



Hoe Valley School



YEAR 8 GCSE PREFERENCES

Subject Brochure for
September 2026

Inspiring a Love of Learning

CONTENTS

A letter from the Assistant Head Teacher	02
This Booklet, GCSEs and Beyond	03
What GCSE subjects do I need for particular courses at University?	04
The GCSE Grading System	05
Career-specific GCSE considerations	06
Year 9 Core Subjects	07
● English	
● Maths	
● Science	
Year 9 Option Subjects	11
● Art	
● Business	
● Classics	
● Computer Science	
● Dance	
● Design & Technology	
● Drama	
● Economics	
● Geography	
● Health & Social Care	
● History	
● Hospitality & Catering	
● Information Technologies	
● Media Studies	
● Modern Foreign Languages (French/German/Spanish)	
● Music	
● Photography	
● Physical Education	
● Psychology	
● Religious Studies	
● Textiles	
● Travel & Tourism	

A LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

2026 is a very exciting time to be embarking on your preferences, and I am elated to be introducing changes that will better serve your future aspirations. This e-booklet is designed to provide a clear reminder of all the courses available and will help guide you through the important decisions you have to make in a month's time (scary, I know!).

As some of you may be aware, we previously used "pathways" to guide students when deciding their options. While intended to be supportive, we found this often inhibited a student's ability to select their true preferences.

Following a detailed consultation, we are pleased to announce that pathways will no longer be used at HVS. All students will now be able to freely select four subjects they wish to study for the next three years. This shift aligns with the government's recent curriculum and assessment report, which suggests that the EBacc framework can sometimes be too restrictive, potentially impacting student achievement and engagement.

Making Your Selections

While students now have "carte blanche" regarding their selections, please keep the following in mind: Certain subjects cannot be paired together if they fall under the same qualification (for example, Art and Textiles).

Balance: We are committed to ensuring every student maintains a broad and balanced curriculum, a topic we discussed with you (students) in your Preferences introduction assembly. So please be aware Miss, myself and a team of colleagues will undertake a review of your selected GCSE options.

New Opportunities

We are also delighted to announce the inclusion of five new qualifications for students to choose from. You can find these listed in the e-booklet alongside our traditional offerings.

if you have any queries—no matter how small—please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr O Hamshar



THIS BOOKLET, GCSES AND BEYOND

Entry to university is based on both A levels and Level 2 Qualifications (e.g. GCSEs), so before making your final choice it is worth checking if there are any special requirements for an A levels that you might be interested in.

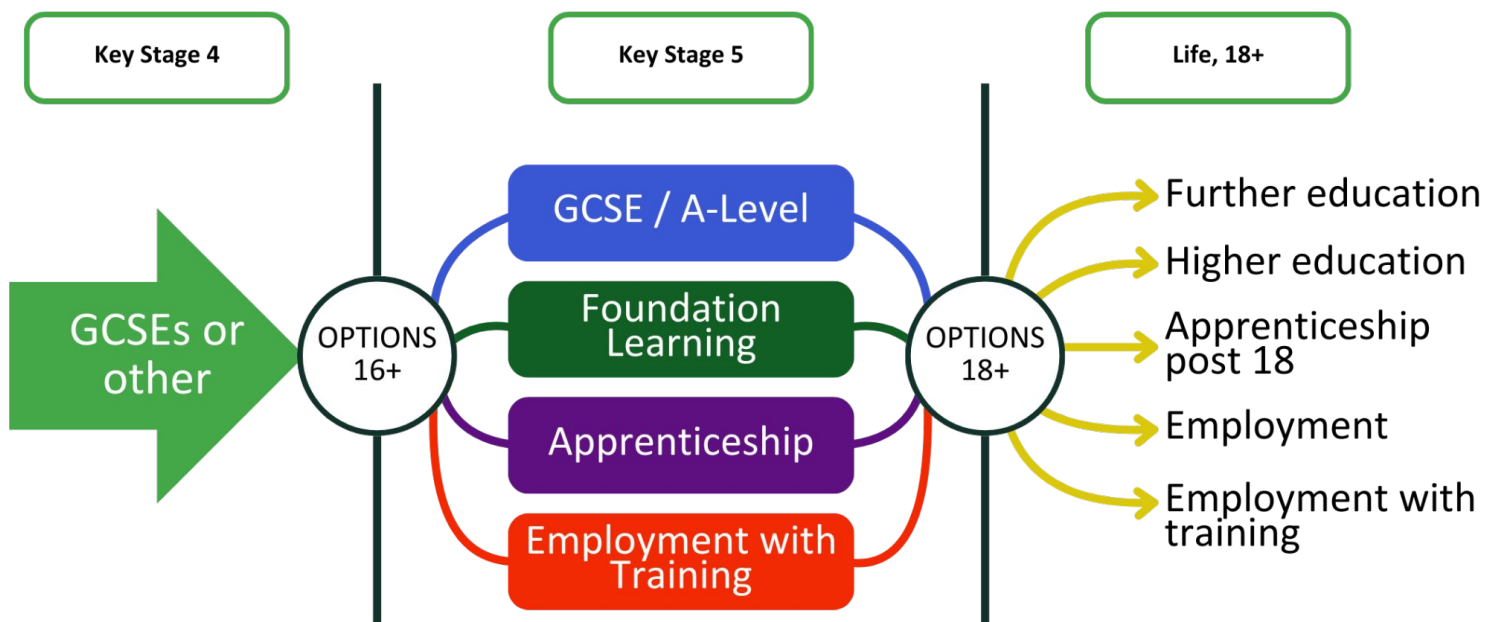
Details of all the subjects and the levels at which you will be studying them are contained in this booklet. GCSEs will be a significant educational qualification for you that can help determine your future career pathway, so it is important that you know exactly what is involved and what you have to do to be successful. So make sure you find out as much as possible before finalising any choices.

- Read this booklet - details of all the subjects and the levels at which you will be studying them are contained in this booklet.
- Talk to your subject teachers.
- Attend the **Y8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4th February, 2026 from 6.00pm.**
- If anything is unclear, ask your tutor.
- Keep your parent/carer informed.
- If you still have an issue with any part of the process, come and see Mr Hamshar.

When you have made your final choices, complete the GCSE Options Google form, **no later than Friday 13th February 2026**. More information will be sent about how to complete this nearer the time.

Students should aim to make selections for GCSEs which will support progression to our Sixth Form and for life beyond education. Students should look ahead at what courses and qualifications they may need for each level beyond Year 11 to ensure their choices allow them to progress as they hope. The range of pathways from Year 9 to higher education or employment post-18 is illustrated below.

The sooner students begin thinking about their long-term ambitions, the easier they will find making their GCSE choices. Students unsure of their long-term plans should select a range of courses offering breadth and balance.



WHAT GCSE SUBJECTS DO I NEED FOR PARTICULAR COURSES AT UNIVERSITY?

If you are thinking of applying to University you will need to have a **GCSE pass in English and Maths** (at grade 4 + or higher).

The **Russell Group** universities (the top 24 in the UK) prefer you to take **facilitating subjects** - these are subjects that will help you to gain entry to the top universities and onto competitive courses.

Facilitating subjects are:

English Language	German
English Literature	French
Maths	Spanish
Chemistry	Geography
Physics	History
Biology	Computer Science

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (E-BACC)?

The E-Bacc is not a qualification in itself but the Government hopes that more pupils will be offered the chance to take a broad core of more traditional academic options. The Government have also argued that many of these subjects will carry more weight for entry into higher education. Higher Education universities do prefer facilitating subjects but the E-Bacc is not an entry requirement.

The E-Bacc is designed to encourage students to choose the six subjects within the E-Bacc which are English, Maths, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Computer Science), a language (French, Spanish or German) and a humanities subject (History or Geography). To achieve the full baccalaureate a humanities and language would need to be selected alongside the core curriculum. Students need to secure a grade 5 or above in all subjects at GCSE level across a core of five academic subjects listed above to achieve the E-Bacc.

THE GCSE GRADING SYSTEM

GCSEs have a grade system from 9 to 1 as highlighted below.

New Grade	Old Grade
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	D
3	E
2	F
1	G
U	U

Grade 9 is beyond an A*

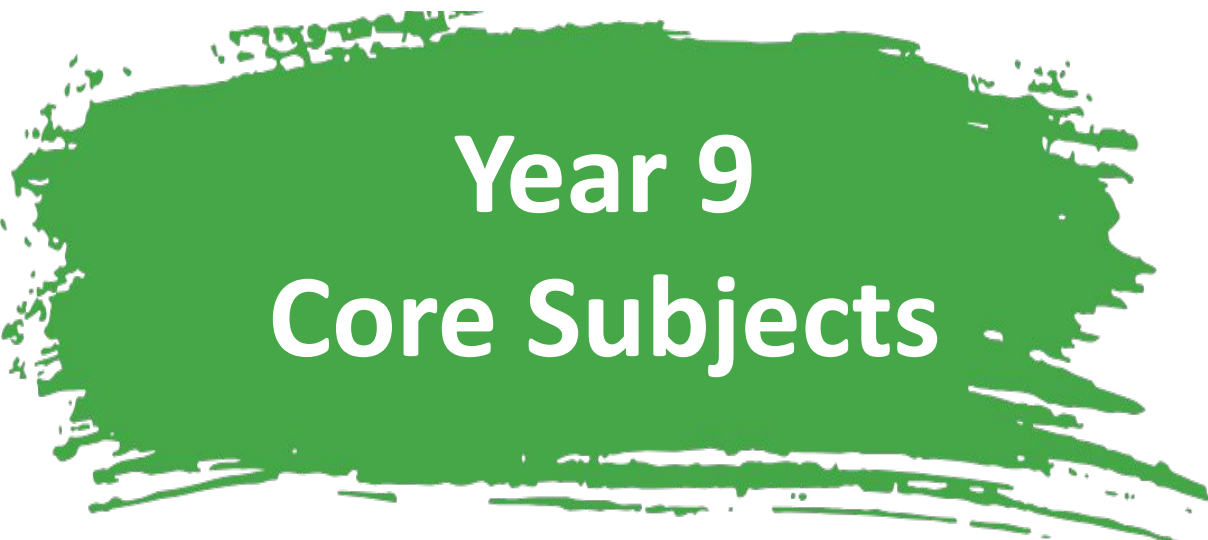
Grade 5 is a STRONG Pass

Grade 4 is a STANDARD Pass

CAREER-SPECIFIC GCSE CONSIDERATIONS

There are also specific subjects that you need if you want to apply for the following courses that lead to particular types of careers:

Architecture	Maths and Physics (Art is also desirable)
Art and Design	Fine Art and/or Photography
Business and Management	Business or Economics or Maths
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry, Physics and Maths
Criminology	Psychology or humanities subjects like History, Law or English
Design	Product Design or Art or Photography
Drama	Drama, English Literature or Language
Economics	Maths or Economics
Engineering	Maths and Physics
English	English Literature or Language and two other literary subjects
Forensic Science	Chemistry or Biology
Geography	Geography
History	History plus two other literary or art based subjects
Law	A wide range of literary or art subjects e.g. History, Law, English
Maths	Maths, Further Maths and/or Physics
Medicine	Chemistry, Biology and Maths or Physics
Modern Languages	French or Spanish or German or another language
Pharmacology/Physiology	Chemistry and Biology
Theology	Philosophy and Ethics or other literary subjects
Politics	Politics, History and possibly a language
Psychology	Psychology and other art or literary based subjects
Sociology	A range of art and science subjects
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology, Maths or Physics



Year 9 Core Subjects

All students will study GCSE courses in the following core subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science

All students will also follow a non-examination course in Core PE and will study PSHE throughout the formal curriculum.

ENGLISH

All students will be entered for two GCSEs in English: GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature with AQA (www.aqa.org.uk).



GCSE English Language

Students will draw upon a range of texts as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

Assessment by Terminal Examination:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
1 hour 45 minutes

GCSE English Literature

Students will develop skills of literal and inferential comprehension, critical reading, evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and text comparison. In their written responses, students will produce clear and coherent texts and write effectively about literature for a range of purposes. They will use Standard English, including accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment by Terminal Examination:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
2 hour 15 minutes

Useful websites:

www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4

www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx

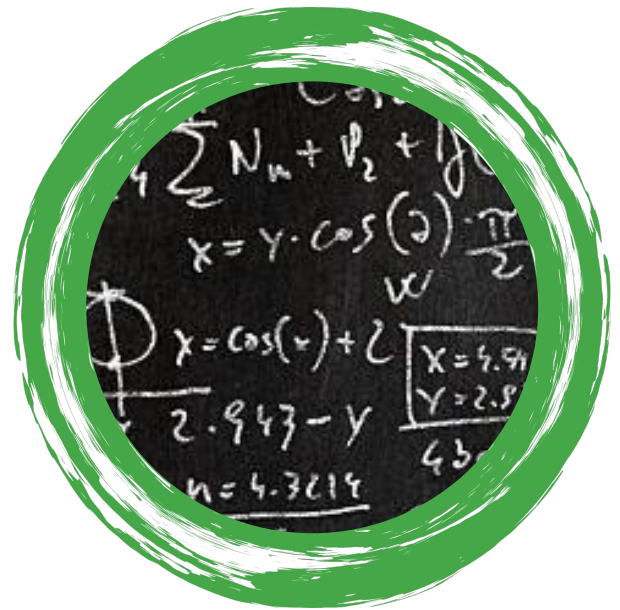
MATHS

The course will cover topics from Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Statistics, Probability, Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change as laid down in the National Curriculum, and will be appropriate for the grades of each tier. There is **no coursework** for GCSE Mathematics.

The exam board is Edexcel

(qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/edexcel.html) The GCSE for Mathematics begins in Year 9 to allow time to stretch and challenge students of all abilities.

This table outlines the percentages of topics covered:



Topic	Approx. Weighting - Foundation Tier	Approx. Weighting - Higher Tier
Number	25%	15%
Algebra	20%	30%
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	25%	20%
Geometry and Measures	15%	20%
Statistics & Probability	15%	15%

Foundation (Grades 1 - 5)	Paper 1 Non-calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)	Paper 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)	Paper 3 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)
Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	Paper 1 Non-calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)	Paper 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)	Paper 3 Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks (33.3% weighting)

Useful websites:

www.drfrost.org

www.mathsgenie.co.uk

www.corbettmaths.com

SCIENCE

What is involved in taking GCSE Science?

All students will study the triple science pathway. This will result in students achieving 3 GCSEs; one in Biology, one in Chemistry, and one in Physics.



How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

The board we use is AQA and the examination part of each GCSE accounts for 100% of the total marks.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

- Numeracy and ability to deal with statistics
- Good control of language and spelling
- Good command of scientific and technical vocabulary
- A precise and informative writing style
- Familiarity with SI units and use of scientific symbols
- Ability to interpret and produce charts and graphs

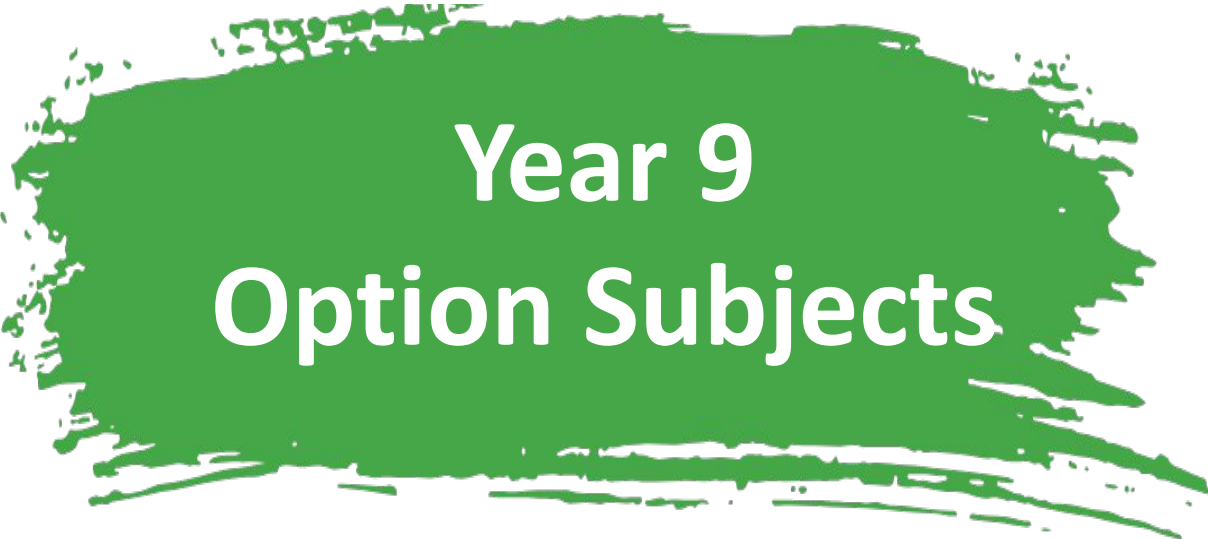
How will this help me prepare for my future?

Science is a method, process, procedure, and system used to study the physical world. If you can see, feel, hear, taste, smell or measure something, Science will investigate. Scientists ask questions about how the world works then gather data to answer the question. Studying Science develops young minds to make informed decisions in the real world. Studying Science at further education opens a number of doors into modern careers in industry, education, medicine, research, military... the list is endless.

Useful websites:

www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv

www.youtube.com/@Freesciencelessons



Year 9 Option Subjects

ART

What is GCSE Art about?

The GCSE Art course allows you to work in a variety of areas such as drawing, painting, printing, collage, computer graphics, ceramics, sculpture and photography. We have a very well equipped department. You will observe the work of other artists, study the reasoning behind their work and gain ideas to inspire your own work. There are also opportunities to visit galleries and exhibitions.



How is GCSE Art structured?

Throughout the course you will complete a Portfolio Unit. The portfolio should be selected from work undertaken during the course of study. It is recommended that the total portfolio submission will comprise of approximately 45 hours of work. Coursework starts in Year 9 from day one and prep work is very important. Students need to be able to build up sketchbooks and so will need basic art equipment of their own at home. The coursework makes up 60% of the GCSE grade. The exam or externally set assignment is a practical test similar to a coursework project with allocated time for students to prepare after the paper has been given to them. The exam is 10 hours over two days and students are expected to produce a final piece in response to the brief set on the exam paper. The exam is worth 40% of the overall grade.

What skills do I need to be successful?

Throughout the course, students will develop their visual literacy skills with an understanding of form, shape, space and colour with particular emphasis on art, craft and design.

How does GCSE Art help me prepare for my future?

In today's culture we are surrounded by art, from architecture to sculpture, from fashion to photography, from painting to advertising. The artist is a valuable person in our modern world. Art and Design is a large employment area in the UK and is growing due to the increase in demand for digital arts. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

www.tate.org.uk/ (the art and artists page is excellent)

www.britishmuseum.org/ (for things to draw)

www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-careers-list

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206

BUSINESS

Why choose GCSE Business?

Business GCSE will help you develop your Communication skills, teamwork skills, I.T knowledge, personal confidence and research skills.

What is involved in taking Business GCSE?

Business GCSE is exam based - there is no coursework element. The course is taught through case studies, guest speakers, role plays, group work, and classroom based discussion. You will be considering questions such as why do large companies sell shares on the stock exchange? What makes one company buy a competitor? What was the most successful UK marketing campaign of all time and why? Why does the government make loans to small businesses?

How is GCSE Business structured?

Paper 1 - Influences of operations and HR on business activity (1 hour 45 minutes)

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources

Paper 2 - Influences of marketing and finance on business activity (1 hour 45 minutes)

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Marketing
- Finance

What skills do I need to be successful?

Skills required include the ability to learn and apply business terms to case studies, good organisation ability, the ability to create structured, logical and extended responses, an enjoyment of Maths, problem solving skills and an interest in watching business programmes on TV.

How does GCSE Business help me prepare for my future?

This course will help you for study A level Business. Following A levels you can take a degree in Business, Management, Economics, Law or Accountancy or any other social science course.

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132/specification-at-a-glance

www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/edexcel-gcse-business-codecracker-activity-1

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82

www.ucas.com/job-subjects/business-studies



CLASSICS

What is GCSE Classics about?

GCSE classics focuses on the study of life in Ancient Greece and Rome. Students will study prescribed literature texts as well as visual and material sources in order to develop their understanding of the social, historical and cultural contexts.



How is GCSE Classics structured?

Paper 1 - Thematic Study

- 90 minute exam
- 90 marks available
- 50% of the GCSE

For this component we will be studying **myth and religion**. This includes:

- The role of the Gods
- Close study of Hercules/Heraclēs
- Temples
- Foundation stories
- Festivals
- Symbols of power
- Death and burial
- Journeys to the underworld

Paper 2 - Literature and Culture

- 90 minute exam
- 90 marks available
- 50% of the GCSE

For this component we will be studying **The Homeric World**. This includes:

- Key sites
- Life in the Mycenaean age
- Decorative arts
- Tombs, graves and burial

Close literary study of Homer's ***Odyssey***:

- Themes
- The portrayal of key characters
- Literary techniques and composition

What skills do I need to be successful?

GCSE classics focuses on the study of life in Ancient Greece and Rome. Students will study prescribed literature texts as well as visual and material sources in order to develop their understanding of the social, historical and cultural contexts.

CLASSICS

How does GCSE Classics help me prepare for my future?

The study of classics will develop your awareness of how classical sources reflect issues relevant to both the classical works and today, such as questions about belief and citizenship. It will equip you with readily transferable analytical skills which are highly valued by employers.

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is OCR

Useful websites:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/classical-civilisation-j199-from-2017/>



COMPUTER SCIENCE

What is GCSE Computer Science about?

The most important aspect of Computer Science is problem solving; an essential skill for life. As we live in a digital age, it is also becoming an essential subject for most of the industries around today.

Computer Science impacts everything, from scientific research to health development, transport, banking, communications to name a few. Students who study Computer Science get far better access to enhanced training and job opportunities from employers in the future.



What skills do I need to be successful?

The skills needed are that you are competent using the computer, that you have an interest in programming and like to look at how software and systems work.

How does GCSE Computer Science help me prepare for my future?

Computer Science is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Students will develop 'underpinning' concepts which are useful in many subjects, for example mathematics, science and engineering. The rigorous approach of the subject will facilitate a smooth transition to the next level of study.

Component 01

Content

The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Weighting 50% of total GCSE

Component 02

Content

This component is focused on computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Weighting 50% of total GCSE

Exam Board

The exam board for the Computer Science GCSE is OCR

Useful websites: <https://code.org>

www.python.org (we are using version 3.4)

www.bbc.co.uk/education (both KS3 and GCSE pages for Computer Science)

DANCE

What is GCSE Dance about?

GCSE Dance is a practical, creative and physical subject that allows students to develop their performance skills, creativity and confidence. Throughout the course, students will:

- Perform dance in solo, duo and group work
- Create their own choreography
- Study and analyse professional dance works
- Explore how dance is used to communicate ideas, emotions and stories

Students will take part in regular practical lessons, with additional written work based on the professional works they study. The course is active, creative and challenging, but extremely rewarding.

How is GCSE Dance structured?

Component 1: Performance and Choreography – 60%

This is the **practical coursework part** of the course and is assessed internally and externally moderated.

Students are assessed on:

Set Phrase Performance – 15%

- Students learn and perform **two short dance phrases** set by AQA

Duo or Trio Performance – 15%

- A group dance performance in a pair or group of three

Choreography – 30%

- Students create their own original dance from a given stimulus



DANCE CONT.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation – 40%

This is a **1 hour 30 minute written exam**.

Students will study **six professional dance works**

The exam includes:

- Short answer questions
- Extended written analysis questions
- One choreography-based question



What skills do I need to be successful?

You **do need** to have some sort of dance background (for example from dance classes, dance clubs, performing arts clubs or previous school dance lessons), but you **do not need to be professionally trained** to take GCSE Dance.

To be successful, students should be willing to develop the following skills:

- Physical & Practical Skills
- Creative Skills
- Personal Skills

How does GCSE Dance help me prepare for my future?

GCSE Dance develops a wide range of **transferable skills** that are valuable for many careers, including:

Performing Arts
Media and Creative Industries
Sport and Fitness
Teaching and Education
Business and Management
Public Speaking and Communication

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/dance-8236>

<https://www.youtube.com/@DanceMadeEasy>

DESIGN + TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

What is GCSE Design & Technology - Product Design about?

If you enjoy **creativity**, **problem-solving**, and taking an idea from concept to a tangible product, then our GCSE in Design and Technology is an ideal subject for you.

This course is designed to equip you with the **knowledge and practical skills** to understand, develop, and manufacture high-quality, functional products. You will learn to work creatively within real-world contexts, taking risks, and testing your ideas rigorously.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

The GCSE is an accessible single qualification that builds upon the fundamental skills learned at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8). You don't need prior specialist knowledge, but a **willingness to experiment** and an **interest in how products work and are made** is essential.

You will develop expertise in a **specialist technical area** (e.g., timbers and/or plastics), allowing you to manufacture high-quality outcomes. Furthermore, the course teaches crucial **transferable skills**, such as project management, critical thinking, collaborative teamwork, and effective communication, all of which are highly valued by universities and employers.

What will I learn?

GCSE Design and Technology provides a comprehensive study of design, covering both **core technical principles** and **specialist technical principles** (e.g., related to your chosen material area like timbers and/or plastics).



DESIGN + TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN CONT.

Key areas of study include:

- **Design and Making Processes:** Applying iterative design methods to create innovative, functional, and fit-for-purpose products.
- **Materials and Components:** Understanding the properties, sources, and uses of a wide range of materials, focusing on your specialist area.
- **Wider Influences on Design:** Gaining awareness of and learning from the crucial **historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors** that shape product design and manufacturing.
- **Commercial Practice:** Exploring modern commercial processes, quality assurance, new and emerging technologies, and career pathways within the design and engineering industries.



You will consistently apply your **technical and practical expertise** throughout the course by working creatively when designing and making.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by the **AQA** examination board and is split into two equally weighted components:

1. **Component 1: Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) - 50% of the GCSE**
 - This is a substantial 'design and make' task set by AQA, completed over approximately 30-35 hours.
 - You will produce a **written or digital portfolio of evidence** detailing your research, design iterations, technical knowledge, and evaluation.
 - The assessment culminates in the successful **manufacture of a final practical outcome** (the product you design).
2. **Component 2: Written Examination - 50% of the GCSE**
 - A single, two-hour written exam is taken in the Summer Term of Year 11.
 - It tests your knowledge of the **Core Technical Principles** and **Specialist Technical Principles** you have studied throughout the course.

Useful websites:

www.bbcbitessize.co.uk - D&T section

DRAMA

What is GCSE Drama about?

This is an exciting course that will offer you the chance to explore the art of drama, theatre and acting, while developing crucial personal, social and life skills you will need in the future. You will examine theatre and stagecraft in a practical way from the point of view of a performer, director, designer and an audience member. Students have the opportunity to devise their own work, as well as studying numerous plays through practical workshops, bringing 'page to stage'.



How is GCSE Drama structured?

Component 1 - Written exam

40% of GCSE

1 hour 45 minutes

Three sections - 80 marks total.

4 multiple choice questions

4 questions on the play "Blood Brothers".

1 question on live theatre seen

Exam sat in the Summer Term of Year 11. Marked by exam board.

Component 2 - Devising drama (practical) with written portfolio

40% of GCSE

Performance with 2500 essay or design portfolio

Students are given a variety of stimuli to devise from. They will create a performance or design specialisation (10%) and document the journey with a 2000-2500 word portfolio (30%) or design portfolio

Can be completed in Year 10. Teacher assessed and moderated by exam board.

Component 3 - Texts in practice (practical)

20% of GCSE

Practical exam performed to examiner

Performance of two extracts from one play. Can be performed as a monologue, duologue or group. Students have the alternative option of choosing a design specialism e.g. costume, set, lighting or sound

External examiner visits to mark the students in Year 11.

DRAMA CONT.



What skills do I need to be successful?

To succeed on this course, you need to be an excellent team-player and have superb creative, listening and problem-solving skills. You must enjoy performing, have self-discipline, motivation and strong organisation skills.

Drama is a fantastic subject if you want to undertake a course that is both practical and theoretical.

The written work is merely an extension of what we study practically in class, but please understand the written work is crucial for success and has to have your full commitment in order to pass. Rehearsal of practical work is completed in lessons and after school, so time management and a willingness to rehearse in your own time is essential.

How does GCSE Drama help me prepare for my future?

GCSE Drama is popular with all employers and further education establishments, as it demonstrates that you have developed your personal, social and life skills. Drama improves self-expression, confidence, creativity, initiative and communication. This subject is a good choice if you are considering any career path where collaboration, creativity or communication are at the heart of the job, such as; the police, teaching, armed forces, design, retail and of course any aspects of performing arts or design. Drama enables you to develop transferable skills which you can take into ANY career.

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/specifications/AQA-8261-SP-2016.PDF> (exam specification)

<https://yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/> - watch as much live theatre as possible

[New Victoria Theatre, Woking Box Office | Buy Tickets Online | ATG Tickets](#) - watch as much live theatre as possible

ECONOMICS

What is GCSE Economics about?

GCSE Economics AQA (8136) is a qualification focused on how consumers, producers, and governments make choices in a world of limited resources.

It covers two main areas: how markets work (e.g., supply and demand, costs, competition) and how the economy works (e.g., government objectives, national and global economy, financial markets).

The course requires students to use their knowledge to investigate real-world economic issues, develop quantitative skills, and assess ethical and sustainability factors. Assessment is through two written exams at the end of the course, which include multiple-choice, calculation, and short and extended response questions.

How is GCSE Economics structured?

How markets work and how the economy works

- Economic foundations: The basic economic problem (unlimited wants, limited resources), factors of production (land, labour, capital, enterprise), and the roles of consumers, producers, and government.
- Market mechanism: Supply and demand, price determination, competition, and costs, revenue, and profit for firms.
- Market failure: An investigation into factors that lead to market failure, such as externalities.
- Market structures. Including Monopoly, oligopoly, perfect and imperfect competition

Assessment

The qualification is linear, meaning all exams are taken at the end of the course. There are two written exams.

Exam paper 1: Section A includes 10 multiple-choice questions, followed by calculation, short, and extended response questions. Section B includes a mix of calculation, short, and extended response questions.

- Exam paper 2: Will assess the ability to draw together knowledge and skills from across the entire course and provide extended responses.

Exam Board

The exam board that we use is AQA.



GEOGRAPHY



What is involved in taking GCSE Geography?

The GCSE covers a wide range of physical, human and environmental geography topics as well as giving students numerous geography skills that transfer well to many other GCSE subjects.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?
The exam board and specification is Edexcel Geography Specification A

Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment
37.5% of total GCSE
1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment
37.5% of total GCSE
1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3 - Geographical applications
25% of total GCSE
1 hour

Paper 1 - The Physical Environment	Paper 2 - The Human Environment
<p data-bbox="57 1339 770 1429">Paper 1 is divided into three sections (A, B and C).</p> <p data-bbox="57 1485 746 1574">Section A: The Changing Landscape of the UK</p> <ul data-bbox="121 1585 778 1720" style="list-style-type: none">• The Changing Landscape of the UK• Coastal Landscapes and Processes, River Landscapes and Processes <p data-bbox="57 1776 767 1865">Section B: Weather Hazards and Climate Change</p> <ul data-bbox="121 1877 751 2056" style="list-style-type: none">• Climate in the UK• Natural and human climate change• Tropical cyclones• Drought	<p data-bbox="813 1339 1527 1429">Paper 2 is divided into three sections (A, B and C).</p> <p data-bbox="813 1485 1289 1529">Section A: Changing Cities</p> <ul data-bbox="877 1541 1513 1675" style="list-style-type: none">• Urbanisation and change in the UK• Growth of world cities and Mexico City. <p data-bbox="813 1731 1369 1776">Section B: Global Development</p> <ul data-bbox="877 1787 1449 1966" style="list-style-type: none">• Our impact on the world• Transition of countries through different levels of development.• Case study: India <p data-bbox="813 2022 1417 2067">Section C: Resource Management</p> <ul data-bbox="877 2078 1321 2123" style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Management

GEOGRAPHY CONT.



Section C: Ecosystems and management

- Tropical rainforests structure, use and management.
- Deciduous forests structure, use and management.

- Water Resource Management

Paper 3 - Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

Paper 3 is divided into three sections (A, B and C).

Section A: Geographical Investigations - Physical Environments

- Coastal Landscapes - fieldtrip to West Wittering

Section B: Geographical Investigations - Human Environments

- Central/Inner Urban Areas - fieldtrip to East London

Section C: UK Challenges

- These questions will be about applying what you have learnt for Papers 1 and 2 to a contemporary UK challenge

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

- An interest in the world around you, how we influence the environment and how it affects us.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Ability to analyse and interpret different sources of information e.g. maps, graphs, photographs and written sources.
- Capable of looking at issues from different perspectives.

GEOGRAPHY CONT.



How does GCSE Geography help me prepare for my future?

- Geography will develop many geographical and transferable skills e.g. data and statistics, map reading, analysing and interpreting information, decision making, ICT skills, critical analysis, fieldwork skills and many more.
- A highly regarded subject by education providers and employers.
- A clear understanding of the world you live in, the current issues we face, and how to be a responsible global citizen.

Exam Board

The exam board and specification is Edexcel Geography Specification A

Useful websites:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-A/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse2016-l12-geography-a-issue4.pdf>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsytxsg>

<https://www.internetgeography.net/topics/>

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science and environment](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



What is GCSE Health & Social Care about?

Health & Social Care is an optional subject at KS4.. The exam board is Pearson BTEC. The qualification taken is the Level ½ BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care, which is equivalent to a GCSE.

The course covers a broad range of topics, including: Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development: Focusing on physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development through life. Component 2: Health & Social Care Services & Values- Understanding different services and the essential values of care work. Component 3: Health & wellbeing - Understanding factors that affect health & wellbeing, physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person centred approaches to making recommendations to improve health and wellbeing.

- Skills development: Students develop practical and transferable skills such as empathy, communication, and problem-solving.
- Assessment: Component 1 & 2 are both worth 30% each and are internal PSA's. (Pearson Set Assignments) Each has 6 hours of supervised time and are marked out of 60. Total 60% of qualification.
- Component 3 is worth 40% and is an external synoptic exam sat in May of Year 11.

The course will consist of three lessons per week and involves three units as outlined above. Core content will be taught in Year 9, one coursework unit completed in Year 10 (Component 1) and two units (Component 2 coursework & Component 3 exam) completed in Year 11. The course utilises a wide range of skills and assessment methods, including writing of coursework, performance of practical skills such as role-plays, theory and practical application that lead to a developing a broad a range of skills in research techniques and measuring physical health, as well as developing written communication to create health and wellbeing plans. This course is taught and complements topics in GCSE Biology, Psychology and other practical qualifications and can lead to progression , including A Levels or a BTEC National in Health & Social Care.

Useful websites:

[Health & Social Care \(2022\) | BTEC Tech Award | Pearson qualifications](#)

[BTEC Tech Award Knowledge Organisers | Reference Library | Health & Social Care | tutor2u](#)

HISTORY



What is involved in taking GCSE History?

Students have already started their journey towards GCSE History by developing the skills needed to be successful through KS3.

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

Exam Board and Specification: Edexcel GCSE History 9-1 (2016)

Paper 1 - British Thematic Study and Historic Environment

- Medicine in Britain c1250 - present
- The British Sector on the Western Front 1941 - 1991

Paper 2 - Period Study and British Depth Study

- Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 1588
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941 - 1991

Paper 3 - Modern Depth Study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

In History you will need to interpret, analyse and use thinking skills. You will need to show the use of independent thought, evaluation skills and the ability to use pictorial and written sourced material. Students will build strong chronological understanding, learning how different periods connect and influence each other over time. Students will develop their ability to explain why events happened, what changed or stayed the same, and why some moments or individuals matter more than others.

Students will explore different interpretations of the past, learning that history is not just about facts, but about how those facts are understood and debated. Using sources from the time, students learn to investigate what life was like and how we know about it.

HISTORY CONT.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

History gives you a broad range of knowledge and understanding, including a sense of development over time, and an appreciation of the culture and attitudes of societies other than our own.

The top 20 universities list History as *the* most important subject students can study due to transferable skills students gain while completing the GCSE. Good Historians can answer questions on how the world has worked in the past and make informed decisions about how it will work in the future. History develops young minds to make reasoned decisions in the real world. Studying History at further education opens a number of doors into modern careers in law, education, research, politics and even finance.

Useful websites:

[BBC Bitesize - Edexcel History](#)

[Edexcel History Past Papers](#)

[Seneca - Paper 1: Medicine Through Time](#)

[Seneca - Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England](#)

[Seneca - Paper 2: Superpowers and the Cold War](#)

[Seneca - Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany](#)



HOSPITALITY & CATERING



What is GCSE Hospitality & Catering about?

This course offers a highly practical approach to learning, with weekly hands-on lessons designed to build essential new culinary skills. To succeed and maximize your learning, it's crucial that you are prepared to bring in your own ingredients for these practical sessions at least once a week.

In addition to the practical component, you'll engage in in-depth theory work. This includes gaining a comprehensive understanding of the wider hospitality and catering industries, alongside developing excellent knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating principles.

How is GCSE Hospitality & Catering structured?

The curriculum is divided into both theoretical and practical elements:

- **Theoretical Units:** You will study four core units covering the Hospitality & Catering industry, Health and Safety regulations, and Food Safety & Hygiene standards.
- **Practical & Culinary Skills:** You will also master nutrition principles and a range of increasingly challenging food preparation and cooking techniques.

How will I be assessed?

Your overall grade is determined by two main components:

1. **Written Examination (Theory):** Your knowledge from the four theoretical units will be assessed through regular progress tests and a final written examination in Year 11.
2. **Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):** Your practical expertise and application of skills will be assessed through a major Non-Examined Assessment (NEA), which includes a comprehensive practical assessment component.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING CONT.



What skills do I need to be successful?

- Exceptional time management and organisation: Essential for successful practical work and meeting deadlines.
- Willingness to collaborate: The ability to work effectively and positively as part of a team.
- A keen interest: Passion for food, cooking, and nutrition will drive your engagement and success.

How does GCSE Hospitality & Catering help me prepare for my future?

This qualification is an ideal foundation for anyone considering a future career within the dynamic hospitality and catering industries. Furthermore, the course instills valuable, transferable life skills in areas like planning, budgeting, hygiene, and nutrition, benefiting you long after you complete the course.

Exam Board

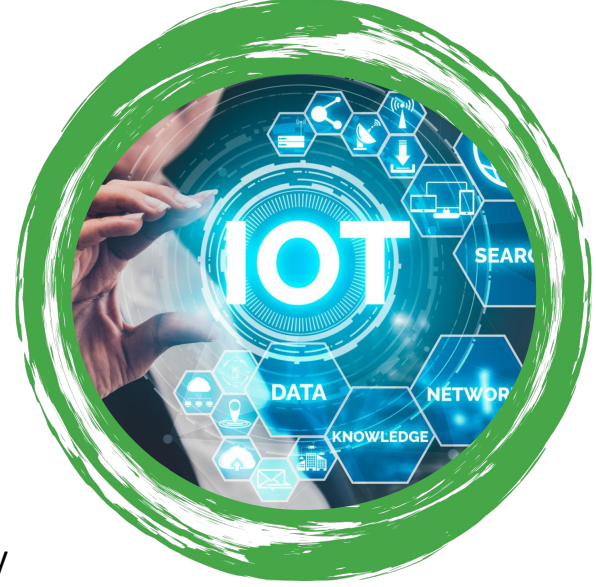
The qualification is awarded by the Eduqas/WJEC Exam Board.

Useful websites:

www.bbcgoodfood.com

www.foodafactoflife.org.uk

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Why choose Information Technologies?

Cambridge National IT will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the IT sector. You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations.

How will I be assessed?

OCR Cambridge Nationals is the exam board.

What skills will I develop during the course?

- Using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products
- Creating data manipulation spreadsheets

Unit Title: IT in the digital world

Contents of the Unit: In this unit you will learn about design and testing concepts for creating an IT solution or product, and the uses of IT in the digital world

Weighting: Exam is 40% of certificate

Unit Title: Data manipulation using spreadsheets

Contents of the Unit: In this unit you will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client's requirements

Weighting: Internal Assessment is 30% of certificate

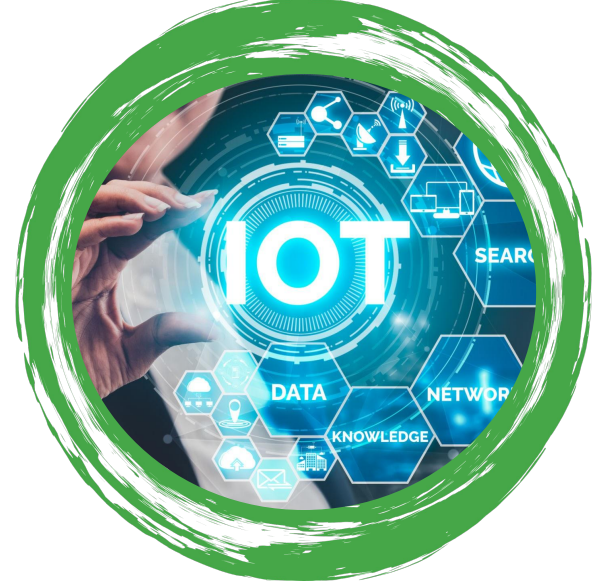
Unit Title: Using Augmented Reality to present information

Contents of the Unit: In this unit you will learn how to design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements

Weighting: Internal Assessment is 30% of certificate

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONT.

- Creating an Augmented Reality prototype
- Planning and designing IT solutions and products for a given purpose
- Selecting the best tools and techniques to solve a problem
- Solving problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques
- Creating IT solutions and digital products
- Use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised and timely way
- Finding imaginative ways to solve IT problems



Is this the right subject for me?

If you like project work and using practical skills you may find a Cambridge National a better option than a GCSE. If you also like learning new skills in different packages which will be used in life and work situations, the Cambridge National IT could be for you.

Useful websites:

www.ocr.org.uk/Images/371960-specification.pdf

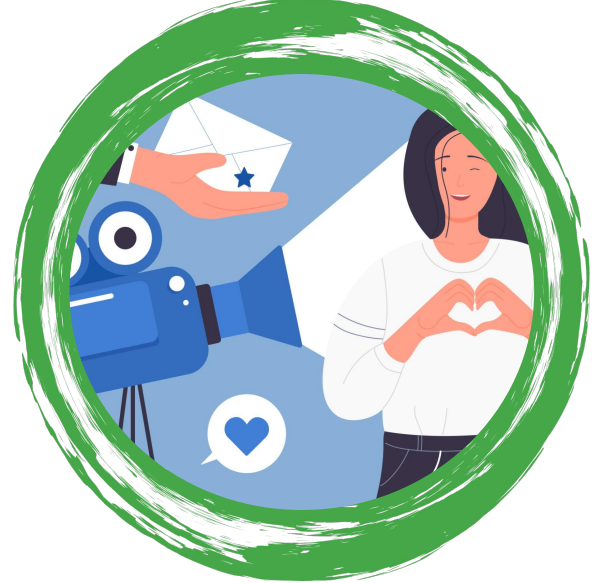
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zprwdmn

MEDIA STUDIES

What is involved in taking Media studies GCSE?

Media studies looks at:

- How the media works
- How the media is created, and by whom
- The reasons the media tells you some things and not others
- Why the media shapes your decisions on everything that affects you



How is GCSE Media Studies structured?

We use the Eduqas exam board. There are two 90-minute exams at the end of Year 11. This is 70% of the final mark. This is on a wide variety of media products that will have been researched throughout the GCSE course. There is also a Non Exam Assessment (Coursework) that makes up 30% of the final mark. Each year the exam board release a fresh set of briefs for the cohort. The briefs have in the past covered making your own media such as a television sequence, some radio products, a website, a music video, sections of a newspaper, sections of a magazine, or an advertising campaign. You will be offered guidance on which brief to choose from the ones released for your year to use your strengths effectively. In each assignment there is some written work (a short statement) and quite a lot of practical work.

What skills do I need to be successful?

An interest in the media and the world around you is essential. You do need to be creative, as you will be developing ideas for a huge variety of media products. A good level of English is also required, as the exams will feature some longer essay questions for which your skill at developing a well-supported argument will be assessed, as well as your knowledge of the world of media. Students who are curious about the world, self-motivated and hard-working will find the course very enjoyable.

How does GCSE Media Studies help me prepare for my future?

As well as giving you a better understanding of how all current forms of media work, it will give you the skills to research a topic, organise your ideas, and run a successful practical project. It will not teach you how to be a TV presenter (but it might teach you how to deal with the press if you become famous). It will definitely give you the knowledge to use the media to your advantage in almost any job you can think of. Media would suit students interested in Journalism, TV and Film and Advertising, and it goes well with subjects like History, Art and Photography.

Useful websites:

www.mediaknowall.com/gcse/gcse.php

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What is GCSE Modern Foreign Language about?

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? Parlez-vous français? ¿Habla español?

Learning a language is a life-long skill you will use when **travelling, studying, working**, or simply **impressing people**.

- **72% of UK businesses** want employees who speak **another language**.
- Languages are ranked as one of the **top skills employers look for** (just behind digital skills!).
- The most valued languages in the UK job market are **German, French and Spanish**.
- The UK trades globally. **Linguists have a huge advantage**, even if you are not fluent.
- Put simply: **the UK economy NEEDS language speakers**.

What is involved at GCSE?

You will need to choose the Languages you have learnt in Year 8 as this has built a strong foundation.

You will build real-world communication skills in:

Listening • Reading • Speaking • Writing • Translation

Lessons are **interactive, engaging** and focused on everyday life.

You will learn to hold **confident conversations** across a wide range of topics.

Love languages? You can **take two** to boost your future further. How is the course structured, and which exam board do we use?

We follow **Edexcel GCSE Languages**, a course designed to help you become a confident communicator and a global citizen.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONT.

You will explore:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



You will also have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Germany, Spain or France during either Year 9 or Year 10.

What skills do I need to be successful in this subject?

To thrive in MFL you should:

- Have good literacy skills
- Show attention to detail
- Be willing to keep trying, even when it's challenging
- Be curious about other countries and cultures

Students who choose a language develop resilience, independence, confidence and problem-solving skills.

How will GCSE French/German/Spanish help me prepare for my future?

Languages are highly respected by colleges, universities and employers.

- Many universities consider them facilitating subjects
- Some even require a GCSE language for entry to any course
- A language qualification can increase your earning potential
- Useful in careers such as business, engineering, law, tourism, media, fashion, science, IT, marketing, and many, many more fields.

Put simply: Future Career Prospects = The world is your oyster.

A GCSE in a language can enhance your future job prospects, even if the job isn't specifically related to languages.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONT.



Put simply: Future Career Prospects = The world is your oyster.

A GCSE in a language can enhance your future job prospects, even if the job isn't specifically related to languages.

On average, people with a language qualification earn significantly more per year than those without. Languages are valuable in a wide range of careers.

Think Ahead. Think about your role in the world of work. Think about Languages.

A skill for life.

Useful websites:

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.duolingo.com

www.uk.babbel.com

MUSIC



What is GCSE Music about?

This is an exciting course that will offer you the chance to explore the art of musical performance, composition and a range of musical styles while developing crucial personal, social and life skills you will need in the future. You will explore musical performance in a practical way through solo and ensemble work. You will have the opportunity to create your own music in a variety of styles.

How is GCSE Music structured?

Unit 1 - Performance

30% of GCSE

A minimum of 2 pieces lasting a total of 4 - 6 minutes, recorded in the year of assessment

Teacher assessed

All performances are completed in Year 11

Practical Coursework (15%)

One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute. One piece linked to an Area of Study.

Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly. You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option.

Practical Coursework (15%)

The second performance can be a solo or an ensemble.

Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly. You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option.

Unit 2 - Composition

30% of GCSE

2 completed composition pieces lasting a total of 3 - 6 minutes

Teacher assessed. Composition 1 can be started in Year 10. Composition 2 completed in Year 11.

Practical Coursework (15%)

One composition in response to a brief set by Edquas - there are 4 to choose from each year.

Practical Coursework (15%)

A second composition in any style you wish.

MUSIC CONT.

Unit 3 - Listening & Appraising
40% of GCSE

Examiner Assessed

Exam sat in Summer Term of Year 11

Written Examination

Listening Examination

8 questions, 2 on each area of study:

- Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work)
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music (including a set work)

GCSE Music requires students to use listening, performance and composing skills. You will be expected to listen and experience music from all over the world and throughout history to more recent music. Students who are enthusiastic, have good listening and performance skills would be well suited to this course.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

GCSE Music is popular with employers and colleges because it helps you develop the important personal, social and life skills they are looking for. Self-expression, confidence and courage, self-discipline, initiative, communication and group work skills are all developed in Music as well as an ability to respond to, develop and present ideas in a creative way. This subject is a good choice if you are considering any career path where teamwork, creativity or communication are key aspects, such as the police, teaching, armed forces, design, retail, travel and tourism etc and of course any performing arts. Music is all about helping you develop transferable skills which you can take into most careers.

Useful websites:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/by5boopf/eduqas-gcse-music-spec-from-2016-d.pdf> (exam specification)



PHOTOGRAPHY

What is GCSE Photography about?

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspired creative thinkers.

Photography means 'drawing with light' and this is what many photographers do when they take a picture. Many photographers have explored various techniques to create images that make a personal statement about things that have interested or concerned them. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.



How is GCSE Photography structured?

In Year 9 you will complete a number of workshops on how to use a Digital SLR camera in manual mode, how to use digital manipulation software such as Photoshop and how to arrange and take good photographs. In Year 10 you will develop work for a personal investigation into a theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total GCSE marks. In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total GCSE marks.

What skills do I need to be successful?

GCSE Photography is a practical course in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. You will find out about a whole range of techniques and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish. An ability to self-manage, be well organised and take creative risks will help lots.

How does GCSE Photography help me prepare for my future?

Photography is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects. GCSE Photography career development suggests; Animation, Commercial Photography, Creative & Editorial Photography, Digital Media, Fashion Photography, Film & Television, Film & Visual Culture, Forensic Photography, Graphics with Photography, Medical Photography, Visual Communication.

Exam Board

The Exam Board we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zgwpnbk/revision/1>

<https://www.npg.org.uk/>

<https://www.studentartguide.com/>

PHYSICAL

EDUCATION

What is GCSE Physical Education about?

Over the three years you will be assessed in a number of individual activities/sports such as table tennis, badminton and athletics and team sports such as netball, handball and football. There are directed sports you can be assessed in and your strongest three activities will be taken forward to final moderation.



You **MUST** be playing competitive sports outside of school as consistent and regular practice will ensure the highest marks are achieved. You will be required to collate video evidence regularly of your performance in your competitive fixtures for your clubs outside of school. From Year 9-11 you will get 6 GCSE lessons every 2 weeks. This will be made up of 2 practical lessons and 4 classroom based lessons. The content in theory lessons is of a similar level to Biology in Science. You will also have to complete an independent piece of coursework in which you will need to analyse your own sporting performance identifying related to competition in your preferred main activity. You will also be assessed on your ability to identify your own strengths and weaknesses, suggesting ways that you could improve.

How is GCSE Physical Education structured?

The practical element of the course accounts for **30%** of the overall mark.

The theory element of the course accounts for **70%** of the overall mark.

What skills do I need to be successful?

You must have both a strong practical ability and theoretical knowledge. You should be achieving at least 70% in your Yr7 and 8 assessments. Falling short of this level will make it incredibly difficult to achieve a grade 4 at the end of the course. You should have at least one specialism which you must play to a high standard outside of school, for a recognised club - you will need this in order to gain a good practical mark and to complete the coursework requirements. A willingness to learn new sports and spend extra time outside of school to develop upon your skills is vital to being successful. As this is a science-based subject, the theory side of the course requires the same academic skills as Science GCSE.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CONT.



How does GCSE Physical Education help me prepare for my future?

A good grade at GCSE will allow you to study Physical Education further at either A Level or BTEC Level 3.

Although not essential, studying Physical Education has links to many areas of employment, such as: Sports Science, Sports Coaching, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, Chiropractor, Sports Journalism, Personal Trainer/Instructor, Sports Marketing, Lifeguarding, Youth Work, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Teaching and the medical profession.

Exam Board

The Exam Board we use is AQA.

Useful websites:

www.activesurrey.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zp49cwx

www.senecalearning.com

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582

PSYCHOLOGY

What is GCSE Psychology about?

AQA GCSE Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, designed to help students understand why people think, feel, and act the way they do while developing skills in analysis, evaluation, and research. Students will explore dramatic case studies like Phineas Gage, the railway worker whose personality completely changed after a traumatic brain injury, the case of Henry Molaison (HM), who lost the ability to form new memories after surgery. These topics like memory, social influence, and mental health, make psychology feel like detective work: piecing together clues about how the brain and behaviour are connected.



What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

To succeed in GCSE Psychology, you need strong critical thinking and analytical skills to evaluate theories and case studies, along with the ability to write clear, structured essays that use evidence effectively. Research methods are a big part of the course, you'll also need maths skills such as calculating percentages, interpreting graphs, and understanding averages. A good memory helps with recalling key studies and psychologists, while application skills allow you to link psychological concepts to everyday life.

How is Psychology structured?

Paper	Focus	Topics	Assessment
Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour	How we think, learn, and develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Memory- Perception- Development- Research Methods	Written exam (1 hr 45 mins), 50% of GCSE
Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour	How we interact and respond socially	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social Influence- Language, Thought and Communication- Brain and Neuropsychology- Psychological Problems	Written exam (1 hr 45 mins), 50% of GCSE

Useful websites:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

<https://studyrocket.co.uk/revision/gcse-psychology-aqa>

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What is involved in taking Religious Studies at GCSE?

Students will study each key beliefs and teachings of two chosen religions, and explore thematic ethical issues, examining religious and non-religious responses to topics such as relationships and families, crime and punishment, peace and conflict, abortion and euthanasia. Throughout the course, students learn to explain beliefs, compare viewpoints, apply scripture, and evaluate arguments in preparation for the final written examinations.



How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

The course followed is AQA Religious Studies (Specification A).

Students will sit two written papers:

Paper 1 - A study of Christianity and Islam

Paper 2 - Themes and ethical issues

There is no coursework or other assessment for this course.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

You will enjoy this course and succeed in it if you are interested in the bigger questions in life, such as where we come from and who created us and the world we live in, as well as controversial ethical issues, such as assisted dying, abortion, capital punishment and how we look after the environment. You will do best if you have an enquiring mind that can see issues from more than one point of view.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

Studying Religious Studies at GCSE will give you the skills you need to undertake a variety of roles in the future, as you will be able to examine a range of evidence and come to a balanced conclusion. You will also have the skills to see things from more than one point of views; skills which are valuable in law, business, medicine and politics. It will also give you a good grounding to study philosophy and ethics at A-level.

Useful websites:

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/>

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/gcse-religious-studies-revision/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zigx47h>

ART & DESIGN - TEXTILE DESIGN

What is Textile Design about?

This course is highly creative and practical, involving extensive visual research, deep material and process experimentation, sophisticated design development, and skilled making of textile outcomes. You should have a passionate interest in the world of art, textiles, fashion, and design.



What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

Good time management and organisation: Essential for managing portfolio deadlines and complex projects.

Strong self-motivation: The ability to work independently and drive your own creative projects.

A keen interest: Passion for art, fashion, and the Textile Design world.

Willingness to be experimental: A desire to take creative risks and explore new materials and techniques.

Observational and drawing skills: Crucial for recording research and developing initial design ideas.

What will I learn?

You will learn a wide range of practical textile techniques across different disciplines, including:

Surface Decoration: Techniques such as screen printing, dyeing, batik, and heat press transfer.

Stitch and Construction: Machine embroidery, appliqué, manipulative textiles, and constructing fabric forms or garments.

You will learn how to respond to a given project theme or starting point by:

Carrying out effective critical and contextual research into the work of relevant artists and designers.

Engaging in in-depth experimentation with materials and processes.

Developing and refining original ideas through a range of design techniques.

Analysing and evaluating the work of others, as well as critiquing your own creative journey and final outcome.

How is Textile Design GCSE structured and what exam board do we use?

The OCR Art and Design GCSE (Textile Design) is structured around two equally weighted units:

Unit 1: Portfolio (Non-Examined Assessment - NEA): This component accounts for 60% of your final grade. You will complete this coursework throughout the course, typically focusing on a sustained project or a collection of themed works. It showcases the breadth and depth of your creative journey, from research to final design ideas.

ART + DESIGN - TEXTILE DESIGN CONT.

Unit 2: Externally Set Task (Exam): This component accounts for 40% of your final grade. In Year 11, you will respond to a theme set by the exam board, culminating in a 10-hour supervised practical period where you produce your final piece. The exam board that we follow is OCR.

Please note that due to curriculum constraints and overlap, students are unable to choose both GCSE Textile Design and GCSE Art & Design and/or GCSE Photography.

How will this course help me prepare for my future?

This course provides an excellent, skills-based foundation for progression into further studies such as A-Level Art & Design, Fashion, Textiles, or Foundation Diplomas in Art and Design. The course helps you to be analytical, experimental, and open-minded, significantly developing your creative and problem-solving abilities which are valued in many career paths.

Useful websites:

www.vogue.co.uk

www.vam.ac.uk



TRAVEL + TOURISM

BTEC Tech Award Level 1 / 2

What is involved in taking the BTEC Tech Award in Travel & Tourism?

Over the course of the qualification you will cover three units of work. Year 9 (core content will be taught from both internal and external components of the course).

In Year 10, Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations will be taught and an internal piece of coursework will be completed in February of Year 10; Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism will be taught in the summer term of Year 10 and the internal coursework will be completed in October of Year 11; and Component 3 is the external exam, the content of which will be delivered in the spring and summer term of Year 11 with the exam in the summer.

Unit 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations

36 guided learning hours, 30% of final grade and an internal piece of coursework. Completed February Year 10

Unit 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

36 guided learning hours, 30% of final grade and an internal piece of coursework. Completed October Year 11.

Unit 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

36 guided learning hours, 30% of final grade and an external exam.

The rationale for all qualifications in the Pearson BTEC awards in Travel and Tourism is to:

Inspire you to consider a career in the travel and tourism sector

Give you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the travel and tourism sector

Support progression to Level 3 vocational or academic tourism course or an apprenticeship

Have the opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of job roles across the travel and tourism sector, for example posts in travel agencies, visitor attractions and the tourist information centre

How is the course structured and what exam board do we use?

The course will consist of three lessons per week and involves three units as outlined above. Core content will be taught in Year 9, one coursework unit completed in Year 10

(Component 1) and two units (Component 2 coursework & Component 3 exam) completed in Year 11. The Exam Board is Pearson.



TRAVEL + TOURISM CONT.

What skills do I need to be successful in the subject?

The skills that you will need/learn in this subject are transferable to a range of qualifications that you will study. These include: researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. You can use these transferable skills in a range of jobs within the travel and tourism industry.



How will this help me prepare for my future?

If you are interested in working in the Leisure or Tourism industries, this could be the course that can help you develop skills that you will need to succeed in this area.

Useful websites:

www.visitbritain.com/gb/en

www.qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/travel-and-tourism-2022.html