



BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY
"PER VIAS SAPIENTIAE"

The Lower Sixth Year and AS Examinations



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The Lower Sixth Year

- About one third of pupils study 4 AS subjects
- 36 periods per fortnight
- 4 periods for Games (optional)
- 2 periods for Tutorial
- The other 8 periods are spent in the supervised study area



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The Lower Sixth Year

- The rest of the pupils study 3 AS subjects
- 27 periods per fortnight
- Enrichment courses or extra subject periods during the extra study periods
- Other periods spent in the supervised study area



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The Lower Sixth Year

Enrichment Courses/ Extra Study:

- **Primary School experience**
- **Community Service**
- **Art, Technology, IT, SSD, H and SC**
- **French/German/Spanish Conversation**



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The Lower Sixth Year

- Most AS subjects consist of 2 modules, one of which may be coursework/controlled assessment
- Each module is marked separately and the raw scores converted to uniform marks
- Science and Mathematics have 3 modules at AS
- Health and Social Care and PE also have 3 modules
- In the Physics and Chemistry, one of the modules is for practical work



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The Lower Sixth Year

- AS examinations are pitched at a standard above GCSE, but below a traditional A-level
- Module examinations take place in May/June
- Results published in August
- The January/February series of modular examinations has been discontinued



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The Lower Sixth Year

- Raw marks in each module converted to uniform marks
- Uniform marks combined to give a final AS grade
- 100 uniform marks per module
- Grades awarded: A, B, C, D, E, U
- Grades A to E are passes
- Grade U is a fail
- Pupils currently require 3 passes to enter the Middle Sixth Form



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AS Myths

- **An AS is half of an A-level**

AS is worth 40% of the final A-level mark

A2 is worth 60% of the final A-level mark

- **My L6 year is not as important as my M6 year**



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GCSE to AS/A2

- GCSE grades are not equivalent to AS or A2 grades

GRADE at GCSE	Average grade at AS
A*	A
A	B
B	C
C	<C

- AS grades count for half the UCAS pts of a full A-Level



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Predicted A Level Grades

Name:		Tutor group:		GCSE Scale A* = 58 A = 52 B = 46 C = 40 D = 34 E = 28
Class Tutor:		GCSE Average	51.40	



Single Award	Quartile Analysis		Chance Analysis					
	Median Prediction	Target Grade	% Chance of an A*	% Chance of an A	% Chance of a B	% Chance of a C	% Chance of a D	% Chance of an E
Biology	C	B	1	10	36	33	14	5
Chemistry	C	B	1	11	36	27	17	8
Home Economics	B	A	3	25	48	22	3	0
Health & Social Care	B	A	2	34	51	11	2	0

These are **not** the predicted grades for your A2 examinations in June 2019. These grades show the *chance* of you getting each grade based on *your* GCSE grades and the GCSE grades of *all the other pupils who took the same examination as you last June*. The "Median Prediction" is your most likely A2 grade based on these calculations; however, our aim is that you should achieve the "Target Grade" which is usually one grade higher.



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The Middle Sixth Year

- Pupils usually study 3 subjects at A2 level
- At the end of the Spring term pupils will indicate which subject they expect to drop at the end of Lower Sixth
- They will make a final choice after their AS results are known



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The Sixth Form

Summary

- Each A-level is divided into two parts:
- AS level: 2 or 3 modules taken in L6
- A2 level: 2 or 3 further modules taken in M6
- AS and A2 module results are aggregated to give a final A-Level grade A* to E based on AS = 40% and A2 = 60%



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6 Module courses

AS Grade/ Marks

A2 Grade/Marks

Grade A	240
Grade B	210
Grade C	180
Grade D	150
Grade E	120

Grade A	480
Grade B	420
Grade C	360
Grade D	300
Grade E	240



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4 Module courses

AS Grade/ Marks

Grade A	160
Grade B	140
Grade C	120
Grade D	100
Grade E	80

A2 Grade/Marks

Grade A	320
Grade B	280
Grade C	240
Grade D	200
Grade E	160



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**The A* grade at A2 requires an average of
90% in the A2 modules**



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Changes to the English Schools' Curriculum

- The AS/A2 examination system for English Boards has changed (AQA, Edexcel, OCR)
- All A levels are two-year linear courses
- Grades are awarded on the basis of examinations taken at the end of Middle 6th only
- Pupils may cash in for an AS at the end of Lower 6th , however if they continue on to A2, the AS marks do not contribute to the final A level grade.



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Changes to the English Schools' Curriculum

- English Language and Drama fall into this category
- Pupils follow the AQA specifications
- All pupils will sit the AS examination at the end of Lower 6th
- Some pupils will keep the subject(s) to A2
- These pupils will sit the full A Level examination at the end of Middle 6th
- The AS marks will not contribute to the final A Level grade



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Monitoring Pupils' Performance in L6

- Track 1 – October
- Track 2 – December (mock examinations)
- Track 3 – March



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Reporting

- Report after each track
- Target grade
- Professional Predicted Grade (PPG)



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Professional Predicted Grade

- Track test + GCSE result + work ethic/ hw/ cw
- Fine Grades
 - e.g. B1 (High B grade - with support could go up to an A)
 - B2 (Secure B grade)
 - B3 (Insecure B grade – in danger of dropping to a C)



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Effective Revision Strategies

- Deputy Head Boy, Euan Carroll (organisation)
- Deputy Head Girl, Trinity Geddis (Revision Strategies)



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Revision Strategies - Trinity

- Be prepared
- Use the specification
- Make condensed notes
- Discover what type of learner you are:
 - Visual
 - Auditory
 - Reading/writing
 - Kinesthetic
 - Multimodal
- Past papers



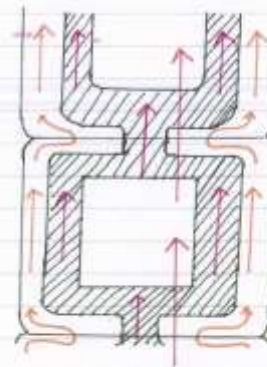
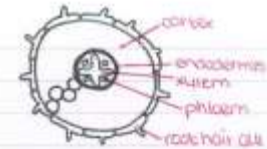
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Condensed Notes

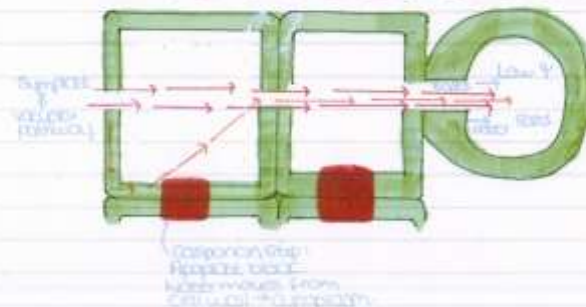
Water movement through the leaf

3 pathways!



- **Vacuolar pathway** - through cell surface membrane, cytoplasm & tonoplast.
- **Symplast pathway** - Water moves from cell to cell through cell cytoplasm & plasmodesmata.
- **Apoplast pathway** - Water moves from cell to cell through cell walls.

Water movement into the xylem of the central stele:



- Water is transported through the **cortex** & then through **endodermis cells** which have a **Casparian strip** blocking the **apoplast pathway**.
- Allowing **active control** of the passage of **water** & **dissolved ions**.

