

General Studies AS/A2

EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE (3831)
OCR Advanced GCE (7831)

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

School's minimum entrance requirement for advanced study is needed.

The principle of **broadening educational opportunity in the Post-16 curriculum** lies at the heart of the General Studies programme. At St Cuthbert Mayne, a multidisciplinary approach, providing Advanced Level Sixth Form students with a snapshot of a wide range of topics as **a platform for their own research and study**, has been employed since the birth of the new Sixth Form.

The new specifications consolidate these aims, giving “candidates the opportunity to:

- Extend their interests in a wide range of disciplines, recognise the interdependence of different areas of study and experience
- Think critically and logically
- Develop the skills of study, analysis and evaluation of chosen issues.
- Provide clear, accurate and effective communication of information and evaluation”.
(OCR General Studies Specification).
- The new specifications focus on **topics and issues of concern in the 21st Century**, providing the opportunity to study for an Advanced Subsidiary (AS) or Advanced GCE (A2) in a subject valued by Universities and employers alike. General Studies is a full AS/A2 examination and qualifies for the same UCAS tariff as other A level examinations.
- Research has shown that there is a **clear relationship between grades at A Level General Studies and students' final Degree Awards (UCAS)**. Some Universities and courses do not accept General Studies points, but make lower offers if a student is following the course and interviewers often ask the students to discuss issues rehearsed in General Studies lessons.
- The subject also offers the advantage of numerous opportunities for the acquisition of evidence for the **Key Skills qualifications and Citizenship** now considered so important by Higher Education and Employers. All students will be given the opportunity to develop these important communication and presentation skills.

Advanced students will study units that address the following areas:-

The Scientific Domain:	Science, Mathematics and Technology
The Cultural Domain:	Culture, Morality, Arts and Humanities
The Social Domain:	Society, Politics and the Economy

Assessment for the AS will be by three units of assessment and by examination.

The A2 qualification (full A Level) requires completion of 3 further units of assessment by examination.

All Advanced Level students will be given the opportunity to enter for the AS and A2 General Studies examinations.