

ARDROSSAN ACADEMY

S3 Options Information

INTRODUCTION

This is an important and exciting time in your school year. You are now able to select subjects you have enjoyed and even start to study new subjects that may influence your career path.

Please take time to read about all the subjects described in this booklet. In S3, pupils will be able to choose from a whole range of subjects which are offered at different levels. The choices are designed to reflect the needs of our pupils and will be influenced by the number of staff available and the levels of pupil interest in each subject.

Courses will be designed to enable pupils to progress from one level to the next as they move into S5 or S6. The level which pupils take in S5 will depend on the level they have reached by the end of S4.

Units and Courses, Assessment

Courses, other than Standard Grade, are available to pupils in certain subjects in S3 and S4. These courses, called Access, Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 are structured in a way which results in the following general equivalences:-

National Qualification	Standard Grade Equivalent
Access 3	Foundation Level
Intermediate 1	General Level
Intermediate 2	Credit Level

Details of the courses being offered can be found in the booklet.

Access, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher courses are made up of units of study. Usually there are 3 units to be studied in each course. Each unit will involve internal assessment, carried out in school to determine whether a student has passed or failed. However, at the end of most courses candidates will still have to take an external examination similar to the current end-of-course Standard Grade exams.



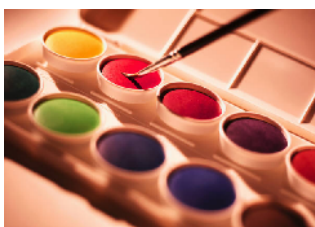
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Art and Design

The Standard Grade qualification in Art and Design covers the visual expression of personal thoughts and feelings. It also teaches learners the basics of design and gives them an understanding of how to view the works of others.

Learners will gain artistic skills such as drawing, painting, sculpture and photography. They will also learn about the business application of these abilities through practical design tasks and problem-solving. The Criticism element of the course will give them the ability to make and communicate informed judgements.

All classes are mixed ability with no division into Credit, General and Foundation levels. The course can be pursued as an end in itself contributing to a broad spread of subjects. It may also be used as a starting point for one of the National Qualifications in S5. These may, in the case of a few able pupils, lead to art and design courses in higher or further education.



No matter the level to which art and design is studied it can enhance one's ability in other areas through problem solving, investigation skills, expression of ideas and critical thinking.



Biology

All Biology courses are relevant, topical and offer the opportunity to develop a range of highly desirable transferable life skills. A wide range of approaches to Learning and Teaching are employed across the Biology department.

Standard Grade Biology

Based on knowledge and understanding, problem solving and practical abilities, the course covers seven topics and is currently the stepping stone to Higher Human Biology or Higher Biology level and beyond. Standard Grade Biology is interesting and challenging, and requires learners to be



Biology Continued.....

studying Mathematics and English at General level at the minimum. Invaluable for a huge range of career paths Standard Grade Biology is an excellent science course.

Intermediate 1

Usually undertaken by those pupils who are not studying Mathematics at Credit level. Biology can route to Intermediate 2 Biology in S5. The course comprises of three units of work incorporating knowledge and understanding, problem solving and practical abilities.

Business Management

Business Education can play a key role in preparing pupils for the world of work by extending their understanding of business and by developing skills such as decision-making and information technology.

The areas of study of the course are:

- What is business?
- How do businesses develop and perform?
- What resources do businesses use?
- How are businesses managed?



The course has 3 assessable elements. Knowledge and Understanding and Decision Making are examined by means of a combined written paper while the Practical Abilities element is examined by means of IT usage and annual SQA projects.



Chemistry

A Chemistry qualification is desirable for a wide range of careers. In S3/4 Chemistry can be studied at either Credit or General level within the Standard Grade course, or at Intermediate 1 or Access 3 in the National Qualifications course. We aim to place pupils in the class best suited to their needs and ability.

Standard Grade Chemistry

This course comprises of fifteen topics. Pupils will be involved in three areas of assessment; knowledge and understanding; problem solving and practical abilities over the two years of study.

Chemistry continued.....

Intermediate 1/Access 3

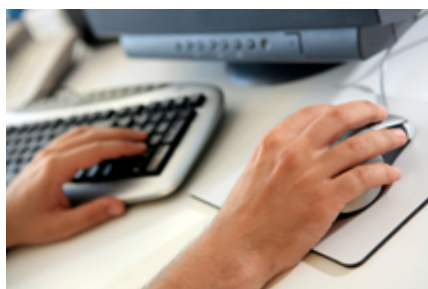
These courses are designed for pupils who would not normally be recommended for the Standard Grade course.

These courses comprise of three compulsory units of work which are assessed through internal tests. The Intermediate 1 course has an end of course SQA exam, Access 3 does not require this exam to be taken.

Progression to Higher Chemistry in S5 will require a Credit level pass in Standard Grade.

Careers in Chemistry

- Forensics
- Pathology
- Industry
- Sport
- Environment
- Bio-chemistry
- Art restoration
- Education



Computing

The Standard Grade Computing Studies syllabus aims to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of the use of computers and how they operate;
- Their effect on the individual and society;
- The ability to apply knowledge and understanding of computing facts in order to find solutions to problems;
- Practical abilities in the use of computers and computer software in order to solve practical problems

In addition, it aims to provide a suitable basis for further study of the subject.

Progression Routes

Grade 1 or 2: Higher Computing and/or Information Systems

Grade 3 or 4: Intermediate 2 Information Systems, NPA Intermediate 2 Internet Technology

Grade 5 or 6: Intermediate 1 PC Passport, NPA Intermediate 1 Internet Technology

There are no formal entry requirements to the Standard Grade Computing course.

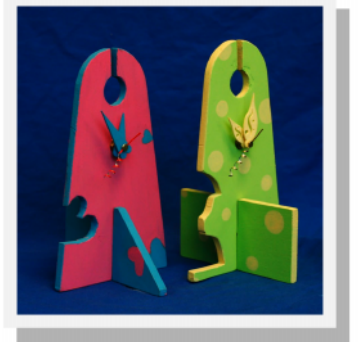
Craft and Design

Craft and Design aims to develop the creative, practical and organisational skills we all possess.

Standard Grade Craft and Design involves designing items, making them (in wood, metal and plastic) and evaluating the results.

Pupils keep a design folio containing notes and sketches of what they have done and what they intend to do.

As a design-based subject Craft and Design provides pupils with the opportunity to develop an awareness of how people influence design.



Practical Craft Skills



This course is particularly useful for students who enjoy practical work or are considering a career in the engineering or construction industry. It also contributes to a student's general education and personal development, especially in improving their technological capability. It is therefore a valuable course if students wish to gain experience and appreciation of materials and to develop useful craft skills.

Course Outline

Wood Flat-Frame Construction

Wood Carcase Construction

Machining and Finishing

This course is a good choice for students interested in studying a Technical based subject on a practical level only.

English

Standard Grade English is a two-year course which is intended to develop the skills of reading, writing, talking and listening and to prepare pupils for the national Standard Grade exam in S4.

The course also aims to encourage the further development of language and communication skills – such as delivering a prepared talk, working co-operatively as a group member, or writing a report – which are valuable in later life. Furthermore, it encourages pupils to be self-reliant and stretches their thinking and imagination.

Essentially, all pupils tackle similar activities, with appropriate materials. Differentiation is facilitated by the degree of difficulty of the resource materials, the level of performance and teacher support. Broadly speaking, coursework is based on text, unit and thematic studies, with the study of literature playing a central role. Reading, from a wide range of sources, is encouraged. Related language, talk and critical activities are mainly open-ended tasks which pupils of different abilities can tackle successfully.

The development of writing, punctuation, grammar and spelling skills is vital for effective communication. Consequently, these skills play a fundamental role in Standard Grade English.



Assessment



Assessment is undertaken in three areas: Reading, Writing and Talk.

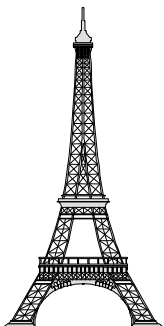
Folio

Pupils are responsible for the creation of a folio of work during the course. This personal folio is a very important record of pupil attainment; its importance cannot be over-stated.

Talk

During the course, pupils have the opportunity to take part in various individual and group talk-related activities. Talk is assessed by the class teacher, who then communicates the final grade to the SQA in S4.

French



All pupils will continue with their French studies until the end of S4 when they should gain a Standard Grade award. The course is designed to cater for the entire ability range, but where pupils struggle with the demands of the Standard Grade course, they will be presented for an award at Access 3 level.

Topics covered in S3/4 for both Standard Grade and Access 3 include:

self, home, daily routine, school, work, leisure, holidays and travel, food and drink, events (past, present and future).

For the Standard Grade exam, candidates will be assessed in the four skill areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

Geography

Geography is the study of the Earth. It looks at places- where they are, what they're like and how people use them!

Geography is about today's world. We study natural disasters, the poor world and how we are damaging the environment.

During S3 and S4 there are 10 units to complete.

A pass at Standard Grade will lead to Higher or Intermediate Geography, to Managing Environmental Resources or even Geology.



Going outside to do field work is a key part of the course. We visit a local farm and a factory. We investigate shopping patterns. We spend a day looking at the landscape at Culzean Shore and at Loch Sloy.

Even more important is getting away for a three day trip to the Scottish Highlands to see in the real world the things we talk about in class.

Building and using dynamic models is also very important. It's much more interesting to learn about things when we see them. Whether it's making a model river valley or creating a tornado in a bottle, it makes learning easier.



Graphic Communication

Intermediate 1 & 2

This course introduces pupils to the very wide range of presentation methods used in visual communications.

The course includes computer assisted graphics together with colour illustration and presentation techniques, in addition to formal drawing board skills.

The broad outlook of this course provides opportunity for developing confidence in presenting and interpreting technical graphics while enabling pupils to exercise imagination, creative ability and logical thinking. A thematic approach is adopted in which skills are developed through tasks related to real situations.

History

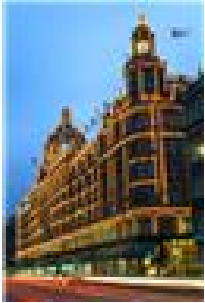
Intermediate 1 and 2.

History is a study of the past. History students will become detectives investigating different periods of time. Using different sources they will piece together evidence discovering why events happened and the impact these events had. The course looks at:

- Immigrants and Exiles 1830–1930
- Race Relations in the USA 1918–1968
- The Road to War 1933–1939

Successful candidates can progress to History at the next level in S5/6 whether it be Intermediate 2, Higher or Advanced Higher. Successful candidates may also enjoy Intermediate or Higher Sociology or Modern Studies in S5.

History is useful for students who want to study History, Social Science or Law at University or College.



Hospitality

Hospitality skills will stay with you throughout your life and can be used in the home, helping you to make the correct food choices in order to maintain a healthy diet, and for gaining employment in the Hospitality industry.

Intermediate 1& 2

The course will deal with practical and organisational skills.

Assessment

To gain the course award the student must achieve all the unit assessments as well as the external set practical assignment.

- The Hospitality course is demanding
- We expect students to achieve the high standards of which you are capable and maintain them in all areas of the Home Economics department.

Please be aware that a small contribution is often required to support the department in providing the necessary materials and equipment.



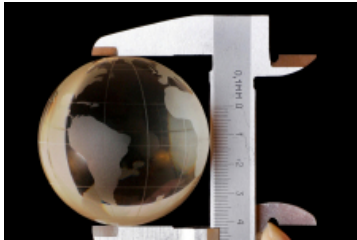
Mrs Graham's class 3G make "Cheese and Bacon Ciabatta".

Managing Environmental Resources (MER)

MER is a scientific study of the environment. How we use the environment and how we damage it!

MER is an official SQA course and is normally studied at Intermediate level in S3/4.

MER is suitable for anyone with good marks in geography or biology or any other science. It is accepted by Scottish universities as part of their entrance requirements and is classed as a science subject.



There are three units of work to complete—the Local Area, Ecosystems and Natural Resources.

Everyone must do a fieldwork study of the local environment as part of the course.

Going with the Geography department on a three day visit to the Scottish Highlands is an important chance to see the things we study in class in the real world.

Mathematics

Standard Grade Courses are available at Foundation, General and Credit level. The four areas covered in Standard Grade are: number and money, measurement and shape, relationships and statistics.

At Foundation level, learners are asked to interpret and communicate mathematical information in the form of straightforward tables, graphs and scale drawings; and to make sensible use of a calculator in carrying out whole number, decimal and percentage calculations in routine problems. They also learn how to select and apply strategies such as trial and error.

At General level, learners also tackle routine problems such as those involving elementary trigonometry, statistics and algebra and to solve problems in straightforward, but not necessarily familiar, contexts.

At Credit level, learners are also required to interpret and communicate mathematical information in tabular, graphical and more abstract forms and to apply problem solving strategies in theoretical contexts.

We make a start on the Standard Grade Course in February of S2. We are able to do this because pupils are organised into ability sections from the start of S2. The sections are initially determined by pupil performance throughout S1 but are subsequently reviewed to take account of performance during the first half of S2. Our purpose in starting the Standard Grade Course at this early stage is to provide pupils with as much time as possible to consider the content of the course in as much depth as possible.

Pupils who may eventually find that the General course is really the most appropriate are encouraged to study at Credit Level. Pupils who may eventually find that the Foundation course is most appropriate are encouraged to study at General Level. Appropriate adjustments to places within the ability sections are made at the start of S3.



Modern Studies

Intermediate 1/2

Modern Studies develops an understanding of the basic processes which underpin political and social life. Students will not only look at the UK but will investigate international issues, China. Students will acquire knowledge of important and controversial political, social and international issues. The course will enable students to develop their own view about contemporary issues. The course covers three topics:

- Crime and Law in the UK
- China
- Politics in the UK

Successful candidates can progress to Higher and Advanced Higher Modern Studies. Successful candidates may also enjoy Intermediate or Higher History or Sociology in S5. Modern Studies is an excellent basis for students who want to study Social Science, History or Law at College or University.



Music

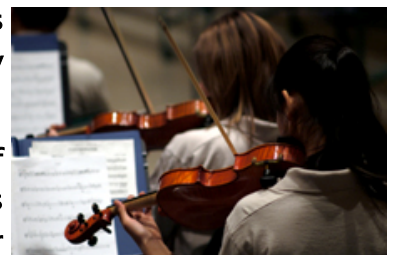
There are 3 components to the course: – Performing, Inventing and Listening as described below.

1. Solo Performance Over the two sessions you will prepare a programme of pieces lasting 4–6 minutes on your chosen instrument. This could be any of the instruments you've played in class during years one and two, an instrument you learn outside school, the instrument you learn with an instructor in school, or you could sing for this part of the exam.

2. Performance on a 2nd Instrument You will prepare and record pieces on a different instrument from Solo Performing which will be internally assessed. This can be played as part of a group.

3. Inventing With your teacher's help you will compose a piece of music, arrange an existing piece of music, or improvise (like the blues improvisation you did in Second Year). This can be done using our computer software.

4. Listening You will hear music in many different styles. From this you will be expected to identify devices and techniques used in composing music. The testing of this is very similar to the test used in First Year.

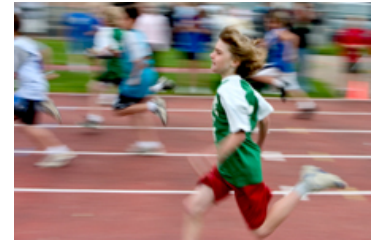


In the 2nd year of the course some pupils may advance to Intermediate 2 depending on progress made.

Physical Education

National Qualification courses are made up of two 60 hour units at Levels Access 3 to Intermediate 2 in S3/4 depending on the ability level of the students taking the course. Students undertake a course of study in two key areas:

- Physical Education—Performance
- Physical Education—Analysis and Development of Performance



Performance

Access 3 will cover trampolining, basketball, hockey, table tennis and one or two other choice activities.

Intermediate 1 and 2 will cover hockey, basketball and volleyball.

Assessment in the practical performance part of the course is internal and is taken from the students two best performances.

Intermediate 1 & 2 performance equates to 50% of the course mark.

Access 3 is either a pass or fail.

Analysis and Development of Performance

This takes the form of a written external exam in the SQA diet for Intermediate 1&2. Access 3 does not have a written exam.

These courses have a large element of written work but this remains a performance based subject and requires active and enthusiastic participants in order to pass.

Physics

The Standard Grade Physics course allows students to discover the Physics behind a variety of applications in everyday life. This is done by covering a range of topics:



- Telecommunications including radio and television, satellites.
- Using Electricity including household circuits, resistance and power.
- Health Physics including use of lasers, the eye, lenses and radiation.
- Electronics including input devices, output devices and logic circuits.

Intermediate 1

The topics covered in this course are similar to those in Standard Grade but the level is not as demanding. Each unit is assessed internally on its completion and there is a final

Physics Continued.....

external course examination after two years. The topics covered are:-

Telecommunications, Practical Electricity, Radiations, Sound & Music, Movement and Electronics.

Access 3

This level follows the same course as Intermediate 1 but the final internal assessments are less demanding and there is no final examination.

The Intermediate and Access 3 courses are designed to:

- develop practical skills
- emphasise relevant practical applications of Physics
- develop basic Physics concepts
- keep mathematical work to a minimum.



Spanish

As pupils can choose two sciences, they can now opt to take two Modern Foreign Languages: French and Spanish. Pupils opting to take Spanish in S3 must have proven ability in French i.e. they must have attained Level E in all 4 skill areas. It is intended that pupils will sit SQA exams at Intermediate 1 level in S3 and progress to sitting Intermediate 2 at the end of S4. Topics covered in Spanish include: personal description, family, school, town, sports and hobbies, shops and shopping, food and the weather.

NB Pupils taking Spanish require to take French as well. It is not possible to opt for Spanish instead of French!



Skills Development Scotland

CAREERS INFORMATION

The Careers Room is situated next to the Library and through this pupils can access information to a vast amount of careers information. Mr Boyd uses this room to interview pupils who request assistance regarding their career options.

Careers Education Gateway have an extensive careers information website called PlanIt. It currently contains information on over 650 careers and related courses.

Useful Websites

www.planitplus.net

www.careers-scotland.org.uk

