

Sixth Form Transition

2026



St Francis Xavier's
Catholic Academy
Life in all its fullness



Why Transition?

As you prepare to take the next step in your educational journey, this transition booklet is designed to support your move from GCSE to Sixth Form study. It will help you build confidence, develop independence, and begin adopting the habits of a successful A Level student.

Inside, you will find subject-specific tasks, guidance on independent learning, and practical advice to help you develop the skills and mindset required for success. Each subject includes a course overview, clearly outlined transition work, useful tips for getting started, and suggestions for further reading.

The transition work is compulsory and will be reviewed when you join us in September. Completing it is essential, as it helps teachers understand your current level of knowledge and ensures we can tailor your learning from the outset. This booklet is also an opportunity to explore your interests, take ownership of your learning, and begin your A Level journey with confidence.

If you have any questions, please contact the relevant subject teachers or a member of the Sixth Form Team. I hope you enjoy working through the activities and I look forward to welcoming you to Sixth Form in September

Ms P. Finlay

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Introduction to the Course

At A Level you will be expected to develop work based on a personal creative journey and this micro-project is designed to help prepare you for the more independent and creative approach at A Level. Over the summer create a small body of work exploring the theme Identity. This task is about: Showing creativity and independence, exploring ideas; not perfection and preparing for A Level expectations.

Tasks

1) Research (1–2 pages) - Choose 1–2 artists who explore identity.

You could look at: Portrait artists, Fashion photographers/designers, Contemporary artists

Include: Images of their work and annotation (Who are they? What do they explore? What do you like?)

2) Observational Work (at least 2 drawings) - Create 2 observational drawings based on identity, such as:

A self-portrait (mirror or photo), or personal objects (e.g. items that represent you)

Focus on: Close observation and details

3) Creative Experiment (1–2 pieces) - Create 1–2 more experimental pieces inspired by your artist research.

You could: Use mixed media (paint, collage, ink, digital, etc.) - Distort or abstract your images - Combine patterns, text, or colour

4) Short Reflection - What did you enjoy most, what worked well in your work, what would you improve next time?

5) Present your work in a sketchbook or on a sheet of paper/card and be creative with layout and presentation.

Top Tips Choose artists/designers/photographer whose work you **like**, links to your **own ideas**, and you can **experiment with** (pattern, portrait, mixed media)

Possible Artists/Designers/Photographers

Portrait / Identity Artists: [Yinka Shonibare](#) – explores identity, culture, and heritage using patterned fabrics / [Cindy Sherman](#) – uses photography to explore different identities and roles / [Zanele Muholi](#) – powerful photographic self-portraits about identity and representation / [Amy Sherald](#) – stylised portraits that explore identity and race / [Kehinde Wiley](#) – vibrant, patterned portraits inspired by classical art

Pattern / Texture / Fashion Links: [Grayson Perry](#) – uses pattern, textiles, and identity in his work / [El Anatsui](#) – creates huge patterned sculptures from recycled materials / [Mary Katrantzou](#) – fashion designer known for bold printed patterns / [Osman Yousefzada](#) – explores identity through fashion and culture

Experimental / Mixed Media

[Njideka Akunyili Crosby](#) – mixes painting, collage, and pattern / [Tracey Emin](#) – expressive, personal work about identity and experience / [Chris Ofili](#) – colourful, layered paintings with pattern and symbolism

Introduction to the Course

AQA A-Level Biology builds on your GCSE knowledge by exploring life at a much deeper level—from molecules and cells to whole ecosystems. You'll learn not just **what happens in living systems, but why**, developing strong analytical and practical skills. The course links biology to real-world issues like disease, genetics, and the environment, making it ideal for curious students who want to think like scientists and understand the world around them.

Tasks:

Answer these key questions as best you can, to prepare you for Year 12 Biology!

1. The cell is the fundamental building block of living things, but there are many different cell types. Why is there such a variety? Give examples to illustrate your answer.
2. What do you understand by the term 'Surface area to volume ratio'? As organisms get bigger their SA/Vol ratio gets smaller. Why is this a problem and how do living things solve it? Give examples.
3. What do you understand by the term 'respiration'?
4. What is DNA? What are its two main functions why are these functions important to living things?

Top Tips

- **Be precise:** Use correct terminology—avoid vague phrases like “stuff” or “things”
- **Practice exam questions early:** AQA mark schemes are very specific
- **Learn actively:** Flashcards, blurting, self-quizzing
- **Master required practicals:** Understand *why* steps are done, not just how
- **Keep on top of content:** Small gaps quickly become big ones
- **Link topics together:** e.g. structure → function → processes
- **Improve writing style:** Clear, concise, step-by-step explanations earn marks

Recommended Reading and Watching

Reading:

The Gene: An Intimate History, Siddhartha Mukherjee

In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny, Steve Jones

The Diversity of Life, Edward O Wilson

Movies / TV Series:

Gorillas in the Mist (1988)

Blue planet /Planet Earth

Introduction to the Course

Welcome to Business. This course will help you understand how businesses operate, grow, and make decisions in a fast-changing world. You will explore key topics such as marketing, finance, operations, and human resources, alongside examining real-life businesses and current events. Developing analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to evaluate business decisions will be a central focus throughout the course.

Tasks

To prepare for September, complete the following activities:

- **Research a Business:**
Choose a well-known company (e.g. Nike, Tesco, Apple) and create a short profile including what they sell, their target market, and their competitors.
- **Business in the News:**
Find 3 recent business news stories. Write a brief summary of each and explain why it is important.
- **Key Terms Practice:**
Learn and define the following key terms: profit, revenue, costs, market share, demand, supply, entrepreneur.
- **Mini Case Study:**
Think of a small local business. Describe what it does well and suggest one way it could improve.

Top Tips

- Stay curious – business is everywhere, from social media to local shops.
- Keep up with the news to build real-world awareness.
- Practice writing clearly and explaining your ideas.
- Don't worry if you don't understand everything yet—this is just the starting point.
- Be ready to ask questions and share your opinions in class.

Recommended Reading

- **BBC Business News** (online) – great for staying updated with current events
- **Tutor2u Business** (website & YouTube) – helpful for key concepts
- **Any business-related articles or podcasts** that interest you

Introduction to the Course

AQA A Level Chemistry expands on your GCSE science by exploring the 3 strands of **Physical**, **Organic** and **Inorganic** Chemistry. You'll gain a deeper understanding of the **processes** that drive chemistry, the **mechanisms** of reactions and the ability to solve complex problems. Practical and Analytical skills are honed and tested in the required practicals. Chemistry is the cornerstone of many subjects and links into the other sciences and beyond, explaining how and why the matter of our world is arranged, acts and reacts.

Tasks

1. How does the atomic structure change down group 1? What affect does this have on reactivity? Why does the reactivity change?
2. What is a Mole? What equation links moles, mass and Mr? How are moles and concentration linked?
3. Balance this equation: $_ \text{NaOCl} _ \text{NaCl} + _ \text{NaClO}_3$
4. What is meant by "closed system"? How can you change the position of equilibrium in a closed system?

Top Tips

Practice. You will learn many new processes in chemistry. The way to solidify your knowledge is repeated practice using a wide range of examples

State exactly. Chemistry is a precise and accurate science. Your answers should reflect this

Follow the method. When your teacher shows you the way to solve a problem, use that method exactly. When you see a new mechanism, follow those steps precisely.

Link knowledge across the topics. Chemistry is taught in different topics, but they all link. See the connections, join the dots.

Recommended Reading

Periodic Tales – Hugh Aldersey-Williams

The Disappearing Spoon – Sam Kean

Napoleon's Buttons – Penny Le Couteur & Jay Burreson

<https://www.chemguide.co.uk>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com>

Criminology



Welcome to WJEC Criminology—an engaging subject that explores why crime happens and how society responds. You will examine real-life issues, develop critical thinking skills, and learn to analyse evidence and arguments.

The course is made up of four units:

- **Changing Awareness of Crime** – understanding different types of crime and how they are reported
- **Criminological Theories** – exploring why people commit crime
- **Crime Scene to Courtroom** – examining the criminal justice process
- **Crime and Punishment** – understanding how society deals with offenders

Tasks

Task 1: Find a recent news article about a crime. Summarise:

- What happened
- Who was involved
- How the media presented the crime
- Explain how the report might influence public opinion.

Task 2: Create a fact file explaining at least four different types of crime (e.g. violent, white-collar, cybercrime, social crime). Include:

- A definition
- An example for each type

Top Tips

- **Keep up with current affairs** – follow crime stories in the news and think about how they link to what you are learning.
- **Develop your independent study skills** – be prepared to research, read, and take notes beyond the classroom.
- **Use key terminology accurately** – learning subject-specific vocabulary is essential for success.
- **Stay organised** – keep notes clear and up to date from the very start.

Recommended Reading/Watching

The Jigsaw Man – Paul Britton ISBN-13 : 978-0552144933

Documentaries:

Born to Kill series [Born to Kill? Nearly The Complete Series! – YouTube](#)

Murder on the streets- BBC Panorama [Murder on the Streets - BBC Panorama](#)

Design and Technology



Introduction to the Course

AQA A Level Design and Technology is a creative and practical course that develops your ability to design and make innovative products. You will explore materials, processes, and modern technologies while considering real-world factors such as sustainability and user needs. The course encourages independent thinking, problem-solving, and creativity through research, design development, modelling, and evaluation.

Tasks

1. Practise Your Drawing
 - Sketch everyday objects (phone, chair, etc.)
 - Add labels and notes
 - Try redesigning one thing
2. Make Something from Scrap
 - Use materials from home (cardboard, wood, plastic)
 - Build something simple (e.g. phone stand)
 - Take photos of your process
3. Do Some DIY or Fix Something
 - Help fix or build something at home
 - Note what tools and materials were used
 - Think how it could be improved

Top Tips

- Stay organised and document everything — your process and development are just as important as the final outcome.
- Experiment and take risks — try different materials, techniques, and ideas rather than playing it safe.
- Always explain your decisions — show clear thinking about why you designed something and how it meets a need or solves a problem.

Recommended Reading

- "The Design of Everyday Things" – Don Norman (great for understanding user-centred design)
- "Cradle to Cradle" – Braungart & McDonough (focuses on sustainability and responsible design)
- "100 Ideas That Changed Design" – Peter Fiell & Charlotte Fiell (inspiration and design history)

Introduction to the Course

Welcome to A Level Economics. This course explores how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions about resources. You will study key ideas such as supply and demand, market structures, government intervention, and the wider economy. Economics will help you develop strong analytical, mathematical, and evaluative skills, as well as a deeper understanding of current global issues.

Tasks

To prepare for September, complete the following:

- **Follow the News:**
Find 3 recent economic news stories (e.g. inflation, interest rates, unemployment). Write a short summary of each and explain what it means.
- **Key Terms Practice:**
Learn and define the following key terms: scarcity, opportunity cost, supply, demand, inflation, economic growth, unemployment.
- **Data Task:**
Find a chart or graph (e.g. inflation rate in the UK) and describe what it shows in your own words.
- **Real-Life Economics:**
Think of a decision you have made recently (e.g. spending money or time). Research the term Opportunity Cost and explain the opportunity cost of that decision.

Top Tips

- Keep up to date with economic news—it will really help your understanding.
- Practice explaining ideas clearly using evidence (data, graphs, examples).
- Don't worry if concepts seem difficult at first—economics takes time to grasp.
- Use real-life examples wherever possible to support your answers.
- Be confident in using key terminology correctly.

Recommended Reading

- **BBC News – Business & Economics section**
- **The Guardian / The Economist (selected articles)**
- **Tutor2u Economics** (website and YouTube)
- **Bank of England website** – useful for understanding UK economic issues

English Literature



Introduction to the Course

Welcome to English Literature A Level. We study AQA Specification B and we teach the genres of Tragedy and Crime. We have two papers and coursework is worth 20% of your final grade. The NEA element (coursework) is really enjoyable as you are able to choose your own novel and poems to study; pupils find this particularly interesting.

Tasks:

It would be very beneficial to get the set texts read over the summer holiday.

These include:

Othello by William Shakespeare

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Brighton Rock by Graham Greene

Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Atonement by Ian McEwan

Top Tips:

It would be a good idea to join Central Library in Liverpool if you are not already a member.

Go to the theatre and watch Death of a Salesman.

Come up to the English dept and talk to staff about the benefits of doing A' Level English Literature.

Borrow the set texts from Ms Hayes to take home over the summer holiday.

Extra Reading:

Critical reading is very important at A' Level. We can give you lots of help with this! Please come up to the department and we can give you material to read over the summer. We can also give you a Critical Anthology which you can apply to our set texts.

Geography



Introduction to the Course- The A-Level Geography course at SFX follows the AQA specification and consists of the following units:

Component 1- Physical geography- 2 hour 30 minute exam, 120 marks, 40% of A-Level.

Component 2- Human Geography- 2 hour 30 minute exam, 120 marks, 40% of A-Level.

Component 3- Geography Fieldwork Investigation Non-Examined Unit - 3000-4000 word, 60 marks, 20% of A-Level

Tasks

1. Water and carbon cycles- Collect three news stories relating to water or carbon. For each article summarise the event in 100 words, explain why it matters (on a local, national or global scale), categorise it (e.g. does it relate to water security, climate change, carbon management or extreme weather).
2. Hazards- Choose ONE of the following case studies (a) Iceland volcanic eruption (b) Hurricane Katrina (c) Typhoon Haiyan. Produce a fact-file on its causes, impacts and responses. Add in a section exploring why some groups were more vulnerable than others. Your fact-file should be 1 x A4 page.
3. Coasts- Produce a 'language of the expert' guide for this topic by researching the following terms (a) hydraulic action (b) abrasion (c) attrition (d) longshore drift (e) deposition (f) wave refraction (g) sediment cell. For each word aim to give a definition, simple diagram and real-world example.

Top Tips

1. **Full and punctual attendance to all lessons is a significant factor in ensuring the best A-Level outcomes.** If you ever do miss a lesson, let your teachers know in advance so they can advise on how to catch up.
2. **Stay organised-** We will give you guidance on how to keep your work organised to support revisiting topics later. This is important as it will make revision much easier.
3. **Make the most of study periods-** Use these to revise and revisit content covered so far, read around the subject and complete assigned independent study tasks. This will help you to develop subject knowledge, understanding of academic writing and ability to be analytical/evaluative of success.
4. **Keep track of deadlines and ensure work is complete-** This will help you to keep on top of the NEA and work from the examined units.
5. **Ask questions and seek help with anything you do not understand!**

Recommended Reading

Podcasts - GeogPod, [BBC Radio 4 - Costing the Earth - Available now](#), Ask the Geographer (Royal Geographical Society), [Top 10 Podcasts for Geography Students | eternalexploration](#).

Documentaries- Attenborough Collection: [Attenborough at 100 - BBC iPlayer](#), [Before the Flood Full Movie National Geographic](#),

Websites- [Welcome to Coolgeography.co.uk](#) (advanced tab), [Climate | Latest News & Updates | BBC News](#), [Science & Environment | Latest News & Updates | BBC News](#)

Books- Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall (available as audiobook on Spotify).

Introduction to the Course- The A-Level History course at SFX follows the AQA specification and comprises of the following units:

- **Component 1- Breadth study: 1K- The making of a Superpower USA (1865-1975)-** 2.5 hour exam at end of Year 13 (worth 40%).
- **Component 2- Depth study: 2E- The English Revolution (1625-1660)-** 2.5 hour exam at end of Year 13 (worth 40%).
- **Component 3- Historical Investigation: 3500-4500 word non-examined assessment** , 40 marks, 20% of A-Level.

Tasks

1. Research and create a timeline of Presidents of the USA from 1865-1975. For each president include (a) years of office (b) If they were Republican or Democrat c) What event/action/policy they are most associated with/remembered for. In column (c) write a brief summary of the event/action chosen.
2. Research and create a timeline covering fifteen key events in the period of the English Revolution (1625-1700). Your events must include Charles's accession, Personal Rule, Ship Money, Bishops' Wars, Long Parliament, a key turning point the Civil War, trial/execution of Charles, the Interregnum and Restoration. For each event add a brief 1-2 sentence description of what it was.

Top Tips

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2. **Stay organised-** We will give you guidance on how to keep your work organised to support revisiting topics later. This important as it will make revision much easier.
3. **Make the most of study periods-** Use these to revise and revisit content covered so far, read around the subject and complete assigned independent study tasks. This will help you to develop subject knowledge, understanding of academic writing and ability to be analytical/evaluative of success.
4. **Keep track of deadlines and ensure work is complete-** This will help you to keep on top of the NEA and work from the examined units.
5. **Ask questions and seek help with anything you do not understand!**

Recommended Reading/Websites-

[The Presidents - White House Historical Association](#)- Biographies of American presidents.

BBC History- [Who Or What Was Jim Crow? A Guide To The US Racial Segregation Laws | HistoryExtra](#)

The Century Americas time- Documentary series can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dssfiPirT2U>

(Listen)- BBC Radio 4, In our time- The Divine Right of Kings [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, The Divine Right of Kings](#)

[BBC - History - British History in depth: Overview: Civil War and Revolution, 1603 - 1714](#)

Introduction to the Course: The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Information Technology Systems – Information technology systems, including the relationship between software and hardware, and the issues related to IT systems
- Cyber Security and Incident Management – Types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and how to plan and respond to attacks
- Website Development – The development tools, techniques and processes used in website development and how to test usability, functionality and fitness for purpose
- Relational Database Development – Structure of data, data design and database management systems (DBMS).

Tasks

Summer Transition Project: "Investigating a Cyber Attack" Please create a: **500–1000 word report** on a real cyber attack

- **Threat analysis** identifying vulnerabilities exploited.
- **Risk assessment** table.
- **Incident response plan** outlining how the organisation should respond.
- **Reflection** on lessons learned.

Top Tips

Follow the news – stay up to date with current Information Technology in everyday life as this subject develops fast!

Be curious. The students who achieve the highest grades are usually the ones who explore technology beyond lesson time, experiment with new tools, follow technology news, and regularly ask "why does this work?" rather than just trying to memorise the content of this course.

The IT industry changes constantly, and this course rewards students who develop that professional curiosity.

Recommended Reading

Specification: [Information Technology \(AAQ\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

BBC Technology News

Useful for following current cyber attacks and emerging technologies. Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology>

Articles to Research: Investigate: NHS WannaCry attack, British Library ransomware attack. MGM Resorts cyber attack, CrowdStrike outage and incident response lessons

Introduction to the Course – Pearson Edexcel

A Level Maths is structured around three main strands:

- **Pure Mathematics** – algebra, functions, trigonometry, calculus, sequences, and vectors.
- **Mechanics** – forces, motion, Newton's laws, and modelling physical systems.
- **Statistics** – probability, data analysis, distributions, and hypothesis testing.

At the end of year 13, you will sit 3 exams each 2 hours long. Each exam is equal weighting - Pure 1 (1/3), Pure 2 (1/3) and Statistics and Mechanics (1/3).

Tasks

The following work is designed to prepare you to make the transition from GCSE to A level Mathematics. All of the areas in this booklet are covered at grades 7, 8 and 9. By assessing your knowledge on these areas we will be able to support your transition more successfully.

[Transition Workbook](#)

Top Tips

Understand the Syllabus and Key Topics – Break it down to the three areas mentioned above.

Structured Revision and Goal Setting – Always have a clear, structured revision plan from the start of your course

Practice Past Papers – Regularly practice past papers questions from the exam board. This should be done after each topic.

Focus on Weak Areas – Identify topics early and use study periods to practice any weak areas.

Exam Technique and Communication – Show detailed working out and keep your solutions clear and logically set out.

Consistency and Mindset – Stay motivated and have a consistent effort throughout the course and not just before exams.

Recommended Reading

Pearson Edexcel Specification - [A level Mathematics Specification](#)

Ted Talks on several different mathematical concepts - [TED: Ideas change everything](#)

Underground Maths to look at connections between different topics you meet at A level - [A level maths teaching resources](#) | [Underground Mathematics](#)

Introduction to the Course

RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners

The RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners is a practical, hands-on course designed for students who are passionate about music and want to develop their skills as performers, producers, and creators. Assessment is mainly coursework-based, meaning you will be evaluated on practical work, performances, and projects rather than traditional exams.

This qualification is ideal if you enjoy learning through doing and want to progress to higher education in music or begin a career in performance, production, or related creative fields.

Throughout the course, you will explore a range of areas such as live performance, music creation, rehearsal techniques, and industry knowledge. The emphasis is on developing real-world skills, helping you to build confidence, creativity, and professionalism as a musician.

Task: Write a short paragraph (100–150 words) answering the following:

- What areas of music are you most interested in? (e.g. performance, songwriting, production, sound engineering, etc.)
- What skills do you already have?
- What would you like to improve or learn during the course?
- Do you have any long-term goals in music (e.g. performing live, releasing music, working in the industry)?

Top Tips

1. Get fully involved: Take every opportunity to perform, rehearse, and contribute in lessons—practical experience is key to your success.
2. Stay organised and meet deadlines: Keep track of your coursework, notes, and deadlines to avoid falling behind.
3. Practice regularly: Consistent, focused practice will help you improve your skills and confidence over time.
4. Work well with others and accept feedback: Collaboration is essential. Be reliable in group work and open to feedback to help you grow.
5. Be creative and reflect on your progress: Develop your own style, try new ideas, and regularly think about how you can improve.

Recommended Reading

1. Music Practice & Performance
 - *"The Musician's Way"* – Gerald Klickstein
Great for improving practice habits, performance confidence, and musicianship.
2. Songwriting & Creativity
 - *"How to Write Songs on Guitar"* – Rikky Rooksby - Useful for learning structure, chord progressions, and lyric writing.
 - *"Steal Like an Artist"* – Austin Kleon - Short and inspiring—encourages creativity and developing your own style.
3. Music Industry Knowledge
 - *"All You Need to Know About the Music Business"* – Donald Passman - A clear guide to how the industry works (contracts, streaming, careers).

Philosophy and Ethics



Introduction to the Course - OCR A Level Philosophy and Ethics is an engaging and intellectually challenging course that explores some of the most important questions about existence, morality, and belief. Students will examine key philosophical ideas such as the nature of reality, arguments for the existence of God, and the problem of evil, alongside ethical theories that help us understand how to make moral decisions. The course also encourages critical thinking through the study of religious language, conscience, and debates within ethical issues. By analysing different viewpoints and developing well-supported arguments, students will build strong skills in evaluation, reasoning, and written communication, preparing them for further study and a wide range of careers.

Tasks - Research **one philosopher or religious thinker** (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes).

Create a short fact file that includes:

- Who they were
- Their key ideas or arguments
- Why their ideas are still important today

Top Tips - **Always explain *why* Don't just state your opinion**—develop it with clear reasoning and evidence. Strong answers always justify ideas, not just describe them.

- **Engage with different viewpoints** - Philosophy and ethics require you to consider opposing arguments. Be willing to evaluate and challenge ideas, even those you initially agree with.
- **Use key terminology accurately** - Learn and apply subject-specific language (e.g. *argument, premise, conclusion, utilitarianism*). This helps you write clearly and access higher marks.
- **Practice structured written arguments** - Develop your ability to write organised essays with a clear line of reasoning. Aim for balanced evaluation (e.g. strengths, weaknesses, and judgement).
- **Link ideas to real-world issues** - Apply ethical theories and philosophical ideas to current issues. This deepens understanding and strengthens evaluation in extended answers.

Recommended Reading -

- **"The Philosophy Book"** – DK A clear and visual introduction to key philosophers and ideas—great for building foundational knowledge.
- **"Sophie's World"** – Jostein Gaarder- A novel that introduces the history of philosophy in an engaging and accessible way.

Introduction to the Course-

A Level Physics allows you to delve into the laws that explain why everything in the universe – from quasars to Quavers – exists. It explores where energy comes from, how it behaves and how it can be transformed. It also examines the forces of nature – like gravity – and how they work. You will gain an understanding of how sustained flight works and why satellites do not fall from the sky apart from when they do. It is a multi-faceted subject that can lead to a fascinating and fulfilling career, whether your interests lie in theoretical or experimental physics. Studying A Level Physics will develop your reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills to the next level. This will position you ideally for university-level study or the workplace.

Tasks - Read through the transition guide and have a go at the transition activities:

[GCSE to A Level Physics Transition guide](#)

[GCSE to A-level progression: learner transition activities](#)

[Moving from GCSE to AQA A Level Physics - Useful Tips, FAQs and activities](#)

[Physics transition booklet](#)

[Transition pack - ALevel Physics](#)

Top Tips

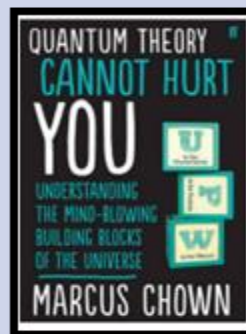
- Make use of the non-contact periods while in school – As an SFX 6th Form Physics student you will be able to use the 6th Form lab to work and revise or to complete practical work and practice using Physics equipment.
- Make sure you communicate – especially if there is anything on the course you are struggling with.
- Join the Institute of Physics (IOP) [IOP Membership](#)

Recommended Reading: [IOP student reading resources](#) [Head Start to A-Level Physics](#) [Introduction to A-Level Physics](#) [Physics World](#) [Phys.org](#)

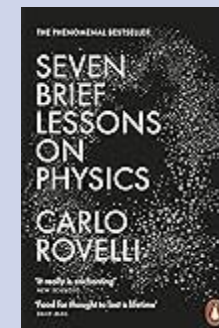
- Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman:
Adventures of a
Curious Character



- Quantum Theory
Cannot Hurt You:
Understanding the
Mind-Blowing
Building Blocks of
the Universe



- Seven Brief Lessons
on Physics: Carlo
Rovelli



Introduction to the Course- The A-Level Politics course at SFX follows the AQA specification and contains the following units, all of which are examined by a two hour exam at the end of the course and worth 1/3 of the total marks:

- **Paper 1- Government and Politics of the United Kingdom**
- **Paper 2- Government and Politics of the USA and comparative politics.**
- **Paper 3- Political Ideas-**

Tasks

1. Keep a log/scrapbook of political news stories over the summer. Aim to record 6 key stories (you could do one story a week) with the headline, a brief 2-3 sentence summary of the story and link to the website access (choose a trusted news website like those below).
2. Read [How it works. Parliament, government and you](#)- This will give you a really good grounding for the UK Politics unit. As you read find and write down definitions of the following - (a) democracy (b) Member of Parliament (c) General elections (d) Devolution (e) Parliament (f) Referendum (g) Manifesto (h) Constitution (i) uncodified constitution (j) parliamentary sovereignty (k) legislature (l) executive (m) judiciary (n) House of Commons (o) House of Lords
3. Research and create a mini fact-file on key principles of the US Constitution: (a) separation of powers (b) checks and balances (c) federalism (d) limited government (e) enumerated powers (f) implied powers. For each principle define it, give a historical example and one modern example (post-2000).

Top Tips

1. **Follow the latest politics news stories in the UK and US-** These will offer you the best examples you can use in examination answers and support you reach the higher levels of the mark scheme for subject knowledge as it will be very clear to examiners you have up-to-date subject knowledge and have been reading round the subject.
2. **Full and punctual attendance to all lessons is a significant factor in ensuring the best A-Level outcomes.** If you ever do miss a lesson, let your teachers know in advance so they can advise on how to catch up.
3. **Stay organised-** We will give you guidance on how to keep your work organised to support revisiting topics later. This is important as it will make revision much easier.
4. **Make the most of study periods-** Use these to revise and revisit content covered so far, read around the subject and complete assigned independent study tasks. This will help you to develop subject knowledge, understanding of academic writing and ability to be analytical/evaluative of success.
5. **Ask questions and seek help with anything you do not understand!**

Recommended resources

Websites- www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics , www.itv.com/news/topic/politics, <https://news.sky.com/politics>, [The Politics Shed](#)

Documentaries- [Blair & Brown: The New Labour Revolution - BBC iPlayer](#), [Brexit: A Very British Civil War - Series 1: 1. Demons Unleashed - BBC iPlayer](#), [Thatcher: A Very British Revolution - BBC iPlayer](#), [BBC News - Starmer: What Went Wrong? - BBC iPlayer](#), [What Happens When - What Happens When You Become US President? - BBC iPlayer](#), [Taking Control The Dominic Cummings Story](#)

Podcasts (available wherever you get your podcasts!)- The News Agents, The News Agents USA, ITV News Talking Politics, The Rest Is Politics, Americast (BBC), Newscast (BBC News).

TV Programmes- Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg (BBC), Question Time (BBC), Politics Live (BBC), Newsnight (BBC), The Cathy Newman Show (Sky News), Peston (ITV), The Context (BBC News), The Presidents Path (BBC News/i-Player)

Radio Programmes- Today (BBC Radio 4), Andrew Marr (LBC/Global Player), Lewis Goodall (Sunday morning, LBC/Global Player), Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (BBC Radio 4), Week in Westminster (BBC Radio 4), Westminster Hour (BBC Radio 4), Today in Parliament (BBC Radio 4).

Introduction to the Course

The primary aim of the **AQA A-level Spanish** syllabus is to build fluency and critical thinking by integrating advanced language learning with deep cultural and social study of the Hispanic world. Fluency and knowledge of the four key skills of reading, listening, speaking and writing are enhanced greatly. The four key themes of study are: Aspects of Spanish society, Artistic culture in the Hispanic world, Multiculturalism in Hispanic society and Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world. A play and a film are also studied for the writing exam. These are *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (play) and *El laberinto del fauno* (film)

Tasks

1. Grammar & Vocabulary

A-Level requires a rock-solid grasp of basic tenses and increased grammatical accuracy.

- **Review Core Tenses:** Ensure you are highly confident with the present, preterite, imperfect, future, and conditional tenses.
- **Create Flashcards:** Start building vocabulary lists for irregular verbs and common GCSE topics using Quizlet or StudyStack.
- **Grammar Practice:** Use interactive sites like BBC Bitesize GCSE Spanish to review and quiz yourself on grammar rules.

2. Cultural Immersion

You will need to understand and discuss the culture, society, and politics of Spanish-speaking countries.

- **Watch Spanish Media:** Stream Spanish-language television or films, such as the critically acclaimed *El Laberinto del Fauno* (Pan's Labyrinth).
- **Listen to Native Audio:** Practice your listening skills by tuning into daily news or radio programs on [RTVE](#) or podcasts like *News in Slow Spanish*.
- **Explore Topics:** Research a specific cultural aspect (e.g., festivals, historical figures, or current social issues) and prepare a 3- to 5-minute presentation.

3. Reading & Independent Study

A-Level Spanish will test your ability to read longer, more complex texts and analyze literature or film.

- **Read regularly:** Look at Spanish news articles online to get used to reading about current events.
- **Keep a Learning Log:** Set aside 15–30 minutes a day and log your activities to build strong study habits

Top Tips

1. Master existing grammar knowledge and identify gaps in understanding
2. Boost cultural knowledge through reading
3. Practice vocabulary daily via Memrise

Recommended Reading

El mundo/El País/Marca/BBC Mundo

Introduction to the Course

The OCR Technical Sport qualifications (Extended Certificate, Diploma, and Extended Diploma) are designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the sports sector while developing practical and theoretical knowledge relevant to coaching, performance, and fitness. These courses combine classroom learning with hands-on experience, covering areas such as sports leadership, anatomy and physiology, sports psychology, and effective coaching techniques. The Extended Certificate offers an introduction to key concepts, while the Diploma builds on this with broader units and deeper understanding. The Extended Diploma provides a comprehensive, career-focused programme equivalent to full-time study, preparing learners for employment or progression to higher education in sports coaching, physical education, or related fields.

Tasks:

Use the link below to access the bridging work that will help to ensure that you have key knowledge and understanding of some of the courses core topics.

- [Year 11 to 12 Bridging Work \(OCR Technical Sport\)](#)

Top Tips:

- **Learn the basics early**
Familiarise yourself with key topics like muscles, bones, and fitness components to boost your confidence.
- **Stay active in sport**
Regular participation helps you understand skills, tactics, and the role of a coach.
- **Practise leading others**
Try delivering warm-ups or small activities to build leadership and communication skills.
- **Be organised and motivated**
Develop good study habits and a positive attitude to set yourself up for success.

Recommended Reading:

- **OCR Cambridge Technical Sport Course Textbook (Level 3)**
The official course book is the most important resource, covering all units, key terminology, and assessment guidance.
- **The Sports Coach by Dr. Phil Jones**
A practical introduction to coaching skills, leadership, and effective session delivery.
- [SFX PE Website – Key Stage 5](#)



St Francis Xavier's

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