



BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY
"PER VIAS SAPIENTIAE"

The Lower Sixth Year and AS Examinations



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The Lower Sixth Year

- Most 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

- Some 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**
- **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
- 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 Sciences, 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 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
- Grade A is worth 60 UCAS points
- Grade E is worth 20 UCAS points



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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



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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

- The subjects affected are English Language and Drama
- 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