Humanities 2016-17 Examination courses

AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS)

This is a popular course for students working at P-Levels or Entry Level 1. The course offers certificates for the completion of individual units in numerous subjects. The certificates do not show a level but state the learning outcomes and achievements made by the student.

At Valence we select geography, history and religious education (R.E) units that further the students understanding of the world around them and embed an interest that they will carry with them beyond Valence.

Some of the units students have completed in the past are shown the in the table below.

Geography	History	R.E
The water cycle Weather recording Earthquakes and volcanoes Fragile environments	The home front Introduction to trenches Victorian factories The American west	The Last Week Famous Religious Person Rites of Passage

Students enjoy this course as the units structure consists of a series of short interlinking tasks. The course is entirely coursework with no examinations.

WJEC Humanities Entry Pathways

This is a very popular course for students working at Entry Level 2 to 3. The course consists of numerous units covering geography, history and religious education. The units are 100% coursework with each unit containing assessment criteria that the students have to meet. The students receive credits for the successful completion of a unit. These credits accumulate to reach three levels of qualification.

Award – 8 credits

Certificate – 13 credits

Diploma – 37 credits

Some of the units students have completed in the past are shown the in the table below.

Geography	History	R.E
Fragile environments Renewable energy Sustainable tourism	Persecution of people Non-British society Historical change	Initiation customs Religious festivals Famous religious followers

Over the 5 years of running the course humanities has had 100% pass rate with the majority of students achieving a certificate at entry level 3. I am very proud to say that humanities is the first subject at Valence to have students achieving a diploma with three students accumulating over 37 credits. This year (2016-2017) there are 15 students taking the course at Entry Level 3 with six of them in line to achieving a diploma.

<u>WJEC GCSE Humanities</u>

The WJEC GCSE Humanities is popular course for students working at Level 1 or Level 2. This year ten students over two classes are taking the course. The course structure consists of four units from the disciplines of geography, history and religious studies. The units offer an opportunity to explore themes, concepts and issues that are important at a local, national and global level.

The units we cover at Valence include:

- Christianity and contemporary lifestyle – *a study of Christian beliefs and how if interacts with modern society*
- Society in change: the UK 1939-1974 – *a study of economic, political and social issues that arose between 1939-1974*
- People and their environments – *a study of peoples' positive and negative interaction with the environment focusing on water resources, tropical rainforests and food supplies.*
- Tourism, travel and leisure – *a study of the development of leisure activities in the UK and abroad.*

Each unit accounts for 25% of the final course grade.

The unit tourism, travel and leisure is assessed through a controlled assessment (a piece of coursework) which gives students the opportunity to research and complete an enquiry related to the chosen theme. The controlled assessment is very successful at Valence with the majority of students achieving one grade higher than their predicted grade. In 2016 a student predicted a B grade overall achieved an A grade and a student predicted and D grade overall achieved a C grade. The students feel more confident about the controlled assessment as it takes place in class (under test conditions) and they have over 20 hours to complete it.

Over the past five years since we started running WJEC GCSE Humanities the students have achieved a 95% pass rate with 51% achieving Grade D or above.