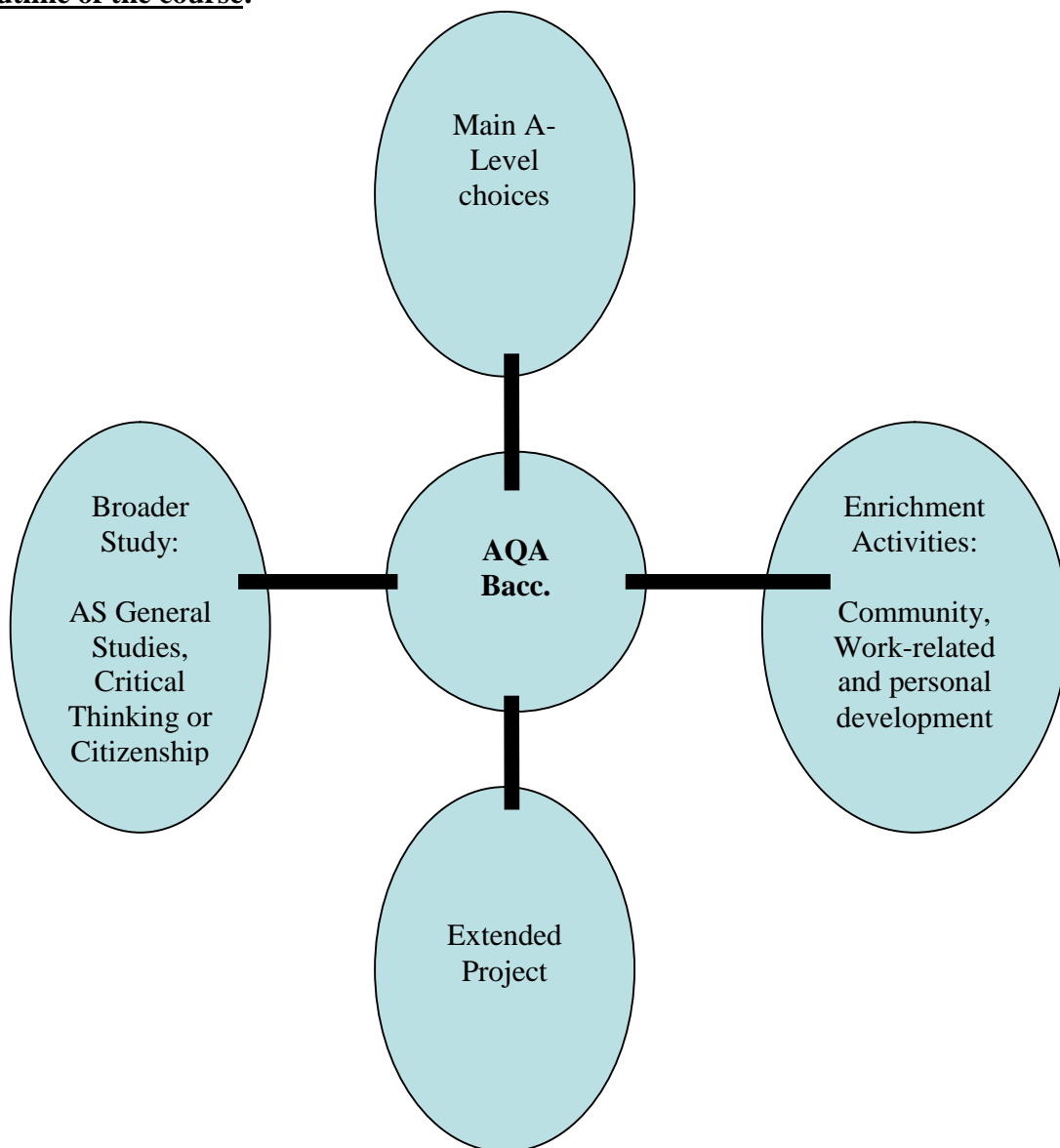


AQA Baccalaureate

The Crypt School is delighted to offer the new AQA Baccalaureate. This is an innovative new qualification that combines traditional academic study with enrichment and independent skills. Students continue with their A-level choices whilst gaining accreditation for expertise gained outside of the curriculum; these activities include paid work, voluntary work, driving lessons, clubs and associations, charity events, work experience etc. Furthermore there is an extended project that students can tailor to their own interests which is worth up to 60 extra UCAS points.

Outline of the course:



Main A-level Choices

Students must study at least three A-levels – this would be a minimum requirement for students studying at The Crypt School anyway. In order to qualify for the Baccalaureate,

students must achieve at least an E grade in each subject. These are the students' main subject choices. The grades achieved in three subjects contribute to the level of Bacc awarded: Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Broader Study:

Again all students at The Crypt are required to take General Studies and therefore students will automatically fulfil this criterion provided they achieve at least an E grade.

Enrichment activities:

Students must involve themselves in a variety of activities in order to fulfil this section of the course. Students complete 100 hours and at least two of the following three core areas must be included, with a minimum of 30 hours spent on any one core area:

- Work related
- Community participation
- Personal development

Although these activities must be separate from their academic studies many young people will be fulfilling these areas with their out of lesson interests. Skills gained through voluntary work, clubs and associations, charity events, work experience etc. for example can be used. Likewise up to 15 hours of paid work and 15 hours of driving lessons can be included. Students will record their activities on a very student friendly on-line diary.

The Extended Project:

The extended project focuses on a topic of the students' choice, this means that they can explore areas that they are most interested in; develop skills in subjects that they wish to take further or gain skills ideal for future careers. Again, it cannot be a part of their existing studies but it can be an extension of an area of study at A-level. It is designed to develop independent skills. Students will be required to:

- Plan and research a project
- Carry out the project providing appropriate evidence (such as an artefact, a performance, photos etc)
- Complete a written report
- Deliver a presentation

The extended project is marked on an A*-E basis and it is awarded UCAS points. It will also contribute to the level of Bacc awarded, Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Teaching and support:

All students will be appointed their own mentor. Most contact will therefore be individual and mentor meetings will take place (this includes at least one session during the holidays). All recording of enrichment takes place on the online diary – mentors can monitor progress and offer advice via this on-line diary. Group sessions will also take place.

The AQA Bacc. is an ideal qualification to develop "life-skills". It encourages creativity, independence and skills required for working life as well as encompassing traditional academic study.