.

The AS course is designed as a progression from GCSE to Advanced level and introduces the fundamental concepts that underpin all of Chemistry.

The AS course carries half the marks of the A level course.

A2

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| Unit 4 | Chemistry 4 | Kinetics, Equilibria, Organic Chemistry |
| Unit 5 | Chemistry 5 | Energetics, Redox, Inorganic Chemistry |
| Unit 6 | Chemistry 6 | Investigative and Practical Skills in A2 Chemistry |

The A2 units build on and extend the topics introduced in the AS units with more complex ideas and, where appropriate, a more quantitative approach.

Centre assessed coursework which involves an Investigative Skills Assignment and a Practical Skills Assessment is carried out during the AS and A2 courses, each contributing 10% to the total A level mark.

General Comments:

Girls who choose Chemistry as an AS and A level subject have usually obtained a Grade A* or A at GCSE level. A grade A or A* in GCSE Mathematics is desirable to cope with the mathematical content of the course.

Chemistry 'A' level is necessary for university entrance to courses in:

Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology, Chemical Engineering and Pure Chemistry.

Chemistry A level is also an advantage to girls who are considering a career in Agriculture, Nursing or Food Science.

Head of Department:	Mr A Bell
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Subject:	Design & Technology: Food Technology	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	2540	
Assessment:	AS: Unit 1 1 Written paper of 2 hours Unit 2 Coursework A2: Unit 3 1 Written paper of 2 hours Unit 4 Coursework	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1 – Materials, Components and Application

Unit 2 – Learning through Design and Making

At AS, pupils will have the opportunity to study nutrition. Knowledge of food science and of a wide range of materials and components used in the making of food products will be developed. Candidates will be given the opportunity to develop and solve a problem relating to food design and making. They will gain an understanding of industrial and commercial practices within the area of Food Technology

A2

Unit 3 – Design and Manufacture

Unit 4 – Design and Making Practice

At A2, the specification offers pupils the opportunity to further develop their nutritional knowledge and practical skills from AS. Candidates will continue to develop design work alongside an understanding of food science, processes and commercial food manufacture.

General Comments:

This course will appeal to students who have a keen interest in nutrition, food & product design. Both practical and theoretical aspects of food are included throughout all units. The coursework allows the students to produce an individual food product design.

Head of Department: Mrs V Parkinson

Subject:	Drama	
Examination Board:	Edexcel	Web address: www.edexcel.org.uk
Specification:	AS (8DR01) A2 (9DRO1)	
Assessment:	<p>AS – 20% internally assessed/externally moderated practical and written coursework. 30% externally assessed practical exam.</p> <p>A2 – 20% internally assessed/externally moderated practical and written coursework. 30% externally assessed written exam.</p>	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1 Exploration of Drama and Theatre

Internal Assessment: Exploration of two plays chosen by the centre. Practical drama activities with supporting exploration notes. Evaluation of live theatre.

Unit 2 Theatre Text in Performance

External Assessment:

- Monologue/duologue performance or design realisation.
- Group performance or design realisation.

A2

Unit 3

Internal Assessment: creation and performance or design of an original piece of drama.

Unit 4 Theatre Text in Context:

External assessment: 2½ hour written examination on a set text and historical performance conditions.

General Comments:

This course promotes an enjoyment of and an interest in drama and theatre both as a participant and as an informed member of an audience. It extends the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through drama and theatre, encourages life-long learning and provides access to drama, theatre and related careers.

This course provides a worthwhile, satisfying and complete course of study that broadens experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes personal and social development.

Head of Department: Mrs N Marriott

Subject:	Economics	
Examination Board:	Edexcel	Web address: www.edexcel.org.uk
Specification:	8121 / 9121	
Assessment:	AS : Two papers - both 1 hour, 15 min papers (one sat in Jan) A2 : Two papers - 1 hour, 15 min (sat in Jan), 2 hours	

Description of the course:

The course investigates the problem of scarce resources and how the economy works to satisfy the unlimited wants of consumers. Economics is constantly in the news and the subject enables students to appreciate the arguments involved in many current issues. The funding of the NHS, the Euro debate and the state of the UK economy are some of the topics studied. Students analyse how prices are determined in various markets and how the government influences the level of competition in these markets through its economic policies.

AS

The course applies the theories of demand and supply analysis to markets such as oil, agriculture and housing so that students can understand the causes of price changes. The advantages and problems of different economy structures are studied. Students learn how governments may try to remedy problems and how well governments perform in terms of inflation, unemployment, economic growth and international trade.

A2

Different market structures are studied by comparing the behaviour of firms under perfect competition, imperfect competition, oligopoly and monopoly markets. Government regulatory bodies and competition policy are considered. Measures to promote growth and development are explored with a strong emphasis on the issue of globalisation. The UK's position and its policies are evaluated through its Balance of Payments, real economic growth, sterling's exchange rate, inflation and unemployment rates.

General Comments:

The course demands an interest in business and economic related issues with an ability to learn key economic terms. At least GCSE grade B in both Maths and English Language is needed if students are to develop the skills to analyse and evaluate economic theories. Students must be willing to learn and apply economic concepts to different real life scenarios. Economics combines well with all subjects but especially well with Geography, which complements some of the issues covered in the Economics syllabus. Mathematics is also highly recommended, especially if Economics is to be studied at degree level.

Head of Department: Mrs C E Compton
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Subject:	English Language	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	English Language Specification B	
Assessment:	By Examination and Coursework	

Description of the course:

The course encourages students to develop their interest in and appreciation of English, through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations.

Unit 1 – ENGB1 Categorising Texts: 2 hour written examination

Introduction to the study of language, focusing on three specific social contexts: Language and Power; Language and Gender, and Language and Technology.

Unit 2 – ENGB2 Creating Texts: Coursework

Candidates produce writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes (2,500 – 3,500 words including commentaries).

Unit 3 – ENGB3 Developing Language: 2 hour 30 minutes written examination

This module builds upon the knowledge and skills learned at AS, with an additional focus on two new areas of study: Child Language Acquisition and Language Change.

Unit 4 – Investigating Language: Coursework

Candidates produce two pieces: a language investigation and an informative media text for a non-specialist audience (2,500 – 3,000 words).

General Comments:

This course is particularly suitable for those students who wish to study English Language or Linguistics in Higher Education. It encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and gives them a strong grounding in the academic principles relating to working with data. The subject provides effective preparation for careers in Journalism and Media.

Head of Department: Mr D. Rose

Subject:	English Literature	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.co.uk
Specification:	English Literature Spec. B	
Assessment:	AS: 2 hrs written paper + 2x 1500 word coursework tasks A2: 2 hrs written paper + 2 x 1500 word coursework tasks.	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative – 2 hours (open book): 60% of total AS / 30% of total A Level marks.

Four texts for study: two novels (at least one post 1990) and two poetry texts 1800-1945. The paper has two sections. Candidates answer one question from each section.

Unit 2: Dramatic Genres – coursework: 40% of total AS / 20% of total A Level marks.

A minimum of two texts for study within the dramatic genre of Tragedy.

A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework (one may be re-creative) each 1200-1500 words.

A2

Unit 3: Texts and Genres – 2 hours (closed book): 60% of total A2 / 30% of total A Level marks.

A minimum of three texts for study including at least one 1300-1800 text.

Candidates choose one topic area for study: Elements of the Gothic, or Elements of the Pastoral. Candidates will answer two questions on their chosen topic area.

Unit 4: Further and Independent Reading – Coursework 40% of total A2 / 20% of total A Level marks.

A minimum of three texts for study including one pre-released anthology of critical material. A portfolio of two pieces of written coursework: comparative study of an aspect of two texts (1500-2000 words) and an application of an aspect of pre-released critical anthology to a literary text (1200-1500 words).

General Comments:

This is an exciting and rigorous course, which encourages pupils to study a wide variety of texts and genres.

To take English Literature at AS level does not require you to be a specialist: it can simply broaden your education and interests, and teach you valuable study skills. By continuing to A2 level, you are preparing well for university. The inclusion of coursework enables you to focus on aspects of your chosen texts, which are of particular interest to you.

Head of Department: Mr D Rose

Subject:	Enrichment Studies
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A non-examination enrichment course

Description of the course:

Casterton is committed to the broader general education of our girls and the General Studies programme fits in with this. Within this programme, we offer modules on the skills and knowledge girls will need to fully participate in the modern world. It is compulsory in both years.

L6

The L6 programme works on a 3 module roundabout. Practical skills are developed in an ICT module and on a cookery course, which prepares girls for looking after themselves as students. There is also a module on current affairs where girls research articles in the news and debate these in class.

U6

A double lesson is split between a University Preparation course and sessions on current affairs. Our University Preparation course is designed to look at finance, accommodation and general issues that affect the transition to university. Our current affairs lessons further explore and develop girls' knowledge and understanding of the world around them and should enable them to discuss and evaluate competing explanations for issues that are affecting our own society and the rest of the world.

We also have outside speakers within this programme e.g. on safe driving, sex education, and gap year projects.

General Comments:

General Studies examination: AQA

If girls are interested in taking the General Studies examination to enhance their qualification portfolio, this can be done at the end of U6, taking all 4 modules in May and June. Practice papers and advice are available, but no specific preparation is given.

Head of Department: Mrs J Clarke

Subject: Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Examination Board: AQA **Web address:** www.aqa.co.uk

Specification: Extended Project Level 3

Description of the course:

The Extended Project is an extended piece of coursework which is graded at A2 level and is worth half an A Level. It is highly valued by universities because it requires students to commit to a single piece of work for over a year, and it teaches students skills such as research techniques, project management, problem solving, evaluation and presentation.

The topic for the project is chosen entirely by the student, based on their own interests. The project must be either a 5000 word extended essay or an artefact such as a piece of artwork, a novel, a play, a scientific invention or a music CD, accompanied by a 1000 word report.

Students are taught the skills necessary to help them write a successful project, and they are guided by members of staff regarding the resources available and the particular technicalities of their chosen topic. The project requires commitment, dedication and independent learning on the part of the student, and requires 180 hours of study, much of this in the student's own time.

General Comments:

EPQ should be seen as a demanding qualification which can be an excellent addition to a student's A Level choices. Students should be aware that they are marked on the whole process of the project and are required to keep a log of their progress throughout. They must give a presentation about their project on its completion to fulfil all the requirements of the qualification.

Head of Department: Mrs L Wareing

Subject:	Geography	
Examination Board:	OCR	Web address: www.ocr.org.uk
Specification:	HO83 and H483	
Assessment:	AS has two written papers of 1½ hrs each	
	A2 has one written paper of 2½ hrs and one of 1½ hrs	

Description of the course:

AS

At AS there are two examined units and both involve structured data response questions with some extended writing. There is no longer a coursework element.

Managing Physical Environments: The topics covered are Coasts, Rivers and Cold Environments (50% of the AS and 25% of the A level).

Managing Change in Human Environments: The topics covered are Urban, Energy and Tourism (50% of the AS and 25% of the A level).

A2

The A2 is made up of two units. An essay style paper entitled Global Issues and a Geographical Skills paper with more short, structured questions.

Global Issues: Options of global concern are studied. This gives students an understanding of how the issues have come about and how humans might manage them. Options will be chosen from: Earth Hazards, Ecosystems (environmental issues), Population and Resources, Development and Inequality (economic issues). This accounts for 30% of the A level.

Geographical Skills: Fieldwork will be carried out in the local area throughout the 2 years, although the written report will not be submitted. Instead, pupils will use their fieldwork to help them with certain questions on the written paper. Students will understand the process of geographical investigation including fieldwork, skills needed to complete an investigation and an awareness of problems, which may occur with fieldwork. The exam draws on knowledge of fieldwork undertaken during the A level course and features stimulus materials e.g. maps, images and graphs. This accounts for 20% of the A level.

General Comments:

This is a fun subject which relates to the world around you. Geography is a popular choice at A level because it bridges the Arts and the Sciences, and in doing so, adds breadth to your choices and allows you to keep your options open for further study. The course involves practical work with fieldwork opportunities. It is preferred that you will have studied Geography at GCSE level or equivalent, although this is not a requirement.

Head of Department: Mr D Elphick

Subject: Government and Politics

Examination Board: AQA **Web address:** www.aqa.co.uk

Specification: 1151/2151

Assessment: AS: 2 papers: 2 x 1½ hours
A2: 2 papers: 2 x 1½ hours

Description of the course:

The American journalist and author Ambrose Bierce defined politics as ‘a means of livelihood effected by the more depraved portion of our criminal classes’. This view is echoed, in part, by our experience of British Politics in recent years; not least in the fallout from the MPs’ expenses scandal. Regardless of what we think about politicians, however, we ignore the workings of government at our peril; for unless we understand how government works, we will never be able to play a full and active part in society. The study of Politics therefore focuses on the timeless question of ‘who gets what, how and why’.

Course Content

At **AS**, girls will examine various aspects of British government and politics; not only how the country is organised (for example the various roles of Parliament, the power of the Prime Minister, elections) but also current issues and developments (for example the methods by which contemporary pressure groups, such as those campaigning against animal testing, seek to achieve their aims).

The **A2** modules build on the AS course, but focus on the government and politics of the USA: what American society is like; how the Federal Government is organised; key current issues and controversies (such as abortion and race).

There is **no** coursework requirement.

General Comments:

Government and Politics is a subject that should appeal to girls who take an active interest in current affairs; those who are prepared to watch political documentaries and read a good newspaper regularly.

Politics is an academic, essay-based subject. It is well regarded by universities and employers. Many pursue the subject to degree level. Others move on from Politics A Level to read History or Law at university. Politics A Level is often studied alongside a Modern Language (French or German) by those intending to read European Studies or International Relations post-18. It can also provide a route into PPE, PPS and related courses.

Head of Department: Mr P Fairclough

Subject:	History		
Examination Board:	OCR	Web address:	www.ocr.org.uk
Specification:	History A, H106, H506		
Assessment:	AS: 2 exam papers, each of 1½ hours A2: Coursework, comprising of 2 extended essays plus a 2 hour exam paper		

Description of the course:

AS The AS History course is designed to enable candidates to see change and development over a substantial length of time. During the AS course they will study significant individuals, societies, events and issues from a range of different historical perspectives, including aesthetic, cultural, economic, ethnic, political, religious and social.

AS Course Content

- **British History Period (25%) on The Early Stuarts and the origins of the Civil War, 1603-42.** Topics covered include: How did foreign relations affect the relationship between James I and Parliament? Why did Charles I embark on personal rule and why did the Civil War break out in 1642? This unit is assessed through the writing of essays.
- **European and World Enquiries (25%) on Dictatorship and Democracy in Germany, 1933-63.** Topics include: How did Hitler establish and consolidate Nazi authority? How did communism transform East Germany? Did democracy succeed in West Germany? This is a document studies unit and candidates are required to evaluate the usefulness and reliability of historical sources.

A2 The A2 course provides students with opportunities to investigate critically a historical problem of their own choosing, to develop and practise the skills of the historian for themselves and to study change over an extended period of at least one hundred years.

A2 Course Content

- **Coursework (20%) on Elizabeth I, 1558 – 1658.** The focus is on the extent of the challenges to Elizabeth's power and church settlement. Candidates produce 2 x 2000 word essays.
- **Historical Theme (30%) on Civil Rights in USA, 1865-1992.** This topic focuses on the struggle of the citizens in the United States to gain equality before the law without regard to ethnic origin, gender or wealth. This unit is assessed through the writing of essays.

General Comments:

The AS and A2 courses provide a suitable foundation for the study of History or related courses in further and higher education. The various skills required by the specification provide opportunities for progression directly into employment while, equally, they contribute to candidates' life-long learning.

Head of Department: Miss K Haigh

Subject: History of Art

Examination Board: AQA **Web address:** www.aqa.org.uk

Specification: HART 1251/2251

Assessment: 100% Examination

Description of the course: Art of the Western World

AS

Unit 1- HART1

Visual Analysis and Interpretation

40% of AS, 20% of A level

1 hour written examination, 60 marks.

Questions are based on images provided in the question paper which assess knowledge and understanding of formal aspects of art and architecture; composition, structure, context, materials and contribution to meaning. Available in June only.

Unit 2- HART2

Themes in History of Art

60% of AS, 30% of A level.

1 hour 30 minutes written examination, 90 marks

Questions test knowledge and understanding of significant art historical themes; Western art and architecture, artists and architects drawn from Classical Greece to the end of the twentieth century (500 BC–2000 AD). Available in June only.

A2

Unit 3- HART3

Investigation and interpretation (1)

25% of A level

1 hour 30 minutes examination, 60 marks.

Four options; Art and Architecture in; Fifteenth-century Europe/Seventeenth-century Europe/Nineteenth-century Europe/Europe and the USA 1946-2000. Available in June only.

Unit 4-HART4

Investigation and interpretation (2)

25% of A level

1 hour 30 minutes examination, 60 marks.

Four options; Art and Architecture in Thirteenth and Fourteenth-century Europe/Sixteenth-century Europe/Eighteenth-century Europe/Europe and the USA 1900-1945. Available in June only.

Head of Department: Mrs V Eden

Subject: Information and Communication Technology

Examination Board: WJEC **Web address:** www.wjec.co.uk

Specification: WJEC 500/2607/0

Assessment: A mixture of written exams and portfolio work.

Description of the course:

This specification encourages candidates to become discerning users of ICT, developing a broad range of ICT skills and knowledge and understanding of ICT. This should form a basis for progression into further learning, including progression from AS to A2, and/or employment.

AS

Unit 1 is about acquiring knowledge and understanding of information systems, which is assessed by means of a written examination of two and a quarter hours.

Unit 2 requires candidates to use ICT hardware and software applications to solve a problem involving the production of three separate tasks:

- (i) a document such as a leaflet or magazine
- (ii) a document containing automated routines, such as a mail merged letter
- (iii) a presentation to an audience, such as a web page or slide type show

A2

Unit 3 is about the use of ICT and the impact of ICT on every aspect of life, such as ICT within a business and the moral, social and ethical aspects of the Internet. This is assessed by a written paper.

Unit 4 requires candidates to produce a relational database project. The context for the project is left to the teacher and candidate, though care must be taken to ensure an appropriately demanding project is undertaken.

General Comments:

This qualification provides a solid foundation for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Information and Communication Technology. It would be an advantage to have taken ICT or BCS at GCSE level, but it is not essential.

Head of Department: Mr A Mellor

Subject:	Mathematics	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	B	
Assessment:	Four Core papers and 2 applied papers each worth 16.67% Pilot project two core papers (worth 33.3%), which combine C1/ C2 and C3/C4. The highest mark is taken from any of these combinations.	

Description of the course:

AS Modules Pure Core 1 & 2 include work on the following:

- Coordinate Geometry
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Algebra & Functions
- Trigonometry

A2 Modules Pure Core 3 & 4 include

- Differentiation & Integration
- Algebra & Functions
- Exponentials & Logarithms
- Numerical Methods
- Sequences and Series

Applied Modules S1 & M1 include

- Binomial Distribution
- Normal Distribution
- Connected Particles
- Momentum
- Projectiles

These new topics are both interesting and challenging. The mixed content makes the subject available to scientists and artists alike and sensible combinations are Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Economics and Psychology on the science side and Languages, English and History on the arts side.

General Comments:

This enjoyable and fun course is very good preparation for careers in Computing, Medicine, Law, Banking, Engineering, Management Services and Insurance etc.

Head of Department: Mrs J Fielden

Subject:	Further Mathematics	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	B	
Assessment:	Three Further Pure papers and 3 applied papers each worth 16.67%.	

Description of the course:

AS Module Further Pure 1 includes work on the following:

- Complex Numbers
- Vectors and Transformations
- Numerical Methods
- Linear Functions and Graph Sketching
- Parabolas

A2 Modules Further Pure 2 & 3 include

- Applications of De Moivre's theorem
- Roots of Polynomial Equations
- Hyperbolic Functions
- Inverse Trig Functions
- Solving differential equations

Applied Modules S2, S3 & M2 include

- Poisson Distribution
- Testing Hypothesis
- Contingency Tables
- Moments
- Circular Motion

If there is a demand, Decision Maths (D1) can replace S3 or M2.

These new topics are both interesting and challenging. The mixed content makes the subject available to any student who intends to do a mathematical, engineering or scientific degree at university.

General Comments:

This outstanding course is only suitable for the very best mathematicians who achieve the top grade at GCSE. It is very good preparation for careers in Computing, Medicine, Law, Banking, Engineering, Management Services and Insurance etc.

Head of Department: Mrs J Fielden

Subject:	Modern Languages - AS level		
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address:	www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	French 5651	German 5661	Spanish 5696
Assessment:	Module 1 – Listening and Reading (2 hours) Module 2 – Speaking (15 minutes)		

Description of the course:

The courses in all three languages lay great emphasis on communication skills and the use of authentic material in the form of newspaper and magazine articles and recordings of radio/television programmes. Listening, reading, speaking and writing will be practised in preparation for the two AS Modules. There is a strong focus on the country whose language is studied, and many subjects of topical interest are discussed, thus providing an excellent general education. Grammar taught at GCSE is consolidated and more advanced structures are introduced as the year progresses.

Module 1 – Listening and Reading (35% of total A level marks)

- Media – television, advertising, communication technology
- Popular Culture – cinema, music, fashion trends
- Healthy Living – Sport and exercise, health and well-being, holidays
- Family and Relationships

Module 2 – Speaking (15% of total A level marks)

Candidates should be prepared to speak on any topic covered in Module 1. Part of the discussion will be based on a stimulus cards which the candidate will have prepared before the test.

General Comments:

Candidates should enjoy communication and take an interest in the culture and current affairs of the country whose language they are studying. Contact with Language Assistants and native speakers in school is encouraged, and girls should aim to go to France, Germany or Spain during their course. They should be prepared to make use of the Internet, radio, TV, magazines, newspapers and the language laboratory to extend their experience beyond what is covered in class. Girls should preferably have an A grade at GCSE.

Head of Department: Mrs M Emptage

Subject:	Modern Languages – A2 Level		
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address:	www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	French 6651	German 6661	Spanish 6696
Assessment:	Module 3 – Listening, Reading, Writing (2 hrs 30 mins) Module 4 – Speaking (15 minutes)		

Description of the course:

The course continues to lay emphasis on communication skills and authentic material. Listening, reading, speaking and writing will be practised in preparation for the two A2 Modules. There is a strong focus on the country whose language is studied as well as on world events. Unit 4 also contains two cultural topics relating to the country whose language is studied; a wide choice is available and candidates may be able to link this with their study in another A level subject such as Music, Art, Geography or History. Grammar taught at AS is consolidated and more advanced structures are introduced. Apart from the language skills developed in this course, the wide range of topics covered provides an excellent general education for the candidate.

Module 3 – Listening, Reading, Translation (35% of total A level marks)

- Environment – pollution, energy, protecting the planet
- The Multicultural Society – immigration, integration, racism
- Contemporary Social Issues – wealth and poverty, law and order, impact of scientific and technological progress
- Cultural topic (study of a region, novelist, dramatist, composer, artist or aspect of history relating to the country concerned)

Module 4 – Speaking (15% of total A level marks)

Candidates should be prepared to speak on the cultural topics of their choice as well as a selection of the other topics from Module 3. Part of the discussion will be based on stimulus cards which the candidate will have prepared before the test.

General Comments:

Candidates should enjoy communication and take an interest in the culture and current affairs of the country whose language they are studying. Contact with Language Assistants and native speakers in school is encouraged, and girls should aim to go to France, Germany or Spain during their course. They should be prepared to work independently, using the Internet, radio, TV, magazines, newspapers and the language laboratory to extend their experience beyond what is covered in class.

Head of Department: Mrs M Emptage

Subject:	Music	
Examination Board:	OCR	Web address: www.ocr.org.uk
Specification:	H142 / H542	
Assessment:	<p>AS – 40% externally assessed performance, 30% internally assessed/externally moderated composing coursework, 30% written examination.</p> <p>A2 – 40% externally assessed performance recital (including performance investigation coursework), 30% externally assessed composing coursework, 30% written examination.</p>	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1: Performing Music 1 – A solo recital, followed by a short viva voce discussion, and one of the following: (a) performing on a second instrument, (b) performing in a duet or ensemble, or as an accompanist, or (c) performing own composition.

Unit 2: Composing 1 – completion of at least six exercises by providing bass line and appropriate harmonic accompaniment to given melodies, and an independent composition (no longer than three minutes in duration) for between four and ten instruments.

Unit 3: Introduction to Historical Study in Music – A written examination consisting of previously unheard aural extracts, prescribed works, and contextual study with a choice of essay questions.

A2

Unit 1: Performing Music 2 (Interpretation) – A 15 minute solo recital and a viva voce discussion of two or more recordings of the repertoire performed.

Unit 2: Composing 2 – completion of up to 8 exercises of two-part counterpoint, where one of the parts is given, and a vocal setting of one of two set poems.

Unit 3: Historical and Analytical Studies – A written examination consisting of previously unheard aural extracts, prescribed historical topics with choice of essays, and a synoptic essay.

General Comments:

It is desirable that candidates for AS and A2 Music should also have gained GCSE in the subject.

Head of Department: Mr D Chapman

Subject:	Physical Education	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	Physical Education	
Assessment:	The AS consists of units 1 & 2 and will have one written exam of 2 hours. The A2 qualification consists of units 3 & 4.	

Description of the course:	
Bringing Physical Education to life	
<u>AS</u>	
Unit 1	Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle 84 marks. 60% AS mark. 30% A level mark. 2 hour written exam.
Unit 2	Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as a performer and/or in an adopted role. 100 marks internal & external moderation. 40% of AS marks. 20% of A level marks.
<u>A2</u>	
Unit 3	Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport. 84 marks. 30% A level marks. 2 hours written exam.
Unit 4	Optimising practical performance in a competitive situation. 120 marks internal and external moderation. 20% A level marks

General Comments:
Throughout the course the candidates are encouraged to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop their knowledge and skills in selected activities • explore the contemporary sociological issues in modern sport • examine the effects of exercise and training and performance • compare and contrast sport through many differing cultures • enhance their understanding of the role of technology or psychology in sporting performance

Director of Sport: Miss A Thomas

Subject:	Physics	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	AS: Physics A (1451) A2: Physics A (2451)	
Assessment:	AS: Two written papers of 1 hour 15 minutes each (40% of total A level marks) One centre assessed unit of practical skills (10% of total A level marks) A2: Two written papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each (40% of total A level marks) One centre assessed unit of practical skills (10% of total A level marks)	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit 1: Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity. This introduces students to exciting new ideas in Physics, such as quarks and quantum concepts as well as developing in-depth knowledge and important applications of electricity.

Unit 2: Mechanics, Materials and Waves. This develops knowledge and understanding of vectors, forces, energy and waves from previous GCSE studies as well as introducing students to the properties of materials including elasticity.

Unit 3: Investigative and Practical Skills.*

A2

Unit 4: Fields and Further Mechanics. This develops key ideas about force and energy from AS Physics through a range of mechanics topics and through quantitative study of fields. Key applications of fields are developed including satellite motion, capacitors and alternating current generators and transformers.

Unit 5: Nuclear and Thermal Physics, Medical Physics. This builds on key ideas about particles and energy from AS Physics and covers probing the nucleus, radioactivity, nuclear instability and nuclear energy as well as the thermal properties of materials, ideal gases and the kinetic theory of gases. In addition, the physics of the eye and ear are covered, along with that of biological measurements and various imaging techniques used in medicine.

Unit 6: Investigative and Practical Skills.*

* The teacher will assess a candidate's practical and observational skills from five short exercises. Additionally, one externally marked practical assignment will be undertaken.

General comments:

The mathematical requirements of the AS level course are within the reach of students who have successfully studied GCSE Mathematics. It is helpful, although not essential, if students progressing on to the A2 course have completed an AS level in Mathematics.

Head of Department: Dr M Martin

Subject	Psychology	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	Specification A	
Assessment:	AS: 2 papers, both 1½ hours A2: 2 papers: 1 x 1½ hours, 1 x 2 hours.	

Description of the course:

Psychology studies human (and animal) behaviour. Most psychologists are interested in the mental activity underlying behaviour. We can measure aspects of behaviour and we can measure brain activity but we cannot know precisely what is going on in a person's mind, and so psychologists have to infer what is happening from a person's behaviour. Partly due to this process of inferences, psychologists produce conflicting theories about the same behaviour.

Course Content

At **AS**, the course is designed to develop a basic understanding of the different approaches to the subject.

Candidates study the theories, concepts and research in the following areas: Cognitive Psychology – the study of memory, Developmental Psychology – infant attachments and deprivation, Physiological Psychology – stress and its sources, Individual Differences – abnormality, Social Psychology – conformity and obedience.

We also study research methods, to gain an essential understanding of how the psychologist works; this is integrated into Module 1. There is no coursework.

A2 Psychology develops the knowledge of theory gained at AS. Not all areas of psychology are studied this year; we select 3 to investigate at greater depth: relationships, aggression and eating behaviours. Additionally, we study one aspect of Psychopathology – Schizophrenia and Media Psychology. Research issues are studied at this stage, and statistics are used in the analysis of research data. There is no coursework.

General Comments:

This subject requires the ability to analyse and evaluate differing approaches to psychological issues. There is however, little opportunity to develop your own theories! The demands of the examination require the ability to learn and handle a great deal of precise, factual information and then to apply this to particular questions.

Head of Department:	Mrs J Clarke
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Subject:	Religious Studies	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.org.uk
Specification:	2060	
Assessment:	AS: Two 1¼ hour papers. A2: Two 1½ hour papers	

Description of the course:

AS

Unit A: Religion and Ethics

Ethical theories ‘Utilitarianism’ and ‘Situation Ethics’ are analysed and applied to various case studies including a thorough investigation of and application to abortion and euthanasia.

Unit C: Philosophy of Religion

The Cosmological Argument is considered alongside objections to it; varieties of religious experiences are explored and the philosophical problems to which they give rise; application of Freud and Jung’s theories to religious beliefs and practices and an understanding in the growth of atheism and postmodernism.

A2

Unit 3B: Philosophy of Religion

An analysis of Anselm’s Ontological Argument and its relation to reason and faith; a critique of the value of religious language; an investigation into the problem of evil in the world and an investigation of what religions mean by the body, soul and personal identity.

Unit 4A: Religious Experience

An in-depth exploration of various religious experiences, their value to life and the world in general. Examining the influence of religious experiences upon religious practice and beliefs and the foundation of religions. An investigation into the possible verification of such experiences.

General Comments:

Religious Studies offers essential tools needed for university and the workplace, especially in management, medical, law or community work.

It also

- Sharpens critical thinking skills
- Provides an ethical understanding to life and in particular medical situations
- Focuses on evaluating a range of opinions before reaching a conclusion
- Helps communicate detailed and complicated texts
- Offers a critique of personal views
- Fosters tolerance of various practices and beliefs

Head of Department: Revd K Walton

Subject:	Sociology	
Examination Board:	AQA	Web address: www.aqa.co.uk
Specification:	5191/6191	
Assessment:	AS: 2 papers: 1 x 1 hour, 1 x 2 hours A2: 2 papers: 1 x 1½ hours, 1 x 2 hours	

Description of the course:

Sociology studies human behaviour by looking at the way we live in groups e.g. the family, our peer group, in schools or the workplace. It tries to offer explanations so that we can understand our social world, the rapid changes that are taking place and the impact of these on both individuals and society as a whole. Inevitably, there are competing theories on these topics and these give us a framework within which we can analyse the society that we live in. We also investigate how social change influences government and social policy decisions. Sociology, as you can see, is relevant to everyday life and uses examples from current issues.

Course Content

AS is a lively introduction to the subject, blending sociological theory and research methods with the study of two major topics: families and households, and our changing education system. These are both studied in depth, exploring issues related to class, gender, ethnicity and how government policy is shaped.

The **A2** course explores a number of issues in greater theoretical depth. Our two key topics are The Mass Media and Crime and Deviance. Both of these engage with current material and we analyse their impact on society with reference to theories relating to globalisation, the impact of new technology and how communities are evolving. All this gives a fascinating insight into our rapidly changing world. There is no coursework in the new specification.

General Comments:

Sociology is an academic subject and girls need to have competent written skills, the ability to analyse information, evaluate ideas and draw conclusions.

Girls need to be interested in the world around them and be prepared to watch the news and documentaries, read **quality** newspapers and keep in touch with current events.

Sociology will provide a good foundation for further study in the social sciences. It will give you a critical awareness of the world around you and the opinions and arguments put forward by others. Also, it's FUN!

Head of Department:	Mrs J Clarke
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Subject: Careers Education and Guidance (CEG)

Description of the course:

The purpose of Careers Education and Guidance is to prepare students for the rapidly changing world of learning and work. Casterton aims to help students understand the flexible nature of labour markets and the impact of economic change so that they can make realistic and informed decisions about their futures. We also aim to help them manage the transitions from one stage of their education, training and work to the next.

Sixth Form Careers lessons, in conjunction with the Sixth Form Enrichment programme, will focus on a wide range of topics from self awareness, preparation for university, life skills, financial education, gap years, employment options, and university application. Regular guest speakers are invited to speak to the students and several visits are arranged, such as to Oxbridge conferences and Higher Education Fairs.

Students are encouraged to find out as much as they can for themselves, using the well stocked Careers library in the Study Centre and the vast array of useful websites. Work related learning is highly recommended by universities and staff can provide guidance and support for students trying to arrange their own Work Experience placements.

General Comments:

Upper Sixth students are fully supported in their Higher Education applications, employment decisions or Gap Year choices, and mock interviews can be arranged. Appointments can be made for individual Careers interviews at any time and the external Careers provider, COA, also support the school. Students should feel confident that they will leave Casterton equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to flourish in their career development.

Head of Department: Mrs L Wareing

Subject: Learning Success

Description:

The department is open to all members of the school.

The focus is to encourage individual development and achievement.

Pupils are warmly invited to approach Mrs Airey for help and advice regarding concerns that they have about their skills or work.

At Casterton, support systems are already in place and accessible to students – this is an additional feature.

Students may be tutored on an individual, or a small group basis – at the discretion of the head of department.

Specialist tuition for specific underlying difficulties is offered. Help with improving literacy levels is available.

Girls who would like help with study skills and exam preparation are also invited to ask for advice.

Head of Department: Mrs D Airey

NOTES



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