

St Peter's College

Year 13 – Cambridge A Level Subject Guide



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CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL COMPULSORY SUBJECT OUTLINE

THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Tim MacKenzie, tmackenzie@st-peters.school.nz

Religious Studies Scholarship

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | CREDITS | COURSE COSTS |
|--|---------|--------------|
| A grade of C or higher in AS Biblical Studies Special permission from the Head of Theology | 24 | \$20 |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION | | |
| <p>NZQA Scholarship Religious Studies entails students applying broad subject knowledge and advanced analytical skills in a single essay written in a three-hour exam at the end of the Year. St Peter's College has always been at or near the top of New Zealand in terms of our performance in Scholarship Religious Studies.</p> <p>The exam question relates to a theme linked to religious issues, which is announced at the start of each year. Previous themes have included: science and religion, the psychology of religious beliefs, the influence of great thinkers on religion, and issues of diversity and inclusion in religion.</p> <p>The course begins with a Foundations of Religious Studies programme, dealing with topics such as religious experiences, death, whether humans are more than just animals, how religions can either liberate or oppress believers, etc. After the completion of this programme, we turn our attention to the specific theme of the year.</p> <p>Students who earn a Scholarship grade or higher in the exam receive monetary awards, which can multiply depending on success in other Scholarship subjects.</p> | | |

Year 13 Theology and Philosophy

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | CREDITS | COURSE COSTS |
|--|---------|--------------|
| Permission from the Head of Faculty or the Deputy Headmaster Curriculum | 24 | \$20 |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION | | |
| <p>Students who are unlikely to succeed in Scholarship Religious Studies can choose to take NCEA standards instead. This involves four achievement standards, each worth 6 credits, each assessed internally.</p> <p>The first standard we study compares two influential worldviews: Roman Catholicism and Postmodernism. In the second standard students study the Catholic Church's Consistent Ethic of Life, as applied to issues like abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, the environment, and poverty. Either the book of Genesis or the Book of Revelation takes centre stage in the third standard, comparing the literalist and historical-critical interpretations of such famous stories as creation, the fall and the flood or such symbols as the beast, 666 and the seventh seal. The final standard explores the founding of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and the effect it has had on society today.</p> | | |

END OF COMPULSORY SUBJECT OUTLINE

CAMBRIDGE A LEVEL OPTIONAL SUBJECT OUTLINES

STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE FOUR

ART FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Ms Nichola Barnden, nbarnden@st-peters.school.nz

A Level – Digital Media & Design: Graphic Design

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C grade in AS Digital Media & Design

COURSE COSTS

\$40 materials

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Digital Media and Design is part of a two year course. It is compulsory to have completed AS Digital Media and Design to continue on to this level. Students are required to complete a Personal Investigation which is made up of two parts, one practical and one written. Students select one of the given themes for the year and produce work based on a brief. This will include research of the topic including traditional and contemporary artists. Drawing will be used to gather information and this is used to inform, develop and extend ideas in the creation of new work. The emphasis for this year is to fully resolve ideas in the final work. Along side the coursework students need to analyse the work of others. All work is submitted in a digital format.

A Level Digital Media and Design can be studied in Graphic Design.

A Level – Art & Design: Painting

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C grade in AS Art and Design

COURSE COSTS

\$70 materials and printing fee

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Art and Design is part of a two year course. It is compulsory to have completed AS Art and Design to continue on to this level. Students are required to complete a Personal Investigation which is made up of two parts, one practical and one written. Students choose a theme for the year and produce work based on this. This will include research of the topic including traditional and contemporary artists. Drawing will be used to gather information and this is used to inform, develop and extend ideas in the creation of new work. The emphasis for this year is to fully resolve ideas in the final work. Along side the coursework students need to analyse the work of others.

A Level Art & Design can be studied in Painting or Photography.

A Level – Art & Design: Photography

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C grade in AS Art and Design

COURSE COSTS

\$60 materials and printing fee

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Art and Design is part of a two year course. It is compulsory to have completed AS Art and Design to continue on to this level. Students are required to complete a Personal Investigation which is made up of two parts, one practical and one written. Students choose a theme for the year and produce work based on this. This will include research of the topic including traditional and contemporary artists. Drawing will be used to gather information and this is used to inform, develop and extend ideas in the creation of new work. The emphasis for this year is to fully resolve ideas in the final work. Along side the coursework students need to analyse the work of others.

A Level Art & Design can be studied in Painting or Photography.

COMMERCE FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Stephen Rewcastle, srewcastle@st-peters.school.nz

A Level Economics

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | LEADS INTO | COURSE COSTS |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|
| at least C in AS Economics | Tertiary education as this is a university approved subject | NIL |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows on directly from the AS Economics option and therefore boys must complete the AS course in order to progress to A Level. The syllabus challenges boys to develop their thinking skills in considering the Economic, social and political impact of current events to economic theory that has been learned across the AS and A Level Economic course. The course covers the major areas of Microeconomics, Market Failure, Government Intervention and Macroeconomics. A Level is a natural progression from AS with a development of skills that integrate directly with Level 1 Commerce University courses.

A Level Accounting

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | LEADS INTO | COURSE COSTS |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| at least C in AS Accounting | Tertiary education as this is a university approved subject | NIL |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows on directly from the AS Accounting option and therefore boys must complete the AS course in order to progress to A Level. This syllabus challenges boys to develop their financial and managerial skills to a higher degree than that has been learned across the AS Accounting course in a variety of modern economic and business contexts. A Level is a natural progression from AS with a development of skills that integrate directly with level one Commerce University courses.

Students will study the following topics:

Financial Accounting

- 1) Preparation of financial statements
 - a) Manufacturing businesses
 - b) Not for profit organisations
 - c) Limited companies
 - d) International Accounting Standards
 - e) Auditing and stewardship of limited companies
- 2) Business purchase and merger
- 3) Consignment and Joint venture accounts
- 4) Computerised accounting systems
- 5) Analysis and communication of accounting information

Cost and Management Accounting

- 1) Activity based costing (ABC)
- 2) Budgetary and budgetary control
- 3) Standard Costing
- 4) Investment appraisal

ENGLISH FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Stacy Humpage, shumpage@st-peters.school.nz

A level English

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

at least a C in AS English

COURSE COSTS

\$15

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course consists of two papers; Shakespearean and Other Pre-Twentieth Century Literature (Paper 5), and Twentieth Century Literature (Paper 6). Students will be expected to adopt an academic approach to prescribed texts, developing an in-depth and nuanced understanding of a text's central concerns, a sensitivity to how language creates meaning, and a thorough knowledge of relevant contextual details. In addition to this, students will be introduced to critical perspectives on texts and learn how to engage with the critical discourse that has developed in response to texts and authors. This is a demanding, but also very enriching, course. Students will have the opportunity to encounter a wide range of Literature, from William Shakespeare's canonical plays, to more contemporary works that make bold departures from tradition. This course prepares students for further study in a range of disciplines at tertiary level due to the high levels of analysis, critical thinking, intertextuality and argumentation.

HUMANITIES FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Jakub Kalinowski, jkalinowski@st-peters.school.nz

A Level Classical Studies

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C grade in AS Classical Studies

COURSE COSTS

Topic Booklets, \$45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is a direct follow on from AS Classical Studies. While containing topics that are broader and cover a more comprehensive and in-depth range of themes and ideologies, the assessment format and essay structure remain largely the same. Thus, the students will find themselves refining their essay technique to a very sophisticated standard.

It is encouraged that those who take A-level Classics also take the Scholarship Classics timetabled class due to the direct overlap of both content and essay technique.

Cambridge A Level Classical Studies is made up of two topics: history and literature.

- The history topic analyses the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars and the relationships between Athens and her neighbours including Sparta. Athens and Sparta had different approaches to government and battle strategy and both aspects are analysed in depth. The thematic undertone throughout the topic is the influence of democracy on the growth of the Athenian Empire.
- The literature topic, analysing Homer's Iliad and Odyssey allows students to consider the actions of Homeric heroes and their interactions with the gods. The thematic undertone is the motivation of Homer as a poet and how his works are reflective of core socio-cultural ideologies in Ancient Greece

A Level Geography

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C Grade in AS Geography

COURSE COSTS

Students are encouraged to purchase the course Study Guide, which covers both the AS and A Level Geography syllabus. The book can be ordered online from Book Depository and costs approximately NZ\$30 including shipping.
Cambridge International AS and A Level Geography Revision Guide.
ISBN: 978 144441 81487

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The A2 Geography course is a continuation of the AS Geography course. This course aims to develop candidates' awareness of the relevance of geographical analysis to understanding and solving contemporary human and environmental problems. The course introduces candidates to the main elements of Physical and Human Geography and the inter-relationships between these components. It encourages an understanding of the principal processes operating at different scales within Physical and Human Geography; develops candidates' sense of relative location, including an appreciation of the complexity and variety of natural and human environments; and explains the causes and effects of change over space and time on the natural and human environments. The course aims to develop candidates' ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information; develop candidates' ability to think logically, and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways; and to promote candidates' awareness of the need for understanding, respect and co-operation in conserving the environment and improving the quality of life both at a global scale and within the context of different cultural settings.

Topic areas: Advanced Physical Geography: Two of the following themes will be studied: Tropical environments; Coastal environments; Hazardous environments; Arid and semi-arid environments.

Advanced Human geography: two of the following themes will be studied – Production, location and change; Environmental management; Global interdependence; Economic transition.

Assessment: TWO one-and-a-half-hour exam papers are written at the end of the year, which covers all aspects of the syllabus – but does offer some choice of questions.

A Level History

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

C Grade in AS History or higher

COURSE COSTS

\$10

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds upon the skills and knowledge attained in the A.S. History programme. This course is only open to Year 13 students who have successfully completed the A.S. History component the year before.

The revised syllabus - first introduced in 2022 - retains the majority of the content of the old programme – The Cold War. Students who are interested in the world around them today will enjoy learning about the challenges, conflicts and controversies of the Cold War period, which have helped to shape our contemporary world as we know it. There is an interpretations/source-based component, which focuses on the writing of history (historiography). Additionally, there is a content-based component, which examines students' writing, critical-thinking, analysis and argument skills.

The syllabus aims to develop:

- A greater knowledge and understanding of historical periods or themes
- A greater awareness of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference, and change and continuity
- An appreciation of the nature and diversity of historical sources available, and the methods used by historians
- An exploration of a variety of approaches to different aspects of history and different interpretations of particular historical issues
- The ability to think independently and make informed judgements on issues
- An empathy with people living in different places and at different times
- A firm foundation for further study of History at tertiary level

The main topics taught are:

- The Origins of the Cold War (historical interpretations focus only)
- How did US–Soviet relations develop between 1950 and 1980?
- Why was there a crisis over Cuba in the 1960s and how did it affect the US–Soviet relations?
- How did the arms race affect US–Soviet relations?
- Why did the Cold War come to an end in 1989?
- The Cold War in Asia – de-colonisation, the Korean War, The Vietnam War and Sino-US relations

LANGUAGES FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Ms Bingmei Zhang, bzhang@st-peters.school.nz

Year 13 Chinese for CIE students – AS and/or VUW

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | COURSE COSTS |
|---|--|
| At Least E in IGCSE Chinese | \$23 (+GSDT) Education Perfect Subscription. VUW online Star program (optional) |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION | |
| <p>This is an 18-month course that begins in the middle of Year 12, with candidates taking the exam at the end of Year 13. The AS Chinese (8238) course helps candidates further develop a range of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in Chinese, while also enabling them to use the language with increasing sophistication. Students will continue to enhance their cultural awareness and acquired the essential linguistic skills necessary for progression to further studies or employment.</p> <p>Candidates are assessed on four components: Listening (25%), Reading (25%), Writing (25%), and Speaking (25%).</p> <p>Students also have the opportunity to enrol in the VUW online course (Terms 1 and 2 Star program), which is worth 20 university credits that are internationally transferable toward a future bachelor's degree.</p> | |

A Level Spanish

| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS | COURSE COSTS |
|---|--|
| At least E grade in AS Spanish | \$23 (+GSDT) Education Perfect Subscription. |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION | |
| <p>The new course for next year (2024) Spanish Language & Literature (A Level only) (9844) helps candidates continue to develop a set of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in Spanish. It provides candidates with opportunities to use Spanish with ever increasing levels of sophistication in both everyday situations and contexts requiring the ability to understand topics that are more abstract. Learners build on the essential linguistic skills and cultural insights acquired in previous study in order to prepare for progression to further studies or employment.</p> <p>There are 3 exams: Reading: Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions (c. 33%); Writing: Candidates complete two writing tasks: one argumentative/discursive task and one narrative or descriptive writing task (c. 33%); Literature: Candidates answer two questions, one question from each section: Section A passage-based questions and Section B essay questions (c. 33%).</p> | |

MATHEMATICS FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Matt Bindon, mbindon@st-peters.school.nz

A Level Mathematics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Must have 65% or higher in AS Mathematics

COURSE COSTS

NIL

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is made up of 2 Papers: Pure Mathematics 3 (Paper 3) and Mechanics (Paper 4). Pure Mathematics 3 has the following topics: trigonometry, differentiation, integration, iteration, vectors, the binomial expansion, complex numbers and differential equations. Mechanics has the following topics: Kinematics, forces, connected particles, momentum and work energy and power.

Paper 3 is worth 75 marks and has an exam length of 1 hour and 50 minutes. Paper 4 is worth 50 marks and has an exam length of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

SCIENCE FACULTY

Head of Biology: Ms Lynne Dell, ldell@st-peters.school.nz

Head of Chemistry: Dr Andrew Rogers, arogers@st-peters.school.nz

Head of Physics: Mr Peter Harris, pharris@st-peters.school.nz

A Level Biology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A, B or C in AS Biology

COURSE COSTS

Course Manual \$40

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Biology is a course which completes the full double award A Level in Biology. A Level Biology is the second half of the Cambridge A Level syllabus. The course expands on skills and attitudes developed in AS Biology. A Level Biology is assessed by a structured question paper and a planning, analysis and evaluation paper based on practical skills. A Level examinations are held in October/November. The final A Level grade is based on an average of AS and A Level grades.

A Level Chemistry

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A, B or C in AS Chemistry

COURSE COSTS

Workbook \$30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Chemistry is a course which completes the full double award A Level in Chemistry. A Level Chemistry is the second half of the Cambridge A Level syllabus. The course expands on skills and attitudes developed in AS Chemistry. A Level Chemistry is assessed by a structured question paper and a planning, analysis and evaluation paper based on practical skills. A Level examinations are held in October/November. The final A Level grade is based on an average of AS and A Level grades.

A Level Physics

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A, B or C in AS Physics

COURSE COSTS

\$30 for resources

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Level Physics is a course which completes the full double award A Level in Physics. A Level Physics is the second half of the Cambridge A Level syllabus. The course expands on skills and attitudes developed in AS Physics. A Level Physics is assessed by a structured question paper and a planning, analysis and evaluation paper based on practical skills. A Level examinations are held in October/November. The final A Level grade is based on an average of AS and A Level grades.

TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

Head of Faculty: Mr Jonathan Bay, jbay@st-peters.school.nz

A Level Design & Technology (Product Design)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least a "C" grade in AS Design Technology

COURSE COSTS

\$140

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a continuation of AS Design and Technology. Candidate grades from AS and A Level are combined to form the overall grade for the subject (50/50).

A2 Level Design and Technology consists of two parts:

Part 01: Students identify a design situation or need from a real-world context of their own choice. This component has been designed to be flexible so that candidates can choose an area of design and technology that appeals to them.

Part 02: This is a written paper weighted at 50% of the overall A2 grade completed during end of the year examinations. The paper is completed in 2 hours and 30 minutes split into 3 Sections:

- structured questions (48 Marks)
- two extended response questions on the wider issues in design technology (12 Marks)
- one design question (40 Marks)

Note: The AS grade contributes 50% of the A grade.

A LEVEL COURSE PLANNER FOR:

Name: _____

| A LEVEL COMPULSORY SUBJECT | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | |
| Subject 1 | Theology & Philosophy |
| A LEVEL OPTIONAL SUBJECTS | |
| Subject 1 | |
| Subject 2 | |
| Subject 3 | |
| Subject 4 | |