

Health and Social Care

Exam Board: AQA

This popular course is one of the few A-level courses that provide the opportunity to complete independent portfolios as well as exam components. Whether you have a goal to work as a nursery school teacher, primary school teacher, nurse, social worker, health visitor, councillor, midwife or even as a paramedic, this course can provide you with the right stepping stone.

Summary of assessment scheme

AS Unit 1: Effective Care and Communication

Assessment: Portfolio of evidence (80 marks)

This unit aims to explore care and communication skills used in health and social care, children and young people care, hospitals, nursing homes, elderly residential homes, children's homes, primary schools, nurseries, prisons, remand and detainee centres).

AS Unit 2: Life as a challenge

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute exam (60 marks)

This unit explores a range of challenges faced by people due to physical disability (cystic fibrosis and osteoarthritis), learning disability (autism and Down's syndrome), mental health issues and social circumstances (young carers and persons in later adulthood).

A2 Unit 3: Practitioner roles

Assessment: Portfolio of evidence (80 marks)

This unit aims to increase your understanding of the world of work in health, social care, children and young people and community justice sectors. It also helps you to reflect on your own suitability for different job roles.

A2 Unit 4: Food and fitness

Assessment: 1 hour 30 minute exam (80 marks)

This unit aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of food components and balanced diets required to meet the dietary and nutritional needs of different client groups and a range of different aspects of exercise which help maintain the fitness, health and well-being of individuals.

What type of career options does it lead to?

The Health and Social Care course offers a great pathway into employment. You will be able to choose from a wide range of jobs. As well as the professions mentioned above, it will lead to jobs such as caring for people with mental illness, radiography, community nursing, therapist or a police officer.

It might be that you like the idea of working within the NHS sector and jobs in hospital services appeal to you. Knowledge of emergency diagnosis and treatment, GPs surgeries administration and social policy administration will lead to secure employment. Or perhaps you see yourself working with people with special needs or mental disorders? Psychiatric nurse, social worker based at a special school, teacher support within mainstream school, will also be available to you.

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