

Science in Society

AS Level (AS only)

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Teacher: Jim Pendlebury
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You should do this course

if.....

Your interests lie mainly in the arts or humanities and you wish to broaden your knowledge and understanding

if.....

You are studying science and want the opportunity to reflect on your specialist studies in a wider context

or if.....

You are considering going on to study medicine. This qualification is positively viewed by universities. This AS should be additional to your chosen A level programme.

You will develop the knowledge and skills that learners need to grapple with issues related to the science and technology that you meet now and will meet in your adult and working lives.

Skills you will develop on this course

Arts, humanities and science students will be able to reflect on a wide range of scientific issues, learn to evaluate information and make informed decisions, encouraging scientific literacy, debating, independent research and other skills.

Ideas about How Science Works will enable application of critical thinking skills in a coherent way when reading, writing and talking about science

Topics studied.

Candidates will consider how science works and relevant explanations;

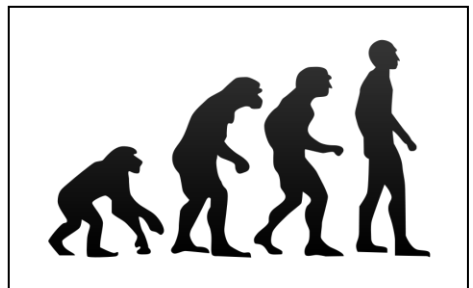
the germ theory of disease, infection and the development of vaccines,

transport issues and its impact on local air quality and the global climate,

the ethical issues raised by the developing, testing and use of medicines, stem cells and cloning, reproductive choices, radiation,

evolution

understanding the universe.



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How will you learn?

The course will include:
some taught topics,
discussion based on briefing papers and presentations,
research using a wide range of resources including text, CD-ROMs, newspapers, magazines, videos and the internet.

It encourages you to use and develop your key skills of communication.

Where does the course lead?

Science in Society is relevant to all students considering higher education or employment.

Studying this subject will strengthen UCAS applications for any science related courses, including Medicine and related subjects.

Broadening your knowledge will also help students studying arts and humanities.

Assessment and Exams

Unit 1 Exploring key scientific issues

2 hours

Written paper externally assessed

Questions will include comprehension, data analysis and response.

Unit 2 Reading and writing about science.

Internal assessment

Candidates work consists of two pieces of writing:

a critical account of scientific reading (40% of the marks for this unit)

a study of a topical scientific issue (60% of the marks for this unit)

All the questions are based upon a set of pre-release Case Study material on a scientific issue.

Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE.

Grade C or above in Science and additional Science or in at least one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics.