

CBA Factsheet 3a: Studying archaeology at school

I want to study archaeology – how can I get more information?

Archaeology can be studied in the UK across a broad age range and in both formal and informal education, from a community project based on archaeology through to a doctoral research degree at university. To cover all of these within one section wouldn't be very useful so we have broken them down into qualification/age-related sections grouped under either 'formal' or 'informal' headings.

Each of the following sections will explain what courses are available, which subjects include archaeology, and what you need to get on to the course as well as other useful information.

Archaeology in education up to 14

Prior to studying for your exams at 16 (GCSE, Scottish Standard Highers etc), archaeology may be included in the curriculum in your school, but this is dependent on your teachers. So if you would like some archaeology to be included in your school classes then ask your teacher! Most teachers are always looking for new ideas and ways of teaching your lessons and archaeology is a great way of learning about lots of different subjects from art and history to science and maths – there's a bit of each in archaeology! Tell your teacher about our website, give them the web address (www.britarch.ac.uk) and tell them that they can get lesson ideas and resources for free here.

But what about outside of school? If you want to get hands-on to explore archaeology, check out the Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC).

There are more than 60 YAC Branches across the UK, from Inverness in the North to the Isle of Wight in the south. Our Branches meet once a month to do all kinds of archaeology, from excavation to aerial kite photography, site visits and historical crafts.

Find your nearest YAC branch at: www.yac-uk.org.uk

Alternatively you could look for a local community archaeology group or society near where you live (although you will need your parent/guardian

to go with you) and ask if you can join in. To find your nearest local group try the Community Archaeology Forum (CAF) at www.britarch.ac.uk/caf and the Archaeology Online section at www.britarch.ac.uk/archonline

Studying archaeology from 14 to 16 years in England, Wales & Northern Ireland

GCSEs

Unfortunately, since 2006 Archaeology is no longer offered as a separate GCSE subject. However there are aspects of archaeology within other subjects taught at GCSE.

GCSE Classical Civilisations

The Classical Civilisations courses offered by both the AQA and the OCR exam boards include the examination of archaeological evidence as part of the Greek and Roman Civilisation components of the course. Both courses are broadly similar and both use archaeological evidence to examine life in the classical world.

More information can be found at the exam boards' websites:

- www.aqa.org.uk
- www.ocr.org.uk

OCR will also offer a GCSE in Ancient History from September 2009 which will include some archaeological perspectives, information for which is also available on the OCR website.

GCSE History

The only history GCSE course to cover archaeology is the OCR GCSE History pilot course. The course is available in both the standard and short course forms (Course codes 1938 and 1038 respectively).

The course core units are:

- Unit 1: Medieval History
 - Option 1: Raiders and Invaders: The British Isles c 400-1100
 - Option 2: Power and Control: Kingship in the Middle Ages c 1100–1500
- Unit 2: Local History Investigation
- Unit 3: International History

Archaeology is included as an optional unit (6) entitled 'An archaeological enquiry' and archaeological evidence is used throughout the course as a source material for students to consider.

Other History courses

History is offered by most of the other exam boards and in some cases may occasionally use archaeology as a source material (eg in the Schools History Project course). The web addresses for the exam boards are given below:

- www.aqa.org.uk
- www.ocr.org.uk
- www.edexcel.com

The Welsh Baccalaureate

The Welsh Baccalaureate for 14 to 19 year-old learners in Wales is in the next stage of its development. The qualification will allow learners to combine parts of other qualifications into one larger award starting from September 2009. The potential for using archaeology within this new qualification is great, and the CBA has been supporting the inclusion of archaeology into the award.

Further details of the Welsh Baccalaureate system are available on the WJEC website:

- www.wjec.co.uk

Studying archaeology from 14 to 16 years in Scotland

In Scotland, students follow the Scottish National Qualification system. Unfortunately, archaeology is not specifically included as a subject at Standard Grade, although it is included within the Classical Studies subject.

The course includes an examination of Greek and Roman life and some research activities within the course involve students finding information in museums and at archaeological sites.

Additionally, the Classical Greek/Latin standard grade subjects include a study area on Greek/Roman history and civilisation. Whilst this is not specifically archaeology, it can include the archaeological evidence that underpins our knowledge of both these subject areas.

Unfortunately, the history standard grade, whilst providing valuable skills to interpret the past does not directly cover archaeology.

More information on Scottish National Qualifications Standard Grades is available from the Scottish Qualifications Authority, whose website can be found at www.sqa.org.uk

Studying archaeology in post-16 education

AS & A level Archaeology

Archaeology can be studied in post-16 education through a variety of qualifications. Unlike at GCSE, at GCE AS and A level, archaeology is available as a separate subject offered by the AQA exam board. Like other AS and A level courses the course is split over two years and comprises of two modules per year.

AS level year

- **ARCH1: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual**
The study of Religion and Ritual focuses on belief systems and on the actual activities related to those beliefs. The unit is taught through examining one of three period themes:
 - Prehistoric Europe 30,000BC to AD43
 - Ancient Egypt 3000BC to 50BC
 - Roman Europe 753BC to AD410
- **ARCH2: Archaeological Skills and Methods**
The second unit in the A level teaches students about the basic skills and methods that archaeology uses, from how archaeological sites are found, excavated, recorded and interpreted through to the laboratory investigation of human remains and how dating techniques like radiocarbon dating work.

A level year

- **ARCH3: World Archaeology**
The third module is split into two sections; the first is taught as three themes:
 - People and Society in the Past
 - Sites and People in the Landscape
 - Economics and Material Culture

The second half of the unit is devoted to discussing contemporary issues in World Archaeology.

- **ARCH4: Archaeological Investigation**
The final module of the A level is an opportunity for students to carry out an archaeological investigation of their own. This investigation could be site-based through recording, survey or excavation or it may examine a

particular artefact or group of artefacts through research, work with a local museum etc.

The A level has an accompanying course book (written by the senior examiners for the course) entitled:

'The Archaeology Coursebook: An introduction to themes, sites, methods and skills'

The textbook, which is published by Routledge, has recently been released in its third edition so when ordering the book you should ensure that you have the latest edition. More information is available from the book's publisher whose web address is: www.routledgearchaeology.com

Have a look at your local Sixth Form and FE colleges to see if they offer the course. If you are having difficulty finding your nearest AS/A level archaeology course then you can contact the education team here at the CBA and we'll be happy to help you search. To get in touch visit www.britarch.ac.uk/contact, or use the details at the bottom of this factsheet.

AS & A level Classical Civilisation

Both OCR and AQA offer AS and A level Classical Civilisations. Both courses examine Classical Greek & Roman history, art and literature using some archaeological evidence and allow students to pursue their interest in archaeology further through the coursework element.

OCR has split its subjects into a suite of classics-related subjects with Classical Civilisation and Ancient History as two of the four named routes (Latin, Classical Greek, Classical Civilisation and Ancient History) and these are now covered under a single new subject title: 'Classics'.

Salters Horners Applied Physics AS & A level

The Salters Horners applied physics course is an AS and A level course which is context-led. The course was piloted in 1998 and is now offered in over 200 schools and colleges throughout the UK. The project is based in the University of York as part of their Science Education Group and includes the 'Physics for life' module, which takes archaeology as a theme. The course is excellent for those students who are considering studying archaeological sciences at university as well as being an exciting and interesting course in its own right.

The course is administered through Edexcel but there is more detailed information on the York Science Education Groups webpage, www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/physics, including a list of schools and colleges offering the course.

Applied AS/A level in Travel and Tourism

Applied A level qualifications in Travel and Tourism are offered by the three main exam boards (AQA, EDEXCEL & OCR) as well as the WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee) for those wishing to focus on Welsh tourism or for those wanting to take their examinations in Welsh.

The applied AS/A level can be taken as a single or double award and two of the exam boards also offer a Leisure Studies Applied AS/A level that covers a similar curriculum.

Tourism and travel have an obvious relationship to archaeology and archaeological sites and provide an income for many museums, sites and exhibitions. In addition, other leisure and tourist activities can have an impact on the archaeology within the landscape (footpaths erode into archaeological layers, increased demand on ports and airports etc can lead to expansion threatening archaeological remains etc). The travel and tourism Applied A levels offered by all four exam boards examine these topics, giving students the tools to consider issues within the travel and tourism industry such as the impact of travel and tourism on local economies, the natural and cultural heritage of areas and the local infrastructure.

Each of the specifications covers the impact of tourism, the ethics of responsible tourism and the growth of special interest/activity holidays (in which pay-to-dig archaeological excavations are included).

BTEC in Countryside Management

The BTEC in Countryside Management is available at three levels; all three levels of achievement are included within level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework along with A levels, Scottish Advanced Highers etc. The three levels are equated by UCAS to the following:

- National Award (6 Units): Equivalent to one A level
- National Certificate (12 Units): Equivalent to two A levels
- National Diploma (18 Units): Equivalent to three A levels

The requirements for each of the above levels consists of a set number of Core units (1, 5 and 7 core units respectively) and the rest of the required units are made up of specialist units. Archaeology is considered in several of the countryside management units but is covered in depth in specialist unit 13: Archaeology and Landscape History.

The unit introduces students to the identification of evidence of how previous occupiers of the land lived and worked and the landscape they have left us. It looks at archaeological evidence and considers what techniques archaeologists use to discover evidence. The unit also looks at the changes that have taken place in the landscape and countryside over

time and the pressures that modern society now imposes on our landscape heritage.

The course is offered by the EDEXCEL exam board and more information is available from their website: www.edexcel.com

City and Guilds Advanced National Certificate in Countryside Management

Almost no part of Britain's landscape has been left unaffected by human activity and alteration in the past 10,000 years since the end of the last ice age. The legal protection and the public interest in archaeology and the heritage of the UK mean that a thorough understanding of the archaeology of the UK and the management challenges that good custodianship of the landscape impose, make archaeology a key issue for any Countryside Management course.

The Advanced National Certificate in Countryside Management, whilst not directly an archaeology course, covers heritage and archaeology within the course structure allowing students to consider the effects of changing countryside management practices on the part of the UK's heritage that will be in their care throughout their careers. The course also examines the huge potential that the growing interest in heritage sites has for education, sustainability and community engagement.

More information can be found on the City and Guilds website, www.cityandguilds.com

Studying archaeology in post-16 education in Scotland

Unfortunately archaeology is not specifically included as an independent subject at Intermediate, Higher or Advanced Higher. However, it is included within the Classical Studies subject at both Intermediate 1 and 2 levels and the History Higher and Advanced Higher courses can include the use of archaeology as a source of evidence.

Classical Studies

Both the Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 courses are made up of three core units, one of which (in both courses) is Roman Archaeology and Civilisation.

The main aspects studied within the Roman Archaeology and Civilisation module are:

- Archaeological techniques and evidence
- The effects of the spread of Roman power on the tribal society of Britain
- The social conditions in Roman Britain
- Roman heritage and contemporary British society

The previously offered optional unit at Intermediate 2 level in Field Archaeology is unfortunately no longer available.

History

Scottish Higher

The Scottish Higher in History, whilst not specifically including archaeology, does offer the option of three period contexts to choose from. These are:

- Medieval
- Early Modern
- Later Modern

Where your school or college makes use of the Medieval period context there is good scope for using archaeological evidence to inform your learning.

Scottish Advanced Higher

The Scottish Advanced Higher in History offers further scope to learn about the past using archaeology. The course is made up of two units: Historical Study and Historical Research.

The Historical Study unit is based on one of the following 13 topics:

1. Northern Britain from the Romans to AD 1000
2. Scottish Independence: 1286–1329
3. The Renaissance in Italy in the 15th and 16th centuries
4. France in the age of Louis XIV
5. Georgians and Jacobites: Scotland 1715–1800
6. The Economic Development of Britain 1820–80
7. 'The House Divided': USA 1850–65
8. Japan: From Medieval to Modern State 1850s–1920
9. Germany: Versailles to the Outbreak of the Second World War
10. South Africa 1910–84
11. Soviet Russia 1917–53
12. The Spanish Civil War 1931–39
13. Britain at War and Peace 1939–51

Topics 1 to 8 have varying opportunities to use archaeological evidence with topic 1 being particularly suitable to extend your interest in archaeology.

Topics 12 and 13 may also lend themselves to including the recently developed areas of Battlefield Archaeology, the archaeology of conflict and aircraft archaeology.

More information on Scottish National Qualifications Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Highers is available from the Scottish Qualifications Authority, www.sqa.org.uk, or from the website of the Continuing Education Gateway for Scotland, www.ceg.org.uk/nq

In addition, Learning and Teaching Scotland has a useful website devoted to supporting teachers and students of Classics in Scotland at www.ltscotland.org.uk

You may also wish to consult Archaeology Scotland for further information and advice: www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

Studying Archaeology through the new Humanities and Social Sciences Diploma

From September 2011 there will be a new qualification offered by some schools and colleges. The Humanities and Social Sciences Diploma will be taught for the first time. With the diploma system you will be able to study for a larger combined award that can be studied at three levels:

Foundation / Level 1: This level will be comparable to the achievement of GCSE grades D to G and the NVQ level 1.

Higher / Level 2: This level will be comparable to the achievement of GCSE grades A* to C and the NVQ level 2.

Advanced / Level 3: This level will be comparable to AS and A levels.

The exact specification of the Humanities and Social Sciences Diploma is still under development. The CBA believe that archaeology offers a great resource for teaching both the humanities and social sciences and therefore support the inclusion of archaeology within the new specification.

As more details become available about the Diploma we will post them on our website in order to keep you up-to-date.

For further information, please contact:

Council for British Archaeology, Beatrice De Cardi House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ ,
tel 01904 671417, visit www.britarch.ac.uk or email info@britarch.ac.uk

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