Course Structures (NCEA)

Accounting

What special skills do I acquire?
Practical accounting skills, analytical and organisational skills.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is the subject about?
Year 11 Accounting aims to promote an understanding of accounting as a financial language for individuals, community organisations and businesses. Students should be able to apply financial knowledge and skills to practical situations.

How will I learn?
By preparing and analysing business financial statements. Students will also process financial information for community organisations and households.

What subjects should I have already done?
The year 10 Enterprise Studies course is an advantage but not necessary.

Where does this subject lead?
To further study in Y12/13 Accounting. It provides a base for competency in personal accounting, preparation and analysis of final accounts. It is a valuable life skill.

How is the course assessed?
10 credits are assessed internally and 12 externally.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
Year 12 Accounting aims to provide knowledge and understanding of accounting as a financial language for trading and service businesses. You will apply financial knowledge and skills to practical situations and research an individual business.

How will I learn?
By extending skills taught in Year 11, applying them specifically to the processing of data and the analysis and interpretation of information. The course is also computer based giving the opportunity for hands on experience of practical accounting work.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 1 Accounting with 16 credits.

Where does this subject lead?
Year 12 Accounting provides a basis for personal financial decision making and is a useful vocational qualification. It leads to Year 13 Accounting.

How is the course assessed?
7 credits are assessed internally and 17 externally.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
You will learn how to prepare financial statements for partnerships and companies. You will analyse a company's annual report and make an investment decision. Accounting for management and manufacturing businesses is also covered.

How will I learn?
You will be looking at, using, analysing and interpreting various accounting systems and methods of processing accounting data in the business world.

What subjects should I have already done?
You should have studied Accounting at NCEA Level 2 with 16 credits.

Where does this subject lead?
Year 13 Accounting provides a stimulus and foundation for the study of accounting and business courses at universities. The course also provides a basis to help personal financial decision-making and is a recognised vocational qualification.

How is the course assessed?
5 credits are assessed internally and 19 externally.

Art History

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is the subject about?
We focus on the foundation of Art History – the Italian Renaissance and modern American art.

We study the artists, artworks, styles of art and societal context of 14th and 15th century Italy and America since 1945. This provides students with a thorough understanding of the way art has developed and influenced subsequent art movements and this is explored by comparative study with modern art works.

How will I learn?
You will examine, analyse and compare images of artworks. You will gather and process information from art historical writing. You will do your own research from the internet, books and dvds. You will learn to apply your knowledge and understanding.

What subjects should I have already done?
Open entry. Good English language skills are needed to cope with the reading/writing requirements. Art History does not require any technical art skills – you won't have to paint, draw or sculpt. It does however, provide excellent support for Visual Art students and it fits well with Classics, History, Drama and Music.

Where does the subject lead?
Graduates with Art History degrees have well developed analytical and communication skills, good for law or public policy. Others work in areas such as print/visual media and creative industries. Art gallery or museum work includes education, exhibition curation and conservation of artworks.

How is the course assessed?
13 external credits (90490, 90491, 90495) and 11 internal credits (90492, 90493, 90494)

Biology

What special skills do I acquire?
Research, experiment design, data evaluation, report writing, essay-writing ethics, laboratory skills and field work. More able students are encouraged to enter ICAS, Brain Bee, Otago Science Quiz and the Biology Olympiad competitions.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1 (Biology and Chemistry)

Note: Check the guidelines on p8 regarding the choice of Year 11 science subjects.

What is the subject about?
Biology is the study of living things and their interaction with the environment, including NZ ecosystem, genetics, microorganisms, flowering plants, mammals, practical investigation and research about an issue.

How will I learn?
Biology is an investigative subject so there are notes, field work, individual research, assignments, examples and tests, all designed to develop an understanding of the living world. There is a field trip and plenty of practical work.

Where does this subject lead?
The course leads to biology NCEA Levels 2, 3, IB and to many subjects at tertiary level in the area of biological sciences, health sciences, technology, sport and environmental studies.

How is this assessed?
By achievement standards, one third internal and two thirds external (24 credits).

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
This course is about the diversity of living things, ecological principles, cell physiology, biochemistry, genetics and evolution, structure and function of animals and resource management.

How will I learn?
By observing, recording, analysing, and interpreting through experiments, projects, field work, and the use of a variety of equipment. You will need to read, research and communicate findings through projects, tests, assignments, seminars. There may be visiting speakers and visits for course-related topics.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 1 Biology and Chemistry with at least 12 credits in Biology.

Where does the subject lead?
NCEA level 3 Biology.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, both internal (12 credits – 90457, 90769, 90460, US 8928) and external (12 credits – 90459, 90462, 90464).

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
Research on a contemporary issue (eg ethical considerations in genetic engineering, stem cells, transgenesis) and an individual practical investigation requiring statistical analysis. Studies of animal behaviour, plant responses, biotechnology and a major study of genetics and evolution including the biological and cultural evolution of humans.

How will I learn?
By practical investigations, essay, lecture notes, assignments, portfolio on a research issue, seminars, speakers on ethics and biotechnology; a four day field trip to Kaikoura. Scholarship students participate in Lenscience seminars from Auckland University.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 2 biology with a minimum 16 credits – AS 2.3 (genetic variation and evolution) is essential.

Where does this subject lead?
Development of research, analytical, statistical and essay-writing skills for students intending to study health sciences, environmental engineering and forestry, biochemistry, sports science, biotechnology, commerce, or conjoint degrees in genetics/commerce or biology/law, veterinary and biomedical.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, both internal (10 credits) and external (14 credits).

Chemistry

What special skills do I acquire?
Logical and concise thinking: clarifying ideas and testing explanations through experiments; relating abstract concepts to practical situations and learning the specialist language of chemistry.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1
Physics and Chemistry
Biology and Chemistry

Note: Check the general guidelines (page 8) re choice of Year 11 science subjects.

What is this subject about?
Chemistry is the study of the substances in our world. This course is a full and challenging study of Chemistry and its relevance. It provides an excellent basis for further study in Chemistry at Year 12 level and beyond.

How will I learn?
Chemistry is an experimental science so there is plenty of practical work. Discussion, notes, examples and tests will also be used to help improve understanding and knowledge of Chemistry. See also the footnote about competitions on the next page.

Where does this subject lead?
Year 12 and Year 13 Chemistry. Chemistry is needed for a wide range of courses at tertiary level and for many occupations including engineering and health services.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, two third are internall and two thirds external (24 credits).

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
Chemistry has fundamental importance as the study of the properties and reactions of substances and has great relevance to students' everyday lives. The course includes topics such as: organic and inorganic substances; atomic structure and bonding; reduction-oxidation reactions and quantitative analysis.

How will I learn?
A full programme of experimental work is involved, as well as discussions, notes and examples. See also the footnote about competitions.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 1 both Biology/Chemistry and Physics/Chemistry with a minimum of 12 credits in chemistry from NCEA Level 1 Biology/Chemistry and Physics/Chmistry.

Where does this subject lead?
Year 13 Chemistry, NCEA Level 3.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, three of which (90305-6, 90763) are assessed internally (8 credits) during the year and four (90308-11) by external examination (16 credits)

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is the subject about?
This course follows the NCEA Level 2 course and includes more advanced work on: organic and inorganic substances; reduction-oxidation reactions; atomic structure, bonding and the Periodic Table; aqueous solutions and energy changes. Interesting contexts relate the chemical theory to students' everyday experiences.

How will I learn?
Through experimental work, discussion, notes and examples. At this level background reading is also vital. Part of the programme at this level is the extended practical investigation on a topic chosen by the student. See also the footnote about competitions

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 2 Chemistry, with a minimum of 16 credits achieved, and a reasonable standard of achievement in NCEA Level 2 Mathematics.

Where does the subject lead?
Chemistry is essential for many careers and is also a central link between many other sciences. This subject is a pre-requisite for a large number of tertiary courses and occupations.

How is the course assessed?
Progress is monitored by assignments, practical reports, tests and examinations. The course is assessed by achievement standards, two (90694-5) internally assessed (a practical investigation and a titration – 6 credits) and four (90696, 90698, 90700, 90780) externally assessed (18 credits).

Competitions:
Year 11, 12 and 13 chemistry students enter the Australian National Chemistry Quiz and Year 12 and 13 students may also enter the NZIC interschool quiz. More able students are encouraged to enter the Chemistry Olympiad selection competition.

Classical Studies

What special skills do I acquire?
Research, textual analysis, interpretation of evidence, discussion, and argumentation.

What is this subject about?
It is a broad subject which introduces the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and their contribution to the development of the modern Western world. It includes topics from art, history, literature, drama, religion, mythology, philosophy, architecture, and archaeology. So it is possible to get an idea of the full experience of life in the ancient world.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

How will I learn?
Topics are Epic Poetry (The Odyssey); Political History (Athenian Democracy or Rome); Art and Architecture (Pompeii and Herculaneum); mythology, and tragedy. Reading and analysing prescribed texts, discussion, presentations, research.

What subjects should I have already done?
At least 32 credits from two of History, Geography, or English.

Where does this subject lead?
Directly into Level 3 Classics and Humanities, Social Sciences or Law at university.

How is the course assessed?
There are 24 credits available, 15 external (AS 90247-9) and 9 internal (AS 90250-1).

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

How will I learn?
Topics can include old comedy (Aristophanes); epic poetry (Virgil); political and military history (Alexander the Great or Augustus); art (Greek vase painting or Roman art and architecture); plus religion and mythology. Reading and analysing prescribed texts, discussion, presentations, research.

What subjects should I have already done?
At least 32 credits from two of Classical Studies, History, Geography, English or Drama. Level 2 Classical Studies is recommended but not essential.

Where does this subject lead?
Directly into a Classics, Classical Studies, or Ancient History major at university. Useful background for anyone intending to study Humanities, Social Sciences or Law.

How is the course assessed?
24 credits are available, 18 external (AS90511-3) and 6 internal (AS 90514).

Digital Technologies

Year 12 NCEA – Level 2

Students are given a grounding of core knowledge IT terminology and the basics of hardware and software using NZQA unit standards. Then students use project management skills to create a solution to a specified problem in ICT using NZQA Achievement Standards. The context for this in Year 12 is Web Design.

How will I learn?
The emphasis is on project-based learning, supported by necessary theory.

What subjects should I have already done?
No prior knowledge of computing is required. Enthusiasm, self-discipline, good time-management skills and the ability to work independently are essential.

Where does this subject lead?
This course leads directly to Year 13 Digital Technology. It will have applications in other curriculum areas, and can lead to tertiary study in the ICT industry.

How is this course assessed?
Three internally assessed Achievement Standards; AS 90342, 90349, 90368 and one external Achieved Standard, A.S 90367. Unit Standards can be used to assess student work on request.

Year 13 NCEA – Level 3

This is a more advanced Digital Technologies course. Students are taught to use project management skills to create a solution to a specified problem with ICT. At Year 13, the students may choose their own project context. These could include (but are not limited to) advanced web design, programming, game design, animation or 3D modeling.

How will I learn?
The emphasis is on project-based learning, supported by necessary theory.

What subjects should I have already done?
No prior knowledge of computing is required. However it is advisable to have completed the Year 12 course to have a sound understanding of Technological Practice. Enthusiasm, self-discipline, good time-management skills and the ability to work independently are essential.

Where does this subject lead?
This subject provides students with skills and knowledge to undertake a course of tertiary study in wide range of ICT related disciplines.

How is this course assessed?
Three internally assessed Achievement Standards; AS 90613, 90620, 90685 and one external Achieved Standard, A.S 90684. Unit Standards can be used to assess student work on request.

Drama

What special skills do I acquire?
Drama is an excellent choice for gaining confidence and personal development. Students develop the ability to sustain and deliver acting roles through several styles of performance. They will work collaboratively and independently during the process of drama making and use communication and analytical reflection to develop an understanding of the context of drama in our society and the world. You will be expected to attend a number of live performances to develop reflective practice.

Year 11-13 NCEA Levels 1-3

What is the subject about?
There are four strands: developing practical knowledge in drama; developing ideas in drama; communicating and interpreting drama; understanding drama in context. We cover drama techniques, elements and conventions, theatre study and a production role.

How will I learn?
Through performance and research assignments, the review and evaluation of your own and others' work, and the regular workshopping of dramatic elements, techniques and conventions.

Assessment will be carried out throughout the year.

What subjects should I have already done?
You will have had some experience of drama at Year 10. If not, you must have had practical experience in drama.

Where does the subject lead?
The natural progression would be to further NCEA Levels including Scholarship. Tertiary drama courses are available at universities and drama schools around Australasia.

How is the course assessed?
By achievements standards, predominately internal assessment but each level does have some external assessment as well.

Level One: 13 internal credits, 8 external credits
Level Two: 14 internal credits, 8 external credits
Level Three: 16 internal credits, 8 external credits

Economics

What special skills do I acquire?
The skills of thinking, investigating, dealing with statistics and decision-making are all developed through the study of material which relates to every day economic activity.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is this subject about?
Students study how producers and consumers interact through the market. The three major areas of study are: producers' decisions, consumers' decisions and the market.

How will I learn?
Through investigation, discussion, experimentation and the study of economic literature.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 10 Enterprise Studies provides a useful background but is not necessary.

Where does this subject lead?
To Year 12 and Year 13 Economics. It provides a background which is useful in all aspects of working and personal life.

How is the course assessed?
12 credits will be assessed internally and 12 externally.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
The exploration of the economic issues of employment, trade, growth, inflation and inequality.

How will I learn?
Through discussion, research and study of economic literature.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 11 Economics is an advantage but not a pre-requisite.

Where does this subject lead?
It leads on to the Year 13 Economics or can be used as a one-off study to broaden one's education. It is useful in areas such as Accounting and Business Studies.

How is the course assessed?
6 internal credits (AS 90760) and 18 external (AS 90238, 90758-9, 90761-2).

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
Basic economic concepts and principles, and their application to current issues; the inter-relationships between economic, social and political events; resource allocation via the market system and the public sector; aggregate economic activity and policy.

How will I learn?
Through discussion and study of economic literature.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 12 Economics – 16 credits at NCEA Level 2.

Where does this subject lead?
Commercial courses at Universities or Polytechnics. It also provides a general understanding of economics which is applicable to all vocations and every day life.

How is the course assessed?
5 credits (AS 90633) are assessed internally and 19 externally (AS90629-32)

English

What special skills do I acquire?
An ability to recognise and use language appropriate to a wide variety of situations, to be confident and competent in the use of the English language, to communicate through written, oral and visual language; an awareness and appreciation of literature. English helps the building of confidence and competence in the oral and written communication skills which are needed in all aspects of study, work and life beyond school.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is the subject about?
English language and literature, developing written, oral and visual language skills.

How will I learn?
By a combination of written and spoken classwork, reading and study of texts, exploration of language, research, production activities related to drama and the media.

What subjects should I have already done?
Two years of Secondary School English.

Where does this subject lead?
The language skills developed lead to the study of English in Years 12 and 13.

How is this course assessed?
By achievement standards with up to 12 credits internally and 12 credits externally.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is the subject about?
The study of English language and literature and the development of written, oral and visual language skills.

How will I learn?
By a combination of written and spoken classwork, reading, analysis and interpretation of texts, exploration of language; research; and production activities related to drama and the media.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Level 1 with 16 credits (including any two external standards) if a satisfactory participation in this course is to be expected (or overseas equivalent).

Where does this subject lead?
The language and thinking skills developed lead to the study of English in Year 13

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards with up to 12 credits internally an 12 credits externally.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
This course involves the development of your written, oral and research skills. The literature component includes the study of one play by Shakespeare and the works of other major authors, including New Zealand writers.

How will I learn?
Skills involved include: reading, analysing and interpreting texts; critical and imaginative thinking; asking relevant and perceptive questions; developing awareness of styles of writing; formulating, organising and illustrating ideas; expressing personal responses; participating effectively in discussion; and writing academic essays.

What subjects should I have done already?
You cannot expect to cope with Level 3 English unless you have achieved sound results at NCEA Level 2 English. This means 15 credits at Level 2 including AS 2.6 and any one of 2.3, 2.4 or 2.5. A willingness to read texts closely is essential to the course as well as a genuine passion for reading beyond the classroom.

Where does this subject lead?
The specific skills of literary and linguistic analysis and interpretation developed in the course are applicable to virtually all tertiary courses in the Humanities.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards with 12 credits internally and 9 credits externally.

Geography

What special skills do I acquire?
The gathering and processing of data; mapping, measurement and field work; social and valuing skills; decision making.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is the subject about?
Year 11 Geography looks at the environment as the home of people. On a national and international basis we study natural hazards (eg Christchurch earthquakes), population and sustainable resource use as well as current issues and a global study.

How will I learn?
Learning activities include class activities and discussions, practical exercises, map and photograph interpretation, and assignments as well as video presentations. Field trips are also part of the course as is using the internet.

What subjects should I have already done?
The skills developed in Social Studies and English provide all students with the basis for geographical study.

Where does this subject lead?
This course leads to Years 12 and 13 Geography. Careers using geography skills include law, public relations, foreign service, tourism, resource management, market research, management, town planning and statistics.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, 9 of which are internally assessed and 12 of which are external.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
Year 12 Geography looks at the relationships of people and the environments in which they live. We study natural landscapes and development inequalities both within New Zealand and overseas. A current issue and a global study are also included.

How will I learn?
Learning activities include class activities and discussions, practical activities, map and photograph interpretation, and assignments. Field trips are also part of the course.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 11 Geography is an advantage, but not an essential requirement of this course.

Where does this subject lead?
This course leads to Year 13 Geography. Careers using geography skills include law, public relations, foreign service, tourism, resource management, market research, management, town planning and statistics.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, 12 external and 9 internal.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is the subject about?
Year 13 Geography is about processes that operate in our global environment today. We look at a natural environment (Hutt River) and the processes (eg fluvial) that are at work there and at a cultural process (eg tourism). We also look at planning issues, current issues and a global study.

How will I learn?
Learning activities include class activities and discussions, practical exercises, map and photograph interpretation, individual research as well as video presentations. Field trips are also part of the course as is using the internet.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 11 and Year 12 Geography are helpful and an advantage, but not an essential requirement of this course.

Where does this subject lead?
This course leads directly to Geography at tertiary institutions. Careers using geography skills include law, public relations, foreign service, tourism, resource management, market research, management, town planning and statistics.

How is the course assessed?
12 credits are internally assessed and 12 externally.

Field Trips:

Year 11:
There will be a field trip to sites around Wellington (looking at earthquake hazards).

Year 12:
There is a field trip to Tongariro Volcanic Plateau.

Year 13:
There is a field trip to Rotorua investigating the tourist industry. There is also a trip to Hutt River to investigate the natural and cultural processes that are shaping the environment in that area.

Graphics

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is the subject about?
This course introduces students to a range of graphical skills including; design process, freehand sketching, 2D and 3D instrumental drawing, rendering, design principles, presentation methods. These skills will be implemented within the areas of architecture, product design and media design.

How will I learn?
A project based, design brief approach is applied throughout the course. Students will be expected to show competence in the assigned activities and the visual communication of ideas to solve set design problems.

What subjects should I have done already?
Year 10 Graphics (strongly recommended)

Where does this subject lead?
In year 12 students will complete an advanced course that covers the areas of;

Architecture, Industrial design and Media design. This subject prepares students for a future in the fields of; architecture, engineering, industrial design, graphic design, web design, draughting, etc.

How is this course assessed?
Students work is assessed using both internal and external achievement standards.

Evidence for the external standards is accumulated within each of the units and then submitted at the end of the year and sent to NZQA for external marking.

Other details:
There will be a cost set each year to cover specialist graphics materials used.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is the subject about?
This course introduces students to an advanced level of graphical skills including; design process, freehand sketching, 2D and 3D instrumental drawing, rendering, design principles, presentation methods, and computer software. These skills will be implemented within the areas of architecture, product design and media design.

How will I learn?
A project based, design brief approach is applied throughout the course. Students will be expected to show competence in the assigned activities and the visual communication of ideas to solve set design problems.

What subjects should I have done already?
Successful completion of the Year 11 Graphics course is a prerequisite.

Where does this subject lead?
In year 13 students will complete an advanced course that covers the areas of; Architecture, Industrial design, Media design. This subject prepares students for a future in the fields of; architecture, engineering, industrial design, graphic design, web design, draughting, etc.

How is this course assessed?
Students work is assessed using both internal and external achievement standards.

Evidence for the external standards is accumulated within each of the units and then submitted at the end of the year and sent to NZQA for external marking.

Other details:
There will be a cost set each year to cover specialist graphics materials used.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is the subject about?
This course exposes students to a range of advanced graphical skills including; design process, freehand sketching, 2D and 3D instrumental drawing, rendering, design principles, presentation methods, planning and project management, and interaction with a client. These skills will be implemented within the areas of architecture/ environmental design, and media design.

How will I learn?
A client focused design brief approach is applied throughout the course. Students will be expected to show competence in the assigned activities and the visual communication of ideas to solve set design problems to meet a client's needs.

What subjects should I have done already?
Successful completion of the Year 12 Graphics course is a prerequisite.

Where does this subject lead?
A range of career opportunities include a future in the fields of; architecture, engineering, industrial design, graphic design, web design, draughting and urban planning.

How is this course assessed?
Students work is assessed using both internal and external achievement standards.

Evidence for the external standards is accumulated within each of the units and then submitted at the end of the year and sent to NZQA for external marking.

Other details:
There will be a cost set each year to cover specialist graphics materials used.

History

What is the subject about?
History is an examination of people, societies, events and ideas from the recent and distant past. Students of history develop research and presentation skills, learn to discriminate between fact and opinion, and assess the usefulness and reliability of information. Literacy is enhanced by reading a variety of texts and developing formal essay-writing skills.

Where does the subject lead?

History study is important for careers in law, diplomacy, international relations, public policy, military and economic analysis. Many government departments employ historians as policy analysts. Historians also pursue careers in journalism, tourism, education, writing, research, information management (libraries and archives), archaeology and museum or gallery work.

At a school level, history is symbiotic with Classics, Geography, Economics and Art History. It also offers important background knowledge of the application of sciences, especially physics and chemistry, but also environmental issues.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What will I study?

Students will study a selection of the following topics:

- Conflict in Ireland
- The Origins of World War 2
- New Zealand Search for Security
- Stalin and the Soviet Union
- Black Civil Rights in the USA.

How will I learn?

Students will examine, analyse and compare sources of evidence. You will collect information from the writings of historians and complete your own research using a wide variety of sources. You will learn to present information in essays and other forms.

What subjects should I have already done?

Social Studies and English at year 10 provide all students with the basic skills they need. Literacy and an independent reading habit are very useful. An interest in history, conflict and international relations is desirable, but not necessary.

How is the course assessed?

20 credits total, 12 credits externally examined and two internal assessments for the other 8 credits. The internal assessments are research, presentation of research and perspectives. The external assessments are source analysis, essay writing and events in a New Zealand topic.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What will I study?

- The Cold War 1945-63
- Vietnam's Struggle for Independence, 1945-75
- Weimar and Nazi Germany

How will I learn?

Students will examine, analyse and compare sources of evidence. You will collect information from the writings of historians and do your own research using the internet, books, journals, magazines, videos and web-quests. The ability to write well structured essays is crucial to success at Level 2 and developing this skill is a priority.

What subjects should I have already done?

16 credits in Level 1 History are desirable but exceptions may be made for candidates who have been successful in Level 1 Geography or English.

How is the course assessed?

20 credits total, 12 credits externally examined and two internal assessments for the other 8 credits. The internal assessments are research, presentation of research and perspectives. The external assessments are source analysis, and two essays, one on historical movements and the other development of group identity.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3 and Scholarship

What will I study?

Students study one topic, 19th Century New Zealand. The first half of the year looks at race relations. In the second half of the year we examine the creation of Pakeha New Zealand.

How will I learn?

Students will examine, analyse and compare sources of evidence. You will collect information from the writings of historians and complete your own research using the internet, books, journals, magazines, videos and webquests. A three day field trip to Whanganui and South Taranaki is an essential part of the learning process for this course. Additional half and full day field trips to archives, museums, libraries and historic sites are also undertaken. The ability to discuss critically the writings of historians who have studied New Zealand in the Nineteenth Century is the key skill students need to master. Students are also expected to examine sources of evidence more critically and discuss them in greater depth and at greater length than at Level 2.

What subjects should I have already done?
16 credits in Level 2 History, including at least one of the essay standards are desirable but exceptions may be made for candidates who have been successful in Level 2 Classical Studies.

How is the course assessed?
9 credits from internal assessments (research and presentation). 15 credits from external examination (source analysis and two essays).

Languages

What special skills do I acquire?
Learning foreign languages helps to break down the barriers between the different peoples of the world. It develops memory, flexibility in thought and sensitivity to others. With growing internationalism, the student of languages has an increasing advantage in business, travel and pleasure.

Years 11, 12 and 13 NCEA Levels 1-3 and Scholarship

The languages currently offered at Scots College at NCEA are French, Japanese and Chinese. Spanish is also now well established and will be available as an NCEA subject at Level 1 in 2012. Levels 1-3 Chinese will be an option for International Students in 2012.

What are these subjects about?
Both the written and spoken languages are studied, as well as the culture of each country. Language studies also develop academic potential as they involve modes of study which focus intrinsically on teacher-student / student-student interaction, all the while developing skills which promote intimate knowledge of the language through analysis of grammar, structures and idiom.

How will I learn?
Since language learning is cumulative, you will continue to add to your knowledge using a combination of the same methods – theory and practice. Learning a language is very similar to learning to play a musical instrument, and just as worthwhile.

What subjects should I have already done?
Foreign languages may well represent a new area for you. All your previous knowledge and experience of language work, foreign or otherwise, is relevant. The foreign language should have been studied from at least Year 9 onwards. Studying a language for two years (about 200 hours of instruction) provides a sound platform for future study, and it is only this further study which produces the real benefits.

Where do these subjects lead?
Learning a foreign language is not only utilitarian (for business and travel) but it develops new mental capacities and insights. For New Zealand in particular, it is a bridge to the outside world. Developing knowledge of, and fluency in one or more of these major international languages can only be an asset.

How are the courses assessed?
At NCEA, there are five achievement standards to be completed in each of Years 11, 12 and 13. Two of these (Listening and Reading) are assessed externally at the end of the school year. The remaining three (Oral presentation, Oral interaction and the Writing portfolio) are assessed internally and subject to external moderation. Monitoring of classwork and homework is continuous and serves vitally to reinforce the material taught in the classroom.

Mathematics

What special skills do I acquire?
Logical and systematic thinking, presentation and critical analysis of data; solving problems both familiar and unfamiliar; number processing using calculator and computer. The more able students enter the Australian Maths Competition, the Senior and Junior Maths Competitions and the ICAS Maths Competition, all of which have a small charge of around $5.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is this subject about?
It deals with mathematical theory and its application in real life situations. It covers number, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and statistics.

How will I learn?
By working on exercises and problems at home and at school.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 10 Mathematics with a mark of about 35% or better probably being necessary to achieve some success at NCEA Level 1.

Where does this subject lead?
It will lead directly to Level 2 and 3 NCEA Mathematics and to IB Standard Level. Those intending to do IB Higher Level are advised to do NCEA Level 2 Mathematics in Year 11.

How is the course assessed?
Through a mix of internally and externally assessed achievement standards (24 credits). The students have already attempted two internal standards in Year 10 totalling 5 credits, 91030 (measurement) and 91034 (transformation geometry). In Year 11 they will do three internally assessed standards (12 credits) on number algebra and statistics (Level 1) and three externally assessed standards through an exam at the end of the year (12 credits: algebra, geometric reasoning and probability).

For weaker students, alternative internally assessed achievement standards may replace some or all of the externally assessed standards, but this would preclude the students from doing Level 2 Mathematics the following year.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

There are two courses available at Level 2 (a student may **not** choose both)

(a) ***Mathematics.*** This course is designed for those who have either decided (or are not sure) that they wish to study Maths with Calculus at Level 3 in Year 13.

(b) ***Statistics.*** This course is designed either for those for whom Year 12 will be their last year of school mathematics or for those who wish to study Statistics at Level 3 in Year 13.

If there is any possibility that a student might want to study Maths with Calculus in Year 13, he should do the ***mathematics*** course.

Year 12 NCEA Mathematics

What is the subject about?
The course continues and extends the work of Year 11. Topics include algebra, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, probability and calculus.

How will I learn?
By working on problems at home and at school.

What subjects should I have already done?
This subject is for students who have achieved Level 1 with at least 16 credits. Students should have gained at least an achieved grade in Level 1 graphs, statistics, number, geometric reasoning and hopefully a merit grade in algebra. Students without these criteria will find the Level 2 course very challenging and entry will be at the discretion of the Director of Studies or the HoD Mathematics.

Where does this subject lead?
It will lead on to either (or both) of the two Level 3 maths courses.

How is the course assessed?
This course is assessed through a mixture of three internally assessed standards (coordinate geometry, graphs, trigonometry, worth 9 credits) and three externally assessed standards (algebra, calculus, probability, worth 14 credits). It is possible that an extra internally assessed statistics standard may be offered.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2 Statistics

What is the subject about?
The course continues and extends some of the work of Year 11. Topics include algebra, probability and statistics.

How will I learn?
By working on problems at home and at school.

What subjects should I have already done?
This subject is for students who have achieved Level 1 with at least 16 credits. Students should have gained at least an achieved grade in Level 1 statistics, probability, number and hopefully a merit grade in algebra. Students without these criteria will find the Level 2 course quite challenging and entry will be at the discretion of the Director of Studies or the HoD Mathematics.

Where does this subject lead?
It will lead on to Level 3 statistics.

How is the course assessed?
This course is assessed through a mixture of four internally assessed standards (four out of questionnaires, making inferences, statistical experiments, statistical reports, probability simulation, worth 11 or 12 credits) and two externally assessed standards (algebra and probability, worth 9 credits).

Year 13 Statistics NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
All the topics in this course have practical applications. About half the course is statistics

and probability. The other half of the course includes algebra and graphs. There is no overlap between this course and mathematics with calculus and the courses may be studied concurrently.

How will I learn?
You will develop your mathematical skills by working on problems.

What subjects should I have already done?
This subject is for students who have achieved NCEA Level 2 with at least 12 credits in mathematics. More importantly, students should have achieved at least an achieved grade in AS 2.1 Algebra, 2.2 Graphs, 2.5 Sampling and 2.6 Probability. Students who do not satisfy these requirements will find this Level 3 course very challenging and entry will be at the discretion of the Director of Studies or the HoD Mathematics.

Where does this subject lead?
You could take Statistics if you plan to study mathematics, social sciences, economics, biology, accountancy, geography or any other topic that requires statistics at tertiary level. It would be an appropriate background for any job that involves practical applications of the topics listed above.

How is the course assessed?
This course will be assessed through three internally assessed achievement standards (90641, 90645, 90647 worth 9 credits) and four externally assessed standards (90642-4, 90646, worth 15 credits).

Year 13 Calculus NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
This course continues and extends the work started in Year 12 on algebra, co-ordinate geometry, trigonometry and calculus, with a new topic, complex numbers.

How will I learn?
You will develop your mathematical skills by working on problems in class and at home.

What subjects should I have already done?
This subject is for students who have achieved NCEA Level 2 with at least 16 credits in mathematics. More importantly, students should have achieved at least an achieved grade in Achievement Standards 2.1 Algebra, 2.2 Graphs, 2.3 Calculus, 2.4 Coordinate Geometry, 2.8 and 2.9 Trigonometry. Students who do not satisfy these requirements will find this Level 3 course very challenging and entry will be at the discretion of the Director of Studies or Head of Mathematics.

Where does this subject lead?
You should take calculus if you intend to study pure sciences or engineering at university, or if you are studying physics at Year 13 level and intend to continue with it at university. It will also be suitable for other students with a genuine interest in mathematics. It is advisable for students intending to study economics at university to do calculus.

How is the course assessed?
This course will be assessed through a mixture of internally and externally assessed Achievement Standards (24 credits). One standard (90637) will be internally assessed, with 4 credits. The remaining four standards (90635-6, 90638-9) will be externally assessed through an exam at the end of the year and will total 20 credits.

Which should you choose – Calculus or Statistics or both?

As mathematics (and we include statistics) is used in so many university courses, our first piece of advice is that you should continue with mathematics in Year 13. There is some advantage in taking both mathematics subjects as they tend to reinforce each other so that you will probably do better in each than if you took one by itself. If you do not intend going to university after Year 13 then statistics is preferred. If you decide on one paper, you should be guided by what courses you intend doing at university. For engineering, and further study in mathematics, statistical theory and physics beyond the first year level, taking both subjects is probably best, but if you decide to take one, it should be calculus. On the other hand, if you are interested in the social and life sciences, statistics is more appropriate. For commerce, calculus would be preferable particularly if you wish to continue with economics or finance. It is extremely difficult to pick up calculus at university if you have taken only statistics at school, but 'less difficult' for a calculus student to pick up statistics.

Music

What special skills will I acquire?
Music is a skill that will last you for the rest for your life. You will learn to confidently perform as a soloist or in an ensemble, write your own music, learn about different styles of music, unpack the mysteries of written and aural music to help you enjoy music as a career or as a passionate pastime.

You will also develop the following qualities: Imagination, Concentration, Focus, Self discipline, Ability to learn quickly from mistakes, Perform to a high standard always, Ability to self reflect and analyse, Ability to work well in groups and alone

Year 11 Music – NCEA Level 1

The course covers performing as a soloist and in an ensemble, writing your own music, analysing and understanding classical, jazz, rock music in a historical context as well as extending your written and aural skills.

The standards the boys will study will prepare them for both Level 2/3 music and IB entry in Year 12. They will be studying solo performance, group performance, composition and score reading/theory.

How will I learn?
You will learn through listening, performing, creating and studying music throughout the year. A total of 20 credits are internally assessed.

What subjects should I have already done?
Music is a specialist area and you have reached a certain performance level on your instrument. You must be having regular lessons on an instrument (voice is considered an instrument) for at least one year prior to starting Level 1 music. Music in Year 10 is preferred but entry is at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Where does this subject lead?
From NCEA Level 1 through Level 2 and 3, and scholarship to enter study at tertiary level or to become a professional musician.

How is the course assessed?
The course is assessed as follows: Performance as a soloist, performance in a group situation, composing your own music, analysing and understanding music – all internally assessed. Aural skills and score-reading are external exams. Students must perform and participate in co-curricular ensemble groups. There are 4 internal achievement standards and 2 external achievement standards. The internals are assessed throughout the year and are completed by end of third term. There are 2 external achievement standards that are examined at the end of the year. Approximately 60% of the coursework is weighted to internal and 40% to external assessment. Boys will be assessed at the end of term one with the option of advancing to some Level 2 units for the rest of the year.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

The course is divided into five areas: Performance, Composition, aural and analytical skills, musical knowledge, musical arrangement. You will be studying the second year of a three year Film Music Composing Course. This will give you the skills to work in the film and television industry as a film composer, sound editor, sound engineer or orchestrator. This year will focus on Film Scoring and Sound Editing.

How will I learn?
You will learn through performance, composition assignments, the analysis and study of set works and regular aural exercises. Assessment will be carried out throughout the year. All students will be receiving individual private lessons on their performance instrument in order to advance their skills. Participation in co-curricular music is encouraged. They will be studying solo performance, group performance, composition, instrumentation and study of music works.

What subjects should I have already done?
You will need to have achieved the performance and/or composition Achievement Standard credits in Year 11 performance music or have equivalent music skills at this level. Acceptance into the course is at the discretion of the Director of Music. You must be attending regular lessons on your performance instrument, (including voice).

How is the course assessed?
Internal assessments cover performing as a soloist and in an ensemble, composition, instrumentation, and musical knowledge. Aural skills and analysis are tested through an external examination. Students are encouraged to take a leadership role in co-curricular music becoming role models for younger students. There are 4 internal achievement standards and 2 external achievement standards. The internals are assessed throughout the year and are completed by end of third term. There are 2 external achievement standards that are examined at the end of the year. Approximately 70% of the coursework is weighted to internal and 30% to external assessment.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3 – Scholarship

The course now follows two distinct strands of Practical Music and Music Studies. Students may specialise in either performance, composition or a combination of both totalling 20 credits. At this level, students design an individual course to suit their interests and strengths. This is the third year of a three year Film Music Composing Course. It will give you the skills to work in the film and television industry as a film composer, sound editor, sound engineer or orchestrator. Students are required to compose or arrange at least one piece for one of the College ensembles to perform live.

Practical Music

The course is divided into two sections (i) Making Music (Performance) and (ii) Music Studies. Scholarship Music also carries a Research and Lecture Presentation. There will be regular assignments and assessment opportunities throughout the year. Students will be encouraged to take a lead role in the co-curricular music events and groups.

How will I learn?

You will learn through private practice, the application of theoretical and analytical skills, composition of music for a variety of competitions and performances, detailed study of set works, research and regular performance.

What subjects should I have already done?

You must have attained the performance and/or compositional Achievement Standards at Level 2 or have equivalent skills at this level. You must be attending private lessons with an instrument tutor. Acceptance into the course is at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Where does this subject lead?

Success at this level enables students to enter tertiary institutions to continue Music Studies in all genres or to take up a career as a performer.

How is the course assessed?

As students will be following an individualised programme according their strengths, assessment will involve a combination of internal and external assessments. There are 4 internal achievement standards and 2 external achievement standards. The internals are assessed throughout the year and are completed by end of third term. There are 2 external achievement standards that are examined at the end of the year. Approximately 70% of the coursework is weighted to internal and 30% to external assessment.

Physical Education

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is this subject about?

It aims to further develop the student's background knowledge and understanding of the theory and principles of Physical Education.

How will I learn?

The course has a balance of theory and practical components.

- You will attempt to achieve personal bests in athletic events and fitness components
- You will be involved in a variety of physical activities and sports
- You will look at the principles of anatomy and relate it to physical fitness targets
- You will be involved in a community sports event

What subjects should I have already done?

A reasonable level of fitness and a real interest in sports, fitness and movement.

Where does this subject lead?

NCEA Levels 2,3 and any sports related tertiary study.

How is this course assessed?

All the achievement standards are internally assessed.

Credits

21

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?

It aims to further develop the student's background knowledge and understanding of the theory and principles of Physical Education.

How will I learn?

The course has a balance of theory and practical components.

- There will be lectures, seminars, labs, visiting speakers and practical gym sessions
- There is the opportunity to achieve a personal best in a regional sporting event
- There are field trips such as the kayaking adventure to Marlborough Sounds
- Achieve a high standard in 3 sports
- Be involved in leadership roles with junior students
- A study of anatomy and biomechanics and how it relates to the body
- Students look at the effects of professional sport and implications on society

What subjects should I have already done?
A reasonable level of fitness and a real interest in sports, fitness and movement. A motivation to improve in those areas.

Where does this subject lead?
NCEA Level 3 and any sports related tertiary study

How is the course assessed?
All the achievement standards are internally assessed.

Credits
21

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
It provides learning experiences to further develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the theory and principles of Physical Education. It promotes the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle.

How will I learn?
The course has a balance of theory and practical components. There is an emphasis on leadership and participation.

- Students plan and review a training programme that involves completing a triathlon event
- Students plan a skill programme in 2 contrasting sports and attempt to improve and excel to a high standard
- Students examine why people participate in physical activity and attempt to influence the actions of others
- Students have opportunity to coach or influence junior sports teams

What subjects should I have already done?
A reasonable level of fitness and a real interest in sports, fitness and movement. NCEA Level 2 is recommended.

Where does this subject lead?
To a variety of tertiary study courses.

How is the course assessed?
All achievement standards are internally assessed

Credits
24

Physics

What special skills do I acquire?
Use of the scientific method; use of equipment both simple and complex; observational and planning skills; ability to manipulate formulae.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1 Physics and Chemistry

Note: Check the general guidelines on page 8 regarding choice of Year 11 science subjects.

What is this subject about?
It is all about how and why things happen around us involving matter, energy and the relationship between them. Energy in its various forms: heat, light, electrical and mechanical. Accounting for energy transfer.

How will I learn?
By studying various theories and relating them to the measurements observed in practical sessions. By dealing with numerical problems. By reading, research and computer simulation.

Where does this subject lead?
Year 12 and Year 13 Physics. Physics is needed for engineering, optometry, aviation, architecture, health sciences.

How is the course assessed?
By achievement standards, one third of which is internal and the rest external (24 credits).

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
Physics is about finding out how and why things happen. We study motion, energy, electricity, waves, radioactivity, light, magnetism. Physics is an experimental science, where we take measurements and try to discover relationships – most often as mathematical formulas. Physicists develop theories and models to predict phenomenon that can be tested experimentally.

How will I learn?
You will study physics in class and at home – in discussions, by reading texts, by research, by working through modules and by solving theoretical problems. You will test the theories by taking measurements in practical sessions and comparing your observations with one or more of the theories.

What subjects should I have already done?
You should have attained a minimum of 12 credits in Mathematics and 12 in Physics. At least, you should have achieved 3 of the maths standards of algebra, graphs, number, trigonometry and 3 of the physics standards of investigation, motion and electricity.

Where does this subject lead?

Jobs connected with engineering, electrical work, optometry, aviation, architecture require Physics; as do tertiary qualifications in these areas and health sciences.

How is the course assessed
Two standards (7 credits) are internally assessed (90252 Practical Skills, 90258 Integrated Physics). Four achievement standards (17 credits) are externally assessed in end of year examinations (90254-7 Waves, Mechanics, Atomic Physics, Electromagnetism).

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is it all about?
Physics involves finding out how and why things happen. It helps us understand the world and improve the way we live. We study energy, linear and rotational motion, AC electricity and electromagnetism, wave diffraction and interference, and atomic and nuclear physics. Physics is an experimental science, where we take measurements and try to discover mathematical relationships. Physicists develop theories and models that predict phenomenon and can be tested experimentally.

How will I learn?
You will study physics in class and at home by reading texts, by research, by working through modules, involvement in discussions and by solving theoretical problems. You undertake an advanced investigation.

What subjects should I have already done?
You should have attained 18 credits in Level 2 Physics and 12 in Level 2 Mathematics. These should include the physics standards of analysing data, waves, mechanics, electricity and maths standards of algebra, graphs, trigonometry. You are advised to study Level 3 maths with calculus.

Where does this subject lead?
Jobs connected with engineering, electrical work, optometry, aviation, architecture require physics; as do tertiary qualifications in these areas and health sciences.

How is the course assessed?
One standard (5 credits) is internally assessed (90774 investigation). Four standards (19 credits) are externally assessed (90520-3 waves, mechanics, nuclear physics, electrical systems).

Science

Refer Biology, Chemistry, Physics Level 1

Visual Arts

What special skills do I acquire?
An ability to initiate, develop and resolve artistic ideas, communicating these in a visual art medium. Students must realise that time management is crucial and there must be a genuine interest in the subject.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

What is this subject about?
The Art prescription is a course of practical art activity designed for the development of personal power of expression and communication. It involves some study of the work of NZ artists, craftsmen, designers, architects, the effects of the European tradition in the arts and examples of Maori art.

How will I learn?
Practical activities within a relatively tightly structured theme. The investigation and the study of various techniques and media.

What subjects should I have already done?
Year 10 Art, otherwise you must discuss entry into NCEA Level 1 Art with HoD Art.

How is the course assessed?
Work is assessed throughout the year using internally assessed achievement standards and these cover about 45% of the course. The remainder of the course is assessed using an externally moderated achievement standard. This assessment involves the production of a folio of selected works in a range of media.

Other details:
See note at top right of opposite page*.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2

What is this subject about?
This course covers an in-depth study of painting, design and photography. It is intended as a foundation year giving students access to a range of different techniques.

How will I learn?
You will develop your own Art by studying how artists work, what processes they use and how themes are developed in Art. Through your own work you will develop processes and ways of working on your own to suit your interests and abilities.

What subjects should I have already done?
You should have studied Year 11 Art for NCEA Level 1. However, if you did not do Year 11 Art you may be permitted access to the course after discussion with the HoD Art.

Where does this subject lead?
It leads to NCEA Level 3 Visual Art. It is also useful if you wish to apply for a Polytechnic Design Course or the Craft Design Course at Whitireia Community College.

How is the course assessed?
The course is made up of three internally assessed achievement standards worth 6 credits each. These assessments are in painting, photography and visual art design.

Other details:
See note opposite*.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3

What is this subject about?
It is a practical course with an emphasis on a high level of personal development and expertise in selected media. There are three topics – Painting, Design and Digital Photography. Each is considered a separate subject and you may choose up to a maximum of two topics. Please note: depending on the demand for IB Diploma visual art, it may be necessary to restrict the number of Level 3 art options in 2012.

How will I learn?
You will develop your own art skills, learning from other artists' work and developing a theme study from observation drawing to finished interpretive artworks.

What subjects should I have already done?
NCEA Levels 1 and 2 Visual Art, otherwise discussion with HoD Art about entry into course. Students opting for Design must come from a design or graphics background.

Where does this subject lead?
Because this can be a double subject it is usually taken by students intending to study Art at a higher level at a Polytechnic or University. As a single subject Painting, Design Printmaking or Digital Photography can be of general interest to a student. Note that students can offer a maximum of one Art subject at Level 4 (scholarship).

How is the course assessed?
This course is assessed throughout the year, using NCEA Level 3 internal standards and a final assessment is made on the submission of a folio showing work from your selected areas of study. Time management is an important factor – the folio must be completed by the start of Term 4.

*All Art Courses:

Students will be expected to purchase and maintain their own art materials to supplement those supplied in the Art Room. Looking at the work of artists and designers is an important feature of studying Art at NCEA Level 3. As well as undergoing field trips, students are expected to visit exhibitions and galleries in Wellington in their own time.

Workshop Technology

What special skills do I acquire?
Workshop Technology is a practical subject that focuses on the activities of designing, making and evaluating projects using a range of materials, tools and processes. You will make actual projects.

Assessment is with some NCEA Achievement standards and some Furniture Industry Training Organisation (FITO) Unit standards.

Year 11 NCEA and FITO
Year 12 NCEA and FITO
Year 13 NCEA and FITO

What is this subject about?
This is a practical workshop based course. Students will gain workshop skills through the use of tools and materials to make a project. Projects are designed, made and

evaluated to a brief. Emphasis is placed on design, drawings, problem solving, hand skills, craftsmanship, finishing and evaluation of finished work.

How will I learn?

You will make practical workshop projects in materials (wood, metal, plastic, glass etc.) using processes (marking out, cutting, machining, metal casting, finishing etc.) to achieve a final product. A folio of design work and related studies will also be kept.

Where will this subject lead?

This is a practical, broad based subject that will give you some generic skills which will be useful in life. It can lead to tertiary training in Design and Technology areas or give skills directly useful in industry.

How is this course assessed?

This is internally assessed using Unit Standards and some achievement standards. All completed Drawings, Related Studies and Practical Project work will be assessed against the relevant standards.

Cost:

There will be a materials charge. Students will take home two or three projects.