

The AQA Baccalaureate

Introduction

The AQA Baccalaureate is a diploma qualification that is mainly made up of traditional A level subjects. It offers the range and breadth of study of the International Baccalaureate without forcing students to choose subjects from specific groups. This allows students to pursue their strengths and main areas of interest into the Sixth Form. The achievement of the AQA Baccalaureate demonstrates that a student has gained a fuller, more rounded education with greatly enhanced personal skills and qualities, thoroughly prepared for the demands of Higher Education and a future career.

To make up the diploma, alongside their A levels, students:

- take AS level Critical Thinking,
- undertake an Extended Project, and
- complete fifty hours a year of Enrichment activities.



AS Critical Thinking

AS Critical Thinking teaches students how to make and evaluate arguments and decisions using real world examples. It helps students to develop skills and encourages attitudes which complement their other studies. It prepares candidates for the academic and intellectual demands of higher education, as well as future employment and general living. The course introduces concepts, terms and techniques that will enable candidates to reflect more constructively on their own and others' reasoning. The course has three main areas. Students are taught to:

- Analyse critically the use of different kinds of reasoning in a wide range of contexts.
- Evaluate critically the use of different kinds of reasoning in a wide range of contexts.
- Develop and communicate relevant and coherent arguments clearly and accurately in a concise and logical manner.

The Extended Project

The Extended Project gives students an exciting chance to develop their independent study skills by researching and producing a piece of academic work in an area of their choosing and interest. Then the Extended Project is assessed and it attracts the University entrance points of an AS level. The project can be in the form of an essay or a scientific investigation. Students produce a log showing their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of their project. The Extended Project is a fantastic opportunity to develop an area of interest and to prepare for University life and interviews. The project will be supervised and assessed by a "mentor" member of staff. It will then be externally moderated by the examination board.

Enrichment

Enrichment plays a key role in the composition of the AQA Baccalaureate. Involvement in extra-curricular activities is central to the ethos of the school as they enable students to develop their

confidence, skills and personal qualities in an enjoyable way. For the Baccalaureate, students must do 100 hours of activities over two years. They must do at least 30 hours from each of the three areas:

- Work-related learning.
- Community participation.
- Personal development activities.

Numerous enrichment activities exist within school but involvement in activities outside school also gains accreditation. Here are some possible examples:

Work related learning	Community Participation	Personal Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Experience • Paid Employment • Young Enterprise • Work shadowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra • Choir • Some School Clubs • Visiting Residential Homes • Primary School Links • Voluntary Work • Peer Mentoring • Librarian Help • Community Sports • Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke of Edinburgh Awards • Sport • Instrumental Tuition • MFL Conversation • Maths Challenge • Drama • Life Drawing Classes • Dance • Theatre • Film • Debating • First Aid

AQA Baccalaureate Grading

As well as achieving grades for the individual components of the Baccalaureate, the overall diploma is awarded with Merit if C grades are achieved and with Distinction if A grades are achieved.

Contact the School:

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