

AS Level Options at Redcliffe 6th Form

In addition to our supplementary options (EPQ, Maths Studies), which are designed as AS equivalent courses spread over two years, we aspire to make as many courses as possible available to AS Level in order to encourage curriculum breadth for suitably able students.

Students doing four subjects in year 12 will normally drop one at some point, this can be:

- At the end of the year, having completed the full AS course.
- After Christmas when students sit internal assessments in every subject and have a more objective view of which are likely to be their best grades (often not the ones they think).
- After a few weeks if they are not coping with workload, but we normally encourage students to persist until they have covered a reasonable spread of topics, and we are confident that they are dropping the right one. We like to know that they are not taking a risk by reducing to subjects that are known to be very challenging without evidence that they will cope. Lots of students change their views of subjects after a couple of months of study and future plans often change entirely.

Students who complete a fourth subject until the end of the first year will in many cases be able to sit an AS Level, but we do suggest thinking this through carefully. An AS Level result has to be declared on a student's UCAS form, and will then be the only externally validated result the student has at this level, so it is probably important that it doesn't under-represent their abilities. If the student is confident of gaining a good grade in their AS subject which is roughly in line with their other subjects, then it may well be worth doing. Otherwise, students may complete four subjects to the end of the year simply to keep open their choices for Year 13 as long as possible, in which case we will write a positive reference for Universities about their achievements and abilities in that subject and give a positive indication of their level of achievement and commitment to study.

Decisions on sitting AS exams must be made by mid-February. The school will pay the exam fees for one AS Level and obviously for all A Levels and supplementary courses. If any student wants to sit AS exams in more than one subject, they will be liable for normal exam fees in the second and any further AS Levels.

The following subjects should complete the AS material prior to the AS exam, although there may need to be some independent work in the final topics and the class as a whole will not be being prepared specifically for the AS exam (although in most cases the preparation for end of year internal exams will reflect the demands and standards of the AS level):

English Language	Physics	Religious Education	Classical Civilisation
Media / Film	Chemistry	Law	Health & Social Care
French	Biology	Psychology	Computing
German	Maths	Economics	Business
Spanish	Politics	Sociology	

Language students will need some additional preparation for their oral exam.

The remaining subjects listed below have additional factors which affect the feasibility or practicalities of completing the AS Level qualification:

English Literature	Requires the independent reading of a supplementary text not required by the A Level syllabus – ask your teacher about this
History	Requires the independent completion of topic to replace African Kingdoms, which is not available for AS Assessment
Music	Requires students to be good at composing and to do independent work to produce the coursework in time for the Y12 AS deadline
Product Design / Textiles / Music Tech	Requires the continuation of lessons at a lower number of periods into Year 13 in order to complete the coursework elements, leading to the AS examinations and certification happening at the end of Year 13
Geography	The coursework element of the AS makes this very challenging to deliver alongside the A Level course. Students should speak with their Geography teacher to consider options.

The following subjects are no longer offered by the exam board at AS Level – Philosophy, English Lang/Lit, Drama and Theatre, Art, Photography, PE