



AS/A2 GENERAL STUDIES

Head of Department - Mr P. Wheller

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

Assessment by examination only.

The key to open minds!

A Level General Studies involves investigating contemporary issues and forming well-reasoned opinions about them. For example:

- The political systems of Britain and the EU, making informed judgements regarding everything from the roles of the monarch and the prime minister, to the pros and cons of the Euro.
- Media communications, including current developments within the media, moral issues and ways in which the media influence public opinion.
- Crime, law enforcement and the criminal justice system, looking at the causes of crime, ethical and social dilemmas and attitudes towards dissent.
- Thinking and analytical skills, interpreting data and integrating knowledge from different domains to determine what is relevant to the solution of a particular problem.

What are the benefits of doing General Studies?

Widen horizons

The course integrates knowledge across disciplines that will give you a broad-based understanding, complementing other A Level subjects and encouraging you to engage with the world around you.



Broader perspectives

It looks at a wide range of information, opinions and attitudes and encourages you to use analytical reasoning and to construct a clear, coherent and well-expressed point of view.

Expand possibilities

It Inspires an interest in current affairs and an ethos of intellectual rigour that goes beyond the classroom, empowering students with the tools sought after by universities and employers alike.

Yr12

Two exams to be taken:

1. **The Cultural and Social Domains**
2. **The Scientific Domain**

Topics include:

- The roles of the monarch
- The prime minister
- The cabinet
- Parliament
- Voting systems
- Western culture
- Popular culture
- High culture
- Characteristics of the sciences
- Understanding of scientific methods
- Mathematical reasoning and its application
- The nature of scientific objectivity and the question of progress



Science

Yr13

Two exams to be taken:

1. **Domain Exploration: Applying Synoptic Skills**
2. **Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections**