

Autumn 2018

Schools' & Colleges' Guide

to *flexible* options at
GCSE and A level

Business & Law

English

Geography

History & Classics

Languages

Maths

Sciences

Social Sciences & Humanities

FILL GAPS IN
CURRICULUM

Maintain
**SUBJECT
CHOICE** when
budgets are cut

OVERCOME
timetable
CLASHES

SUPPORT
students absent
through illness

**MAINTAIN
CONTINUITY**
when teachers
are absent

www.nec.ac.uk

nec 
NATIONAL
EXTENSION
COLLEGE 

NEC's services to

Flexible solutions to support you and your students

Are you struggling to maintain a broad curriculum, respond to increased student numbers and staff shortages in some subjects? Or concerned about maintaining subject choice in the face of reducing budgets?

NEC can support schools and colleges by providing a distance learning alternative for a wide range of subjects to support the provision and learning needs of your students.

We can help you to:

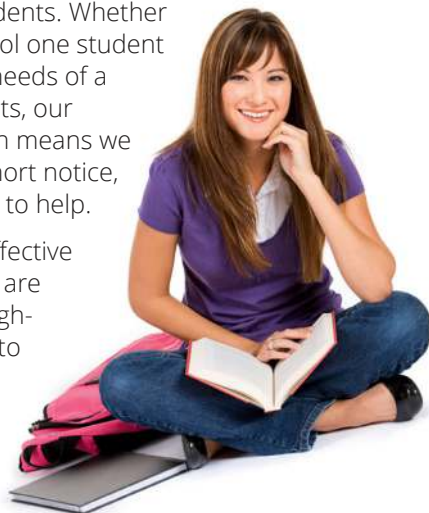
- Maintain and expand subject choice – choose from subjects including psychology, maths, English and politics.
- Overcome timetable clashes or staff shortages.
- Support students unable or unwilling to attend school or college, such as those with a long-term illness.
- Fill gaps in students' GCSE and IGCSE qualifications – including in English and maths.
- Stretch your gifted and talented students.
- Develop independent study skills that prepare students for higher education and employment.

We have helped many schools and colleges to meet these challenges. Why not get in contact with us to see how we can help you?

Enrol as many students as you like, when you like

There are no set enrolment times or minimum numbers of students. Whether you need to enrol one student or to meet the needs of a group of students, our flexible provision means we can step in at short notice, and at any time, to help.

With our cost-effective course fees you are guaranteed a high-quality solution to your students' study needs.



Your students will benefit from our:

- High-quality, structured course materials that guide them through the subject and are specially written for independent study by our expert teams of writers.
- A personal tutor who is a specialist in their subject, to support them through their course, mark assignments and provide feedback.
- Access to online course materials and resources – including forums where they can interact with other learners on the same course.

We also support you!

- Regular progress reports on how your students are doing.
- Help to enrol your students, and advice on exams or coursework administration from our experienced staff.
- The reassurance that our tutors are DBS checked and qualified, to ensure your students will receive all the support they'll need. Most of our tutors have worked as teachers and have expertise in teaching online and building good relationships with their students.

Why choose NEC?

Established in 1963 and with a strong, proud heritage in enabling students to learn 'at a distance', we are recognised as distance learning specialists. Originally set up as a pilot for the Open University – and now working with them in partnership – by choosing the National Extension College you are choosing a distance learning provider at the forefront of the latest developments that is part of a much wider network.

For more than 15 years we have been working with schools and colleges to offer your students wider subject choice. NEC learners achieve outstanding exam results, regularly performing as well as or better than national outcomes in A level and GCSE examinations. You will find some of our students' recent results for A level exams on page 5 and GCSE exams on page 11, and on our website www.nec.ac.uk.

Contact us to find out how we can help you

Tel: **0800 389 2839**
Email: **info@nec.ac.uk**
Web: **www.nec.ac.uk/schools**

schools & colleges

A levels and GCSEs

At NEC we work hard to make sure that all of our GCSEs and A levels are written to the latest specifications and designed to give students the best possible chance of success. This year there are new courses for A level Further Maths, AS Critical Thinking, GCSE Astronomy and revised IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. New courses for IGCSE German and A level German will be available later in 2019.

Our A levels and GCSEs are delivered online through **learn@nec**. The learning resources are in a range of media including videos, e-books and online quizzes. These have been produced and carefully selected by our expert course developers who include teachers, examiners and distance learning experts. Resources can also be printed out.

We'll make sure that your students have everything they need to succeed, including a clear introduction and well structured assignments to help them to develop the skills and knowledge they need to prepare for their exam.

Their personal tutor and our student support team will help them on every step of their journey with NEC.

What's so good about our A levels and GCSEs?

- Free e-book for most essential textbooks.
- Coursework administration and authentication included.
- Enrol at any time.
- Sample course materials available on our website.
- Assignments marked by personal tutors within three days.
- Exam pass guarantee – we will support students for their first retake provided they have completed all assignments.

- ➔ See pages 4–9 for details of our A levels.
- ➔ See pages 10–15 for details of our GCSEs.
- ➔ See page 16 for information on additional ways we can help schools and colleges.

learn@nec

Your online classroom

learn@nec is our virtual learning environment and the gateway to our courses and the NEC community. Our courses are delivered online and all the resources your students need to study are here, available for them to access wherever and whenever they choose. A teacher login can be provided for an additional cost of £75 per teacher, per subject, to give teachers access to the course materials. **learn@nec** includes:

- **Getting started** – how to use **learn@nec**, including videos, course plans and assessment guidance. Designed to get students off to the best possible start.
- **Course materials** – developed, written and sourced by subject experts and specifically designed for independent study. Materials include activities and assignments to prepare students for formal assessment.
- Our materials assume that English is the student's first language. If it is not, you can download a free course sample from our website www.nec.ac.uk to check that they will be able to engage fully with the course.
- **Learning journal** – their own private space for students to reflect on what they have learnt.
- **Essential skills** – access to resources to help students develop essential study skills, plus help with spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- **Forums** – an area for students to discuss ideas and interact with other learners studying the same subject(s).

Comments from A level and GCSE students who have used **learn@nec** include:

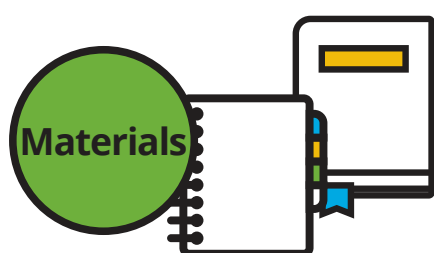
“ The layout is really simple and easy to navigate. ”

“ The videos really encouraged me to try out the features on the site. ”

“ I like the course forum. ”

What makes an NEC course the best

Teachers tell us that they value our high quality course materials, expert tutor support and non-examination assessment elements like coursework authentication and marking. We believe that the NEC model of carefully designed learning materials, one-to-one tutor support and exam services, provides your students with the best chance of success. We are proud of what we do and build on over 50 years' of experience of supporting students at a distance.



Course materials

- Engaging content develops interest in the subject
- Getting started guidance and videos
- Course plans, activities and quizzes
- Guidance on answering exam questions
- Assignments to submit to a personal tutor
- Personal learning journal



Tutor support

- Expert marking of assignments
- Carefully structured feedback
- Answers to subject-based questions
- Academic references if needed

Student support

- Course advice before you enrol
- Help with enrolling and arranging payment
- Personal support when needed
- Answers to specific queries about the course, exam or assessment
- Forums to discuss ideas with other students and tutors

Exam support

- Exam pass guarantee
- Mock exam paper marking service
- Authentication and marking of coursework if required



Personal tutor

- Subject specialists
- Qualified and experienced teachers
- DBS checked

Expert writers

- Materials specially written and structured for independent study; to meet assessment and exam requirements; to build knowledge and skills



Free extras

- Study skills
- e-textbooks for some courses
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar guides

A level and GCSE subjects at a glance

NEC offers a wide range of GCSE, IGCSE and A level subjects all available for distance learning.

Our courses are written by subject specialists and cover the same topics as those taught in schools and colleges. The table below shows which subjects NEC offers and which awarding body and specification the course covers.

Subject	Course	Awarding body	AS	A level	GCSE	IGCSE
History, Geography & Classics	Classical Civilisation A level	OCR H408		✓		
	Geography IGCSE	CAIE 0460				✓
	History A level	Edexcel 8HI0/9HI0 (Route D)	✓	✓		
	History IGCSE	Edexcel 4HI1				✓
Languages	French A level	AQA 7651/7652	✓	✓		
	French IGCSE	Edexcel 4FR1				✓
	Spanish A level	AQA 7691/7692	✓	✓		
	Spanish IGCSE	Edexcel 4SP1				✓
English	English Language A level	AQA 7701/7702	✓	✓		
	English Language GCSE	AQA 8700			✓	
	English Literature A level	AQA 7712 (Spec A)		✓		
	English Literature GCSE	Edexcel 1ET0			✓	
Sciences	Astronomy GCSE	Edexcel 1AS0			✓	
	Biology A level	Edexcel 8BN0/9BN0 (Salters Nuffield)	✓	✓		
	Biology IGCSE	Edexcel 4BI1				✓
	Chemistry A level	Edexcel 8CH0/9CH0	✓	✓		
	Chemistry IGCSE	Edexcel 4CH1				✓
	Combined Science IGCSE	CAIE 0653				✓
	Physics A level	Edexcel 8PH0/9PH0	✓	✓		
	Physics IGCSE	Edexcel 4PH1				✓
Maths	Further Maths A level	Edexcel 8FM0/9FM0	✓	✓		
	Maths A level	Edexcel 8MA0/9MA0	✓	✓		
	Maths GCSE	Edexcel 1MA1			✓	
Social Sciences & Humanities	Politics A level	Edexcel 8PL0/9PL0	✓	✓		
	Philosophy A level	AQA 7171/7172	✓	✓		
	Psychology A level	AQA 7181/7182	✓	✓		
	Psychology GCSE	AQA 8182			✓	
	Religious Studies A level	Edexcel 8RS0/9RS0	✓	✓		
	Sociology A level	AQA 7191/7192	✓	✓		
	Sociology GCSE	AQA 8192			✓	
	Thinking Skills AS	CAIE 9694	✓			
Business & Law	Business A level	AQA 7131/7132	✓	✓		
	Business IGCSE	Edexcel 4BS1				✓
	Economics A level	Edexcel 8ECO/9ECO	✓	✓		
	Law A level	AQA 7161/7162	✓	✓		

A levels

All of NEC's A levels meet the latest A level specifications. This year we have added A level Further Maths and AS Thinking Skills to the subjects available.

How long will it take students to study for an A level with NEC?

- We suggest around 250–300 hours of study time to work through the course materials for one A level, plus the time it takes to complete assignments.
- Students planning to take exams in the A level subjects chosen and wanting to study every topic in the course, will need to study for at least eight to nine hours a week for about nine months.
- If they would prefer to study over a longer period, NEC will provide them with support for up to two years.
- You can enrol students on just an AS level with NEC for any of our A levels except for English literature and classical civilisation. It takes around 150 hours to complete an AS level, plus additional time for completing assignments.
- Our materials assume that English is students' first language. If it is not, we recommend that you download a free course sample from the website, to check that your students will be able to engage fully with the course.

When can we enrol students?

- You can enrol students at any time.
- If they are hoping to take the exam at a specific time, you will need to enrol them by a certain date. This is to make sure that they have sufficient time to complete their NEC assignments and submit them to their tutor for marking and guidance before they sit their exam. This is particularly important if the course includes coursework.

What textbooks are needed?

- Our A levels include a free e-book for most essential textbooks.
- Some A levels require additional textbooks, which are not included in the course fee. We'll tell you when this is the case.
- Visit www.nec.ac.uk or call our course advice team for full details of the textbooks required for each subject.

Assessment

- All A levels are assessed by exam. We assume that you will enter your students for the written exams at your school or college.

Coursework

- We will tell you when you enrol students if the subject involves coursework and give you guidance on how they should go about completing it.
- Their NEC tutor will mark and authenticate their coursework as well as marking their NEC assignments.
- Coursework authentication and marking is included in the course fee.



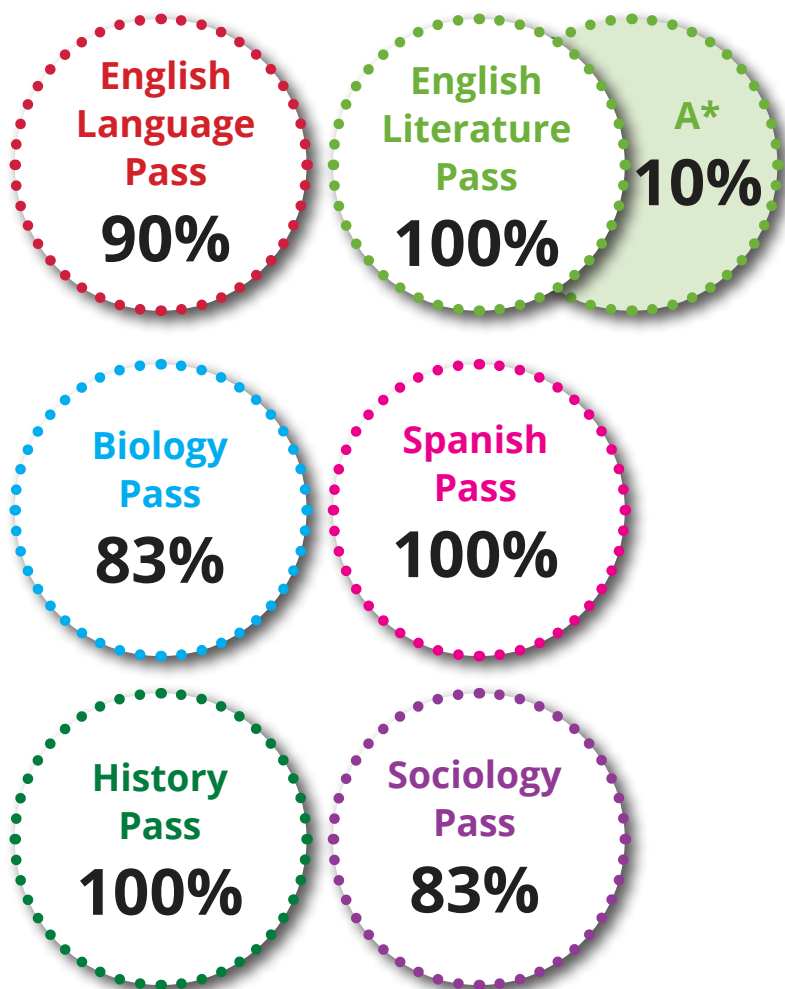
Our A level results

NEC is in a unique position amongst distance learning providers because, as an approved exam centre, we have access to the exam results of most of our students.

The exams this year were complicated because they included both legacy and reformed specifications in some subjects like maths, and some students taking the legacy specifications took the A2 exams in order to have the opportunity for resit next year.

Although this made analysing the 2018 exam results challenging, we were delighted that the overall pass rate of NEC students increased in comparison to 2017. The overall pass rate of NEC students taking A level exams in summer 2018 was 86.4%.

Some examples of the pass rates by NEC students who took exams for the reformed A level specifications in summer 2018 are:



Pass rates are based on students who have either taken their exams at one of NEC's partnership exam centres or have told us their results.

Sixth-former Kathryn opts for A level Psychology

Kathryn's school sixth form didn't offer psychology at A level. Rather than move school or find a college that did, she opted for an A level course with NEC.

Kathryn had lots of questions. How would she fit in her distance learning with her other, classroom-based courses? What would it be like to be the only student in her school studying psychology?

'I needn't have worried,' says Kathryn. 'My school was very supportive of what I was doing. I found the NEC course easy to follow and could see right away that I didn't need any prior experience or knowledge of the subject to be able to follow the syllabus.'



'I was able to work easily by myself. Most of all, I enjoyed receiving feedback from my tutor, because her suggestions were always very encouraging, supportive and constructive. It was a challenge not having anyone to discuss the course with, but I found plenty of ways not to feel isolated, including chatting with other psychology students on internet forums.'

A levels featured courses

A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Science A levels are among the most popular NEC courses with our distance learners. Studying science helps to broaden understanding of the world around, and can lead to some truly fascinating careers, such as engineering, medicine, meteorology and zoology.

The study of a science subject also helps to develop sound analytical skills and shows future employers that students who have studied a course are methodical, organised and have good attention to detail.

What will your students learn?

A level Biology is the study of life, from the complexities of the human body to much simpler protozoa. An essential choice for students planning to go on to study medicine, nursing or physiotherapy. In this course they will learn about genes and health, biodiversity, forensics and more.

Edexcel 8BN0/9BN0

Course fee £795

A level Chemistry is the science of substances and their properties and interactions, from explosions to the creation of new compounds. This is the ideal course for students aspiring to work in pharmaceuticals, food chemistry or forensics. Topics in this course include atomic structure, equilibrium and transition metals.

Edexcel 8CH0/9CH0

Course fee £795

A level Physics is the study of how things work, from the smallest sub-atomic particles to incomprehensibly large galaxies. A popular choice for students wanting to become

an engineer, planetary scientist or technologist.

Edexcel 8PH0/9PH0

Course fee £795

What do students need to study a science A level?

There are no set entry requirements, but we highly recommend that your students have studied either combined science or the subject they are interested in at GCSE level. They will also need to have a good grounding in mathematics.

How is it assessed?

All three of these A level courses are assessed by exam.

What about practical skills?

Although it does not include the practical endorsement, the course reflects the need to gain practical skills and includes activities which students can do in school or college or even at home. We assume that you will enter your students for the written exams and practical endorsement. If you need any other help speak to our course advice team on **0800 389 2839**.

NEC WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

1. Extending subject choice

One school that NEC has been working with for many years started by offering NEC courses to their sixth form students to give them greater subject choice and make individual timetables more flexible.

Using our distance learning courses, students were able to choose subjects that could not be fitted into the school timetable – enabling them to study the subjects they needed to focus on for further education or their chosen career, as well as those subjects that they felt passionate about.

Students in the sixth form were also able to choose specialist subjects offered by NEC but which were not part of schools' mainstream curriculum.



Specialist teachers at the school acted as mentors to the students by checking regularly on the progress they were making with their course, ensuring that they had their tutorials with their NEC tutors, and helping them with anything they were struggling with.

Following on from the success of the A level distance learning programme, they extended the offer to GCSE students with good results.

Contact the course advice team to find out how NEC can help you, **0800 389 2839**.

A level Maths and NEW Further Maths

Maths at A level is a challenging and satisfying subject. It provides the tools to study and understand abstract ideas and analytical processes. Maths is essential for students wanting to go on to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects at higher level.

Whatever a student's background or plans, an A level in maths or further maths will develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills which will add value to their credentials.

What will your students learn?

These well designed and structured courses will develop students' understanding of important mathematical concepts and their skills in thinking logically and rationally and in problem solving.

A level Maths covers pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. Topics include:

- Proof
- Algebra and function
- Coordinate geometry
- Vectors
- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's Law

Edexcel 8MA0/9MA0

Course fee £795

NEW A level Further Maths

will extend your students maths skills and is a natural partner to Edexcel's A level Maths. It can run alongside their study of A level Maths or independently if they already have a maths A level.

The course is based on the expertise and online resources of *MEI (Mathematics Education Innovation)*. Your students will study via their *Integral* website but with a carefully structured and guided learning route to help them make the best use of the learning materials.

Edexcel 8FM0/9FM0

Course fee £870

What do students need to study A level Maths?

These courses build on Level 2 or GCSE skills and knowledge. GCSE Maths or an equivalent course is advisable.

How is it assessed?

Both A level Maths and A level Further Maths are assessed by exam.

“Distance learning helped me improve skills like independent study.”

NEC maths student

The importance of STEM

STEM is all around us in our everyday experiences and will shape the future. From drug development to creating a 3D image, from saving a protected species to landing on Mars, the practical applications of STEM subjects are diverse and far reaching.

Here at NEC we are passionate about STEM subjects and delivering them to students in the best way possible. Our science subjects use video and examples that they can do in school or college or even at home to bring the practical elements of these courses to life.



We are working in partnership with the *Open Science Laboratory* (an initiative of the Open University and the Wolfson Foundation) to produce some videos exclusive to NEC students, using their state of the art filming laboratory. We will continue to work together to ensure NEC students are able to benefit from this cutting edge project to support the development of excellent practical and investigative skills.



Our full range of online

History & Classics

A level Classical Civilisation

An A level in classical civilisation will enable your students to gain a knowledge and understanding of the classical world through the study of a diverse range of ancient literature, thought and culture. They'll cover both social and historical contexts in order to understand the legacy of the classical world.

OCR H408

Course fee £725

A level History

How have political, social and economic events in Britain brought us to where we are now? A level History gives your students the opportunity to evaluate and assess primary and secondary sources of information and formulate their own views on how our history has shaped us.

This course includes coursework.

Edexcel 8HI0/9HI0 (Route D)

Course fee £795

“ I was really pleased to get the textbook as a free e-book. ”

NEC A level History student

Languages

A level French

A level French is a good foundation for a variety of careers. This course aims to equip your students to deal with everyday social and work situations in French-speaking countries. They will read a range of texts in French, drawn from contemporary fiction, the classics and transcripts of films and current affairs programmes.

This course includes coursework.

AQA 7651/7652

Course fee £795

A level Spanish

A variety of set texts and films, rich in cultural references will help your students progress to the next level in learning Spanish, one of the world's most widely spoken languages with over 400 million native speakers.

This course includes coursework.

AQA 7691/7692

Course fee £795

COMING SOON

A level German

This new course will be available later in 2019.

“ This has been a wonderful course. ”

NEC Spanish student

English

A level English Language*

Whether they are writing a blog, reading a film script, or analysing advertising copy, your students need to use and understand language with its intended audience in mind. Studying A level English Language will enable them to improve their mastery of the language which 390 million people speak worldwide.

This course includes coursework.

AQA 7701/7702

Course fee £795

A level English Literature*

An A level in English literature will encourage your students to read widely as critical and independent readers. They will immerse themselves in a wide range of literary texts that span centuries, gaining an understanding of how to read closely and analyse a range of critical views.

This course includes coursework.

AQA 7712 (Spec A)

Course fee £795

“ I like reading different texts and studying descriptive, analytical and comparative writing. ”

NEC A level English Literature student

*If your students will be studying English language or English literature and English is not their first language, you can download a free course sample from our website to check that they will be able to engage fully with the course.

A levels

Social Sciences

A level Politics

For students interested in improving their knowledge of and engagement with contemporary politics, this course develops their understanding of authority in the UK and US political systems.

Edexcel 8PL0/9PL0

Course fee £725

A level Philosophy

The benefits of studying philosophy extend far beyond the subject itself. It promotes independent thinking and improves your students' ability to produce rational arguments, and explore some of the big questions concerning reality and existence.

AQA 7171/7172

Course fee £725

A level Psychology

The study of psychology opens doors to careers in education, social work, counselling and the police, as well as psychology. This course covers a comprehensive approach to developmental psychology and research methods, biological psychology, social psychology and psychopathology.

AQA 7181/7182

Course fee £725

NEW AS Thinking Skills

This course will help your students to develop their ability to understand and engage confidently in argument and reasoning. They will also learn problem-solving techniques, using logical methods to analyse information, and appropriate techniques to find solutions.

CAIE 9694

Course fee £525

A level Religious Studies

An A level in Religious Studies will help your students to develop critical and evaluative skills through a rigorous study of religion and its relation to the wider world. They will study aspects of one or more religions, looking at theological, ethical, phenomenological and philosophical perspectives.

Edexcel 8RS0/9RS0

Course fee £725

“Where there is a shortage of RS specialists or viability of class sizes this could be an effective solution. It offers an alternative between providing a good quality course or may be none at all.”

Review by Arthur Giles,
senior examiner for A level
Religious Studies

A level Sociology

Youth worker, charity fundraiser, probation officer, international aid worker: studying sociology prepares your students to work in a range of very different careers. They will look in detail at concepts such as socialisation, culture and identity, and power and stratification.

AQA 7191/7192

Course fee £725

“I would recommend the NEC sociology course as a high-standard learning facility set at a fair price.”

Patrick Robinson in
The Sociology Teacher

Business

A level Business

If you have students who see themselves as the next Richard Branson running their own business, an A level in business could help them get there. This course explores topics relevant to today's society, such as the business environment, marketing, operations and ethics and developing decision-making and problem-solving skills.

AQA 7131/7132

Course fee £725

A level Economics

How do you distinguish between value creation and value allocation? What data do you select to frame simple assumptions that make a complex problem manageable? An A level in economics will help your students to start understanding the contribution that economics makes to the wider social environment.

Edexcel 8EC0/9EC0

Course fee £725

A level Law

The study of law will enable your students to develop their analytical and critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the application of legal rules.

The course covers the nature of English law and the English legal system, private law, public law and legal skills.

AQA 7161/7162

Course fee £725

GCSEs

All of NEC's GCSEs and IGCSEs are written to latest specifications. This year we have added a new GCSE in Astronomy, and have revised IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How long will it take students to study for a GCSE or IGCSE with NEC?

- We suggest around 120–150 hours of study time to work through the course materials for one GCSE, plus extra time for completing assignments.
- Students planning to take the GCSE or IGCSE exam should study for four to five hours a week for about nine months.
- If they want to study over a longer period, NEC will support them for up to 18 months.
- Our materials assume that English is students' first language. If it is not, we recommend that you download a free course sample from the website, to check that your students will be able to engage fully with the course.

When can we enrol students?

- You can enrol students at any time.
- If they are planning to take the exam at a specific time, you will need to enrol them by a certain date. This is to make sure that they have enough time to complete their NEC assignments, and submit them to their tutor for marking and guidance before sitting their exam.

What textbooks are needed?

- For some GCSE and IGCSE subjects your students will need textbooks specified by the exam board which are not included in the course fee. You will find details on our website www.nec.ac.uk or by talking to one of our course advisors.

Assessment

- GCSE courses are assessed by exams. We assume that you will enter your students for the written exams at your school or college, and for the speech and language endorsement for GCSE English Language.
- None of the subjects offered by NEC at GCSE and IGCSE level require any coursework to be submitted for assessment.

“ I think NEC were a very good part of the reason I attained top marks for my course. For anyone unsure I can wholeheartedly recommend NEC. ”

NEC IGCSE Combined Science student

Meet Sally, NEC maths tutor

Sally is an NEC lead tutor for A level and GCSE maths. After achieving a BSc from Leeds University she went on to do a PGCE and taught in schools for several years, becoming deputy head of the maths department. When she and her husband relocated to Yorkshire Sally studied for a PhD whilst teaching foundation and undergraduate courses.

'I love maths,' she says. 'I love the elegant way that everything fits together. I love the clever tricks that turn a complicated problem into something that is recognisable and (relatively!) easy to solve. My aim is to pass the passion I have for my subject on to others.'

As lead tutor, Sally was involved in the development of NEC's GCSE Maths course. She is also an A level examiner. *'I want to support students to achieve their potential through flexible and supportive tuition,' says Sally, 'appreciating that each learner has different commitments, motivations and ways of learning.'*



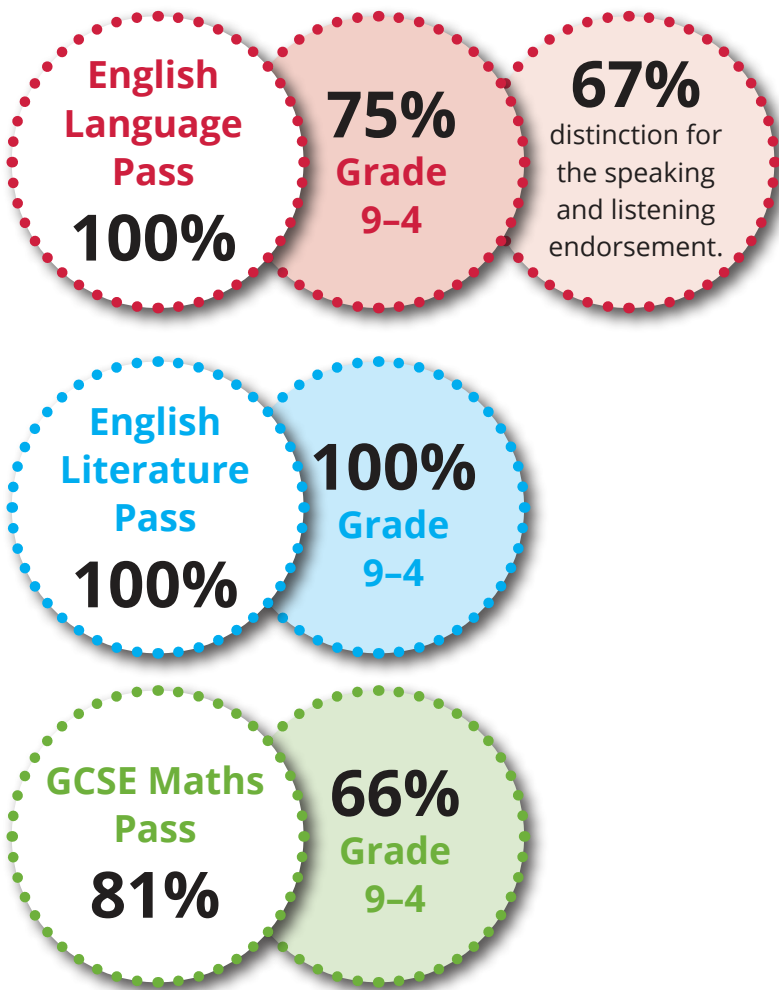
Our GCSE results

NEC is in a unique position amongst distance learning providers because, as an approved exam centre, we have access to the exam results of most of our students.

The exams this year were complicated because they included the new 9 to 1 GCSE grading, but for some subjects the A to E grading continued.

Although this made analysing the 2018 exam results challenging, we were delighted that the overall pass rate of NEC students increased in comparison to 2017. The overall pass rate of NEC students taking GCSEs in summer 2018 was 92.4%.

Some examples of the pass rates by NEC students who took GCSE exams in summer 2018 are:



Pass rates are based on students who have either taken their exams at one of NEC's partnership exam centres or have told us their results.

NEC WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

2. Filling gaps in students' education

Classroom education doesn't work for everyone.

NEC has worked with a school whose students have Asperger's Syndrome, some of whom may have had a bad experience of education in the past and/or have gaps in their attendance. Distance learning provides a solution for these students as it allows them to learn at their own pace and can help prepare them for work and further study. It can also fill in the gaps created by extended periods away from formal education.



The school developed their own model of blended learning combining distance learning with additional tutor support. Timetables are personalised to each student's needs, to help them achieve qualifications, to try out a subject they may want to study further, or so that they can continue to study even if they need time away from the classroom.

Contact the course advice team to find out how NEC can help you, **0800 389 2839**.

“With NEC the course follows the student, they can carry on studying wherever they are. Flexibility like that is hard to find.”

School using NEC courses with GCSE and A level students

GCSEs and IGCSEs featured

GCSE Maths

Maths GCSE is an essential qualification, vital for many career paths and further education choices. Maths is used in business, engineering, computing and the sciences. It plays a vital role in areas of endeavour as diverse as space travel, public health and predicting stock market prices.

What will your students learn?

This interactive course uses video and other means to give your students a good grounding in mathematics. It will help them to make sense of the numbers that they come across every day – such as calculations, fractions, percentages, geometry and averages, and will prepare them for either the foundation or the higher exam papers.

What do students need to study GCSE Maths?

There are no formal entry requirements, but students should have a basic level of numeracy.

Other information

Maths GCSE is a tiered qualification. There is a foundation and a higher level. Students can choose to study additional sections of the course if they would like to sit the higher papers. The difference is the highest grade they can achieve – 5 for foundation or 9 for higher.

Edexcel 1MA1
Course fee £525

GCSE English Language

Language is an inherent part of the world around us, from the way it is used in an advert to the writing of a script for a blockbuster movie. Your students will explore the use of words in different contexts with this course and gain skills essential for many jobs and further study.

What will your students learn?

Your students will learn about the way written language works by analysing fiction and non-fiction. They'll see how writers use language in different ways to

influence the response of their readers, and use these methods in their own writing too to entertain, inform and persuade.

What do students need to study GCSE English Language?

There are no formal entry requirements, but students will need a good command of basic English. The course assumes that English is their first language. If it is not, you can download a free course sample from the website to check that they will be able to engage fully with the course.

AQA 8700
Course fee £525

“My tutor was immensely supportive and my experience of being a student with NEC all I hoped it would be.”

NEC GCSE Maths student

Distance learning helps Joe continue his studies

Joe became unwell with M.E. when he was 13, which caused severe fatigue making it difficult for him to study particularly if he was having a bad day, and he was unable to attend school for almost three years.

Joe wanted to return to school to study at sixth form but needed GCSEs in maths and English to be accepted. *'Distance learning is a good option, but you need to be motivated to study,'* he says. *'NEC was my first experience of distance learning. It suited me as I was too ill to attend school, and it meant I could study at the pace I wanted and for short periods of time when I felt able to.'*



Joe is now recovering from his M.E. and enjoying being back at sixth form where he is studying A levels. He says: *'I may study additional GCSEs or an A level with NEC to catch up with the qualifications I missed when I was ill.'*

courses

IGCSE Combined Science

The study of science helps students to explore the world around them, from how the human circulatory system works to how a rainbow is made. In this IGCSE in combined science they'll discover key ideas and applications of biology, chemistry and physics.

What will your students learn?

The course includes important concepts in physics, chemistry and biology in separate sections. Your students will learn about scientific methods, experimental and investigative skills, and consider the effects scientific developments can have on society and individuals.

What do students need to study IGCSE Combined Science?

We recommend that they have studied some science and have adequate mathematical skills.

How is it assessed?

By three exams.

Other information

There are some simple experiments which your students can try in school or college or even at home. They will benefit from having internet access to see some animations that demonstrate some key laboratory tests.

CAIE 0653

Course fee £525

NEC WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

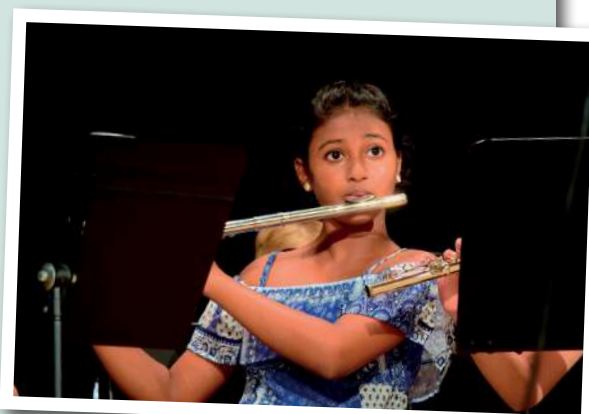
3. Flexible provision

A specialist music school aims to create a family environment in which pupils can develop their musical, intellectual, artistic and social skills. Alongside musical excellence the school has an enviable record of academic achievement.

With so much of the timetable dedicated to music, how does the school offer the breadth of subject choice that fosters academic excellence? *'Of course we can't offer all the subjects pupils may be interested in studying – no school can – but the National Extension College has enabled us to expand what we offer older pupils,'* explains the school's Director of Studies, who came across the NEC by chance a few years ago when a small group of students expressed an interest in studying philosophy A level.

'The school's open-minded approach to academic provision means it can be flexible in what it offers students, but it's difficult to justify the teaching time when just two or three pupils want to study a subject outside the main curriculum. NEC's approach, with 1:1 tuition for every student provided as part of the course, means we don't have to give a thought to timetabling, teaching time, marking pupils' work or preparing them for exams.'

'Pupils choosing NEC courses have to be self-disciplined. Independent study fits very well with the school's ethos of individual endeavour for collaborative creation.'



“ The materials are set out in a way that makes them easy to understand. ”

NEC physics and biology student

Our full range of online

History & Geography

IGCSE Geography

Climate change, world population, use of natural resources – geography deals with the big themes that affect how we live. Students who study geography will develop skills in research and analysis, including map reading and field work.

CAIE 0460

Course fee £525

IGCSE History

If you enrol students on this course they'll develop and expand their knowledge of key historical events, people and societies, and learn how to ask relevant questions about the past.

Edexcel 4HI1

Course fee £525

Languages

IGCSE French

This course is for students who want to learn French and have a little knowledge. They will learn essential words and phrases like how to order meals and get directions, and develop their vocabulary and understanding of French so that they can take part in French society.

Edexcel 4FR1

Course fee £525

COMING SOON

IGCSE German

This new course will be available later in 2019.

IGCSE Spanish

Spanish is a national language in 20 sovereign states around the world and is spoken by more than 400 million people. This course is for students who know just a little Spanish and want to start studying the language.

Edexcel 4SP1

Course fee £525

Latin: A course for beginners

This course provides a thorough introduction to Latin using a varied selection of extracts and activities. Students start reading Latin text from day one, even if they have no previous knowledge of Latin, and by the end of the course will be able to read text such as historical or legal documents, memorials or the Latin mass in their original form.

Course fee £525

English

GCSE English Language

→ See page 12 for details.

GCSE English Literature

This course will enable your students to develop transferable skills and explore English literature through a range of texts. Some will be familiar and some new, but all will inspire and challenge them.

Edexcel 1ETO

Course fee £525

Sciences

NEW IGCSE Biology

For students fascinated by the functioning of living organisms – plants, animals, bacteria – studying IGCSE Biology will develop their knowledge and understanding of the underlying mechanisms that govern them.

Edexcel 4BI1

Course fee £525

NEW IGCSE Chemistry

What are the properties of atoms? How do substances interact through chemical reactions? Your students will be introduced to principles of chemistry and do experiments at school, college or even at home, using everyday materials.

Edexcel 4CH1

Course fee £525

NEW IGCSE Physics

Physics involves the study of matter and its motion through space and time. Students will learn about energy and matter, developing investigative and analytical skills through practical experiments which they can do at school or college, or even at home.

Edexcel 4PH1

Course fee £525

IGCSE Combined Science

→ See page 13 for details.

GCSEs and IGCSEs

NEW GCSE Astronomy

Your students will explore the Universe and our position in it with this fascinating new course. They'll learn about the Earth's Solar System and beyond, investigate the movement of planets and stars, how they are formed, and how we observe and interact with space. Using their own practical observations, they'll develop valuable scientific and maths skills. Students taking this course will need opportunities to observe the night sky, and to have access to the Internet.

Edexcel 1AS0

Course fee £525

Maths

Introduction to Maths

This course introduces key maths ideas and techniques such as working with numbers, decimals, fractions, percentages and more. Students who complete this course can transfer to a GCSE Maths course at the end of their study.

Course fee £325

GCSE Maths

→ See page 12 for details.

Social Sciences

GCSE Psychology

Psychology is the study of the mind. Students will find this course particularly engaging if they're interested in understanding how to use scientific methodology to investigate themes such as memory, perception, the brain, and neuropsychology.

AQA 8182

Course fee £525

GCSE Sociology

Sociology concerns itself with the study of social behaviour, looking at its origins, development and organisation. This course will help students develop methods of investigation and critical analysis about society and how it functions.

AQA 8192

Course fee £525

Business

IGCSE Business

Developing and advertising services, managing cash flow and employing staff all bring their own challenges. This course will help students to understand the terminology, techniques and concepts commonly used in business.

Edexcel 4BS1

Course fee £525

Meet Tracey, NEC psychology and sociology tutor

Tracey is a lead tutor for NEC's psychology and sociology courses; she is also a consultant for our new courses. She has a degree in Psychology and a Master's in Social Science. She is a qualified teacher and social worker and has completed postgraduate training in Learning Disability Studies. She decided to work for NEC after qualifying as a teacher, seeing this as an opportunity to teach more people about the subjects she enjoys.

The best thing about being a tutor for NEC, Tracey says, is: *'I always enjoy working with students who are keen, enthusiastic and enjoy their studying. Students never fail to inspire and motivate me. It is always great to have enthusiastic students who work hard to complete their courses.'*

Tracey believes that the reason that students like NEC courses is that they can work at their own pace, *'The materials are great and the course notes are really interesting'*.



“ I got the chance to do GCSEs I wouldn't have had a chance to at most schools. ”

NEC GCSE Psychology and Sociology student

How else we can help

Enhanced Service

Whilst the flexibility of a distance learning course is ideal for many learners, we know that sometimes more structure is needed, particularly for younger learners.

In addition to NEC's high-quality support and benefits, our **Enhanced Service** offers additional support to students, and guides them through their course in a personal and more structured manner.



In a face-to-face environment the teacher provides structure, support and motivation, and will identify and deal with issues as soon as they arise. Our **Enhanced Service**, aims to spot and deal with any issues before they arise. It includes proactive contact from their personal tutor and NEC, reminds students when work is due, and enables schools to be involved as much or as little as they like. Additional services can be added if needed such as extra tutorials or help with revision.

For more information about the **Enhanced Service** see the information on our website www.nec.ac.uk or phone **0800 389 2839**.

There is an additional cost of £95 for this service.

flexestudy

Our **flexestudy** courses are designed to be easily transferred to your Moodle, and support you with standalone self-study topics including videos, a variety of questions, feedback, and a forum to promote engagement and discussion.

The prices of our **flexestudy** materials depend on the size of your organisation. For more information, and to find out about course materials available to license for use with your own students contact our course advice team on **0800 389 2839**.

We've got courses for staff too!

We can provide courses for staff as well as students! Details of all of our courses are available on our website www.nec.ac.uk. They include:

- **Childcare and Playwork courses** – to qualify you to work in settings such as after-school or holiday clubs and accredited by CACHE.
- **Counselling courses** – to help develop the skills critical for anyone in a counselling role.

And of course, you could choose to take one of the A level courses in this guide to refresh your knowledge of a subject or gain an A level in something new.

NEC WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

4. Maintaining subject choice

Faced with the difficulty of recruiting a specialist psychology teacher at short notice, a school initially turned to NEC to help them continue to offer A level Psychology to their students and has since enrolled students on other NEC courses. *'As well as lacking a psychology teacher we were also looking to resolve some tricky timetable clashes for individual students and increase our range of subject choices,'* the Headteacher explains. *'For other schools considering distance learning I'd say, "Go for it!" we know it works.'*

Know your student

Does this service work for them?

NEC is proud of the quality of our courses and of the excellent tutorial support which is at the heart of what we offer. But we would be the first to say that online learning is not suitable for all students. It works best for committed students who have a mature approach to learning and are genuinely interested in their chosen subject. Some students need more structure and mentoring to manage their 'independent' studies and we have seen successful models where a school, college or a parent provides this additional support combined with the **Enhanced Service** from NEC (see page 16).

There will inevitably be other students who can only function within a set timetable and deadlines and we would suggest that you give careful consideration before enrolling these students. We want your students to succeed and we would like to develop a long-term relationship with your school or college.

Our courses assume students speak English as their first language, or at a very high level. If you are unsure whether a course will be suitable for one of your students you can download a course sample of the relevant course from our website www.nec.ac.uk.

Benefits of NEC's service for the school/college

- ➔ Expand subject options
- ➔ Offer non-mainstream subjects like philosophy
- ➔ Maintain modern foreign languages when they are threatened by budget cuts
- ➔ Support a student who:
 - needs to retake a subject
 - is absent through illness
 - is unwilling to attend
 - wants to change subjects half way through a term
- ➔ Promotes independent learning
- ➔ Facilitates a step-change in delivery models
- ➔ Reduces the need for supply teachers or bussing students to other schools or colleges for small classes or specialist subjects

Benefits of NEC's service for students

- ➔ Work wherever there is internet access
- ➔ PDF and printable materials to support them offline
- ➔ Support from other students through an online forum
- ➔ Revisit topics as needed
- ➔ Improved engagement, independent learning skills and time management
- ➔ Access to subjects not available at school or college
- ➔ Courses follow the student - so they can continue learning a subject after leaving school or college
- ➔ Study for an additional qualification during a gap year

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FILL GAPS IN **CURRICULUM**

Maintain
**SUBJECT
CHOICE** when
budgets are cut

OVERCOME
timetable
CLASHES

SUPPORT
students absent
through illness

**MAINTAIN
CONTINUITY**
when teachers
are absent

Why NEC?

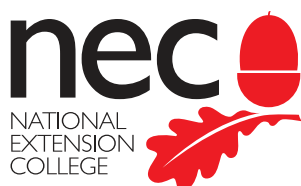


For students who need a flexible route to those essential GCSE and A level qualifications, the National Extension College is a hidden treasure and a superb option."

Mary Curnock Cook
Former Chief Executive
UCAS

NEC's approach, with 1:1 tuition for every student provided as part of the course, means we don't have to give a thought to timetabling, teaching time, marking pupils' work or preparing them for exams. Pupils choosing NEC courses have to be self-disciplined. Independent study fits very well with the school's ethos of individual endeavour for collaborative creation."

Director of Studies
at a specialist music school



National Extension College

The Michael Young Centre, School House, Homerton Gardens,
Cambridge, CB2 8EB

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