

A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION FAQs

Q: Do you need to have studied G.C.S.E. P.E. to be able to study A Level PE?

No, not at all. Some of our best-ever students have been 'new' to this subject as an academic qualification. If you have studied G.C.S.E. P.E. then you know what minimum grade you need. If you have studied BTEC Level 2 you can still study A Level P.E., but we expect a high grade from BTEC to be able to cope with the theoretical contents of A Level.

Q: What does 'representative' level mean for the practical sport?

Simply, do not choose a new sport for A Level. You will need to have played/performed your sport in many highly competitive matches/situations before. This could mean school/county/regional/national standard. Your grade for the practical is based upon full match performances and not how you perform in training. As it is worth up to 20% of your final grade, this sport choice is crucial.

Q: Do I have to play my sport outside college?

No, not necessarily. If we offer your sport as part of the Sport & Recreation programme (football, hockey, basketball, rugby and netball – men's and women's where relevant) then we can use your college matches for the formal assessments. If you have an 'external' sport, we expect you to be training and performing weekly (or regularly if/when it is seasonal – cricket and athletics, for example) and to have a coach with whom we will liaise. It is always good, however, to be playing for a team outside college as you will be gaining invaluable playing experience.

Q: When am I assessed in my sport?

From day one in September and **every week** we see you play at college. Each match and training session is, therefore, crucial and is as important as a theory lesson. We will also ask your external coach for their assessments from the Autumn term onwards. It is your responsibility to provide the assessment criteria for your coach and we will show you how to do this when you start.

Q: Do I need to provide a DVD of my competitive performances? How much is 'enough' evidence?

Yes, if your sport is not offered specifically within the timetable (see question 3's answer). There is no such thing as too much evidence so keep getting yourself filmed performing in fully competitive

matches/events/meets. The more evidence you can provide, the better the overall picture is of your consistency under pressure.

Q: Do I need to choose my practical sport for my EAPI coursework?

No, not necessarily. If you have a comprehensive knowledge of how to coach another sport (other than the one you play/perform) then you can choose this for your coursework – as long as it is on the list from OCR. Most students know a lot about their practical sport in relation to coaching drills and practices, so most students choose the same sport for practical and coursework assessments.

Q: Can I be assessed on *coaching* my sport instead of playing it?

Yes, if it is on that OCR list. You will have to complete a comprehensive log book and you should already be coaching at a high level to be able to hit the top level scores. You will also have to be filmed coaching on several separate occasions.

Q: Which subjects can be combined with PE?

Any subjects (see the video). The main issue is time dedicated to each subject; as you are playing and training in your sport, PE does need more time outside lessons than many other subjects, so make sure you have enough time for all your subjects each week.