

Hoe Valley School



Year 8 GCSE Preferences

Subject Brochure for September 2022



Inspiring a Love of Learning



HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs J Davies

Your son/daughter is entering an exciting time in their secondary education where they choose the subjects they will study for the next three years. We have tried to make the process as simple as possible but appreciate it can sometimes be challenging to navigate your way through the choices and pathways. I would encourage you to make full use of all the resources we provide: this booklet, the online Preferences Evening itself and via meetings with subject leaders and senior staff at the School. There are many elements to consider in making the right GCSE choices and we have tried to provide as broad a choice as possible in a structure whereby as many students as possible are able to study their first choice subjects.

One change in recent years is the initiative from the Department for Education known as the English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) and Progress 8. The English Baccalaureate is designed to encourage students to choose (and schools to create pathways for) the six subjects within the E-Bacc. These are English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, a language (French, German or Spanish) and a humanities subject (History or Geography). To complete a Progress 8 pathway students would select an E-Bacc subject in addition to their science curriculum. To achieve the full baccalaureate a humanity and a language would need to be selected alongside the core curriculum.

As a school we will provide pathways which will enable all students the opportunity to meet these measures without limiting their choices. This topic will be expanded upon at the online Preferences Event and there will be an opportunity to ask questions that you may have.

You may also be aware that The Department for Education has also changed how the GCSE subjects will be graded. In 2018 the traditional grading system of A*- G was replaced with a new grading system based on numbers and students will be awarded these from 9 – 1.

Consultation and Advice

We will be actively working with students to inform, consult and support them as they begin their GCSE courses. We look very closely at individual levels of ability and aptitude to ensure all students realise their potential with each student having an individual discussion with their tutor to talk about their preferences. Following excellent feedback on last year's event, our Year 8 Preferences Event will be held online again this year. More information about this will follow closer to the time, but we are confident that it will still ensure you have access to all of the information you need to make an informed decision.

We design and tailor our curriculum around the needs of every child changing our curriculum offer every year. Therefore we do also ask students to provide a reserve choice in case we are unable to fulfil all of their choices. We will always do this with the involvement of parents and students.

I hope that you find this booklet useful and I look forward to working with you over the coming weeks as we move into the next exciting and challenging part of your son/daughter's education at Hoe Valley School.

Kind Regards

Miss S Austen
Assistant Head Teacher

Something Further to Consider

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

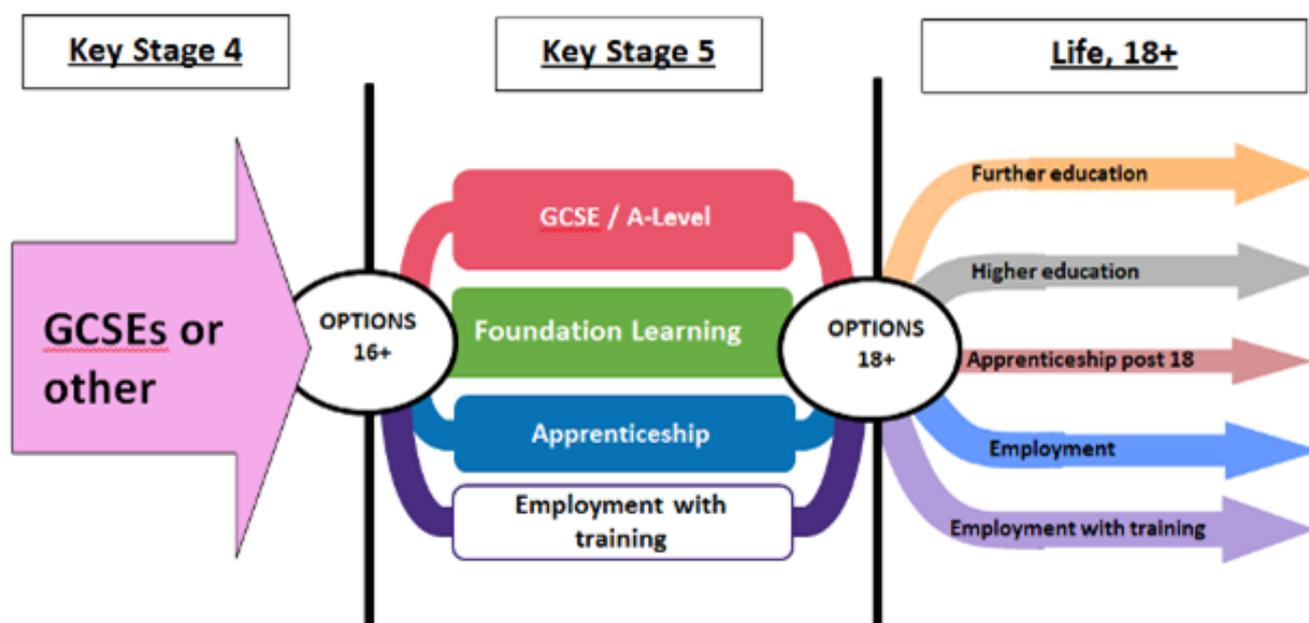
Details of all the subjects and the levels at which you will be studying them are contained in this booklet. GCSEs will be a significant educational qualification for you that can help determine your future career pathway, so it is important that you know exactly what is involved and what you have to 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 9th February 2022 from 4.30pm.**
- 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 Miss Austen.

When you have made your final choices, complete the 'Options Online' form. **No later than Thursday 10th February 2022.** More information will be sent about how to access 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.



Entry requirements into our sixth form is likely to be the equivalent of 5 GCSE qualifications grade 9-5, and in some subjects grade 6.

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 the subjects that will help you to gain entry to the top universities and onto competitive courses.

Facilitating subjects are:

English Language	Biology
English Literature	French
Maths	Spanish
Chemistry	Geography
Physics	History
German	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 humanity and a 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

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 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 P.E.

English

English
G.C.S.E

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 reading stimuli and engage with creative 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:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>

Maths

Maths
G.C.S.E

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 GCSE for Mathematics begins in Year 9 to allow time to stretch and challenge students of all abilities.

This table outlines percentages of topics covered:

Topic	Weighting - Foundation Tier	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)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Useful Websites:

www.corbettmaths.com

www.drfrostmaths.com

www.mathsgenie.co.uk

Science

Science
G.C.S.E

What is involved in taking GCSE Science?

There are 2 pathways for studying Science. The majority of students will complete Year 11 and achieve 2 GCSE's in Combined Science. A number of students will be selected to sit an additional GCSE which will give them a Triple award. All students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics discretely.

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:

BBC Bitesize - KS4 Science

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>

Subscribe to the Youtube Channel - "Free Science Lessons"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw6Ww-N1ZFg>



Year 9

Option Subjects

All students must choose at least one subject in line with the requirements for Progress 8 from the following subjects, but can choose more than one from this list.

- Geography or History
- French, German or Spanish
- Computer Science

Students wishing to opt for the E-Bacc must select at least one language **and** one humanities subject from this list below. Students must also secure a grade 5 in all of these subjects along with the core subjects to obtain the E-Bacc qualification.

- Geography or History
- French, German or Spanish

Options Subjects

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality & Catering
- Media Studies
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Textiles
- Travel & Tourism

Art



Art
G.C.S.E

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 of 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:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/> (the art and artists page is excellent)

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/> (for things to draw)

<http://www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-careers-list> (what future career can an artist have?)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

Business

GCSE

Business
G.C.S.E

Why choose 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 business?



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

Exam Board - AQA

Paper 1 - Investigating Small Business. 1 hour 45 minutes	Paper 2 - Building a Business. 1 hour 45 minutes
Business in the real world Influences on business Business operations Human resources	Business in the real world Influences on business Marketing Finance

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

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

How will this help me prepare for my future?

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

Useful Websites

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132/specification-at-a-glance>

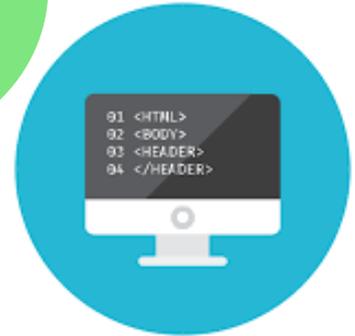
<https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/edexcel-gcse-business-codecracker-activity-1> (fun activity based revision)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82> (useful to see what topics are in business and revision)

<https://www.ucas.com/job-subjects/business-studies> (what can business lead to)

Computer Science

Computer Science
G.C.S.E



Why choose Computer Science?

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 in the subject?

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 will this 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.

	Content	Duration	Weighting
Component 01	The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.	1 Hour & 30 Minutes	50% of total GCSE
Component 02	This component is focused on computational thinking, algorithms and programming	1 Hour & 30 Minutes	50% of total GCSE

Exam Board: 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)

Design & Technology

Design & Technology
G.C.S.E

What is GCSE Design and Technology about?

If you enjoy:

- problem solving
- making models
- testing your ideas

then our GCSE in Design and Technology is an ideal subject for you.

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

The GCSE is a single qualification which focuses on developing practical skills within a particular material area, allowing students to manufacture high quality outcomes. You'll learn about commercial processes and careers in related industries, as well as developing core transferable skills, such as collaboration and communication.

What will I learn?

GCSE Design and Technology covers a wide range of core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

How will I be assessed?

AQA is the exam board and all students will evidence their work within a portfolio of evidence amounting to 50% of their overall mark. This includes a student made practical outcome. The final written examination taken in Year 11 is 50% of the overall GCSE and taken in the Summer Term of Year 11

Unit 1	Unit 2
Knowledge and understanding of core technical and specialist design principles	Creative Design and Make Activity in your choice of specialism
Written Exam—100 marks (50%)	Coursework—100 marks (50%)
The examination will be based on a structured exam paper which your teacher will be able to guide you through. Everything that you need to learn for this unit is set out in the specification so your teacher will know exactly how to prepare you for the exam.	The new specification is designed to be completed in class with a focus on practical elements like developing and manufacturing your final product. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence. Homework tasks will involve important research tasks.

Useful Websites

www.technologystudent.com

www.bbcbitessize.co.uk — DT section

Drama

Drama
G.C.S.E

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 explore 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 the course structured and what exam board do we use?

We follow the AQA GCSE course.

Component 1 – <u>Written exam.</u> 40% of GCSE. 1 hour 45 minute exam.	Three sections – 80 marks in 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 – <u>Devising Drama</u> (practical) with <u>written portfolio.</u> 40% of GCSE. Performance with 2500 word 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 – <u>Texts in practice</u> (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.

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

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 extensive 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 will this help me prepare for my future?

GCSE Drama is popular with all employers and colleges, as it shows that you have developed your personal, social and life skills. Self-expression, confidence, creativity, initiative and communication are all developed in Drama. This subject is a good choice if you are considering any career path where teamwork, 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 is all about helping you develop transferable skills which you can take into ANY career.

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

Geography

Geography
G.C.S.E

What is involved in taking GCSE Geography?

The GCSE covers a wide range of Physical and Human 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 is Edexcel which combines three examination papers.

PAPER 1 – Living with the Physical Environment

(1.5 hour paper worth 35% of total GCSE)

PAPER 2 – Challenges in the Human

Environment (1.5 hour paper worth 35% of total GCSE)

PAPER 3 – Geographical applications – (1 hour paper worth 30% of total GCSE)



PAPER 1: The Physical Environment	PAPER 2 – The Human Environment
<p>Paper 1 is divided into three sections (A,B and C). You don't have to answer questions on <u>all</u> of the topics in <u>Section A</u>.</p> <p>Section A: The Changing Landscape of the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Changing Landscape of the UK <u>plus</u> ▪ <u>TWO FROM</u> Coastal Landscapes and Processes, River Landscapes and Processes, <u>OR</u> Glaciated Upland Landscapes and Processes <p>Section B: Weather Hazards and Climate Change Section C: Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management</p>	<p>Paper 2 is divided into three sections (A, B and C). You don't have to answer questions on <u>all</u> of the topics in <u>Section C</u>.</p> <p>Section A: Changing Cities Section B: Global Development Section C: Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource Management <u>plus</u> ▪ <u>EITHER</u> Energy Resource Management <u>OR</u> Water Resource Management
<p>PAPER 3 – Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges</p>	
<p>Paper 3 is divided into three sections (A, B and C). For <u>Sections A and B</u>, you need to answer questions about <u>fieldwork</u> in the environments you have chosen. Answer <u>all</u> the questions in <u>Section C</u>.</p> <p>Section A: Geographical Investigations—Physical Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>EITHER</u> River Landscapes <u>OR</u> Coastal Landscapes <p>Section B: Geographical Investigations—Human Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>EITHER</u> Central/Inner Urban Areas <u>OR</u> Rural Settlements <p>Section C: UK Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These questions will be about applying what you have learnt for Papers 1 and 2 to a <u>contemporary UK challenge</u>. 	

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

In order to be successful – like in any GCSE – you need to be interested in the subject in order to do well. So if you are interested in the world around you and why things happen or how people are affected, then GCSE Geography is for you. Geography is a fascinating and rewarding subject for those pupils who have enjoyed studying it at Key Stage 3. But with three exams, involving a number of long-answer questions, in addition to vast amounts of key terms and examples, it is not an easy option. GCSE Geography will give you a range of skills that include: data and statistics, map reading, analysing and interpreting information, improving ICT skills, selecting appropriate information from a range of sources and also a range of fieldwork skills.

How will this help me prepare for my future?

Geography is excellent in supporting a range of other subjects because of the broad-range of skills it provides candidates. Because of the wide range of skills and knowledge the course provides, it will help pupils to follow a wide range of career paths; both in higher education and in the working world. It is also one of the facilitating or academic subjects that the top (Russell Group) universities look for on applications for higher education. With a committed attitude, pupils can expect to both enjoy and achieve during their time studying Geography.

History

History
G.C.S.E

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 1914-1918

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.

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:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z4kw2hv

www.bbc.co.uk/history

www.schoolhistory.co.uk

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/

Hospitality & Catering

Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award



What is Hospitality and Catering about?

You will be doing lots of practical work to learn new skills with fortnightly practical lessons. Therefore, it is essential that you are prepared to bring ingredients at least once a fortnight.

As well as practical work you will undertake theory work to understand the hospitality and catering industries, as well as gaining an excellent understanding of nutrition.

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

- Good time management and organisation
- Willingness to work as part of a team
- A keen interest in food, cooking and nutrition

How is Hospitality and Catering structured?

You will study 4 theoretical units on the Hospitality and Catering industry, Health and Safety and Food Safety & Hygiene. You will be assessed on this knowledge in regular progress tests and a written exam in Year 11. Alongside this you will study nutrition and a range of challenging food preparation and cooking techniques, which you will be assessed on in a piece of non-examined assessment including a practical assessment.

How will this course help me prepare for my future?

This course would be particularly useful for anyone interested in studying further in fields of Sports Nutrition, Medical Professions or other Food and Nutrition related courses. The course will also teach you valuable life skills.

The Exam board that we follow is Eduqas/WJEC.

Useful websites:

www.bbcgoodfood.com

www.foodfactoflife.org.uk

Media Studies

Media
Studies
G.C.S.E

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 the course structured and what exam board do we use?

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 in the subject?

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 the media. Students who are curious about the world, self-motivated and hard-working will find the course very enjoyable.

How will this 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:

<http://www.mediaknowall.com/gcse/gcse.php>

Modern Foreign Languages

M.F.L
G.C.S.E.



Why choose GCSE French, German or Spanish?

Being able to speak another language confidently and competently is a skill that you will have for the rest of your life. It will open doors for you in your working life.

- Fact - Employers rank foreign language skills highly, second only to computer literacy.
- Fact - 72% of UK businesses need workers who can speak different languages.
- Fact - The top 3 Languages valued as useful by UK employers are German, French and Spanish.
- Fact - Post Brexit, the UK will continue to trade with countries both within and outside Europe.

What is involved at GCSE?

At GCSE, we focus on the skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. We use a variety of resources and materials to support our work in the classroom, and each lesson focuses on developing specific exam skills. You will develop good speaking and communication skills and be able to hold a confident conversation on a range of topics. Strong linguists should definitely consider taking two languages.

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

At GCSE with AQA, we cover three Themes

Theme 1 - Identity and culture - me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free time activities; Customs and festivals in French/German/Spanish-speaking countries.

Theme 2 - Local, national, international and global areas of interest -home, town, neighbourhood and region; social and global issues; travel and tourism.

Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment - my studies; life at school; education post-16; jobs, career choices and ambitions.

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

You should have good literacy skills and a good work ethic. You will have strong attention to detail and you are happy to always have a try. In addition, you should be interested in learning about other countries and cultures. Students who study a Modern Foreign Language (or 2) at GCSE develop resilience, independence, confidence and their problem-solving abilities.

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

A modern foreign language is seen as a facilitating subject by a large number of Colleges and Universities. For some, a GCSE in a foreign language is an entry requirement for any course.

Future Career - The world is your oyster. Having a language GCSE will help you to find a better job in the future, even if it's not a job that is specifically related to languages. On average, people who have a language at GCSE earn £3,000 per year more than those who haven't. Languages can be useful for all sorts of jobs. Have a look at this link for more information about languages work: www.languageswork.org.uk/

Travel – Learning about other countries and cultures and being able to communicate when you go abroad.

Music

Music
G.C.S.E

What is involved in taking GCSE Music?

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 the course structured and what exam board do we use?

We follow the Eduqas course

<p>Unit 1 Performance</p> <p>A minimum of 2 pieces lasting a total of 4-6 minutes, recorded in the year of assessment</p>	<p>Practical Coursework (15%)</p> <p>One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute. One piece linked to an Area of Study.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Practical Coursework (15%)</p> <p>The second performance can be a solo or an ensemble.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>30%</p> <p>Teacher assessed</p> <p>All performances are completed in Year 11</p>
<p>Unit 2 Composition</p> <p>2 completed composition pieces lasting a total of 3-6 minutes.</p>	<p>Practical Coursework (15%)</p> <p>One composition in response to a brief set by Eduqas– there are 4 to choose from each year.</p>	<p>Practical Coursework (15%)</p> <p>A second composition in any style you wish.</p>	<p>30%</p> <p>Teacher assessed</p> <p>Composition 1 can be started in Year 10. Composition 2 completed in Year 11.</p>
<p>Unit 3 Listening & Appraising</p>	<p>Written Examination Listening Examination:</p> <p>8 questions, 2 on each area of study: AoS 1 Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work) AoS 2 Music for Ensemble AoS 3 Film Music AoS 4 Popular Music (including a set work)</p>		<p>40%</p> <p>Examiner assessed</p> <p>Exam sat in summer term of Year 11</p>

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

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.

Physical Education

P.E.
G.C.S.E

What is involved in taking GCSE P.E.?

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. You will be assessed in different sports, however only your best three activities/sports will count towards your final assessment. You must also belong to a club inside or outside of school. In Year 9, you will receive one theory and two practical lessons per week. When you reach Year 10 and 11 you will receive two theory and one practical lesson per week. During the theory classroom based lessons you will learn about psychology, sociology and anatomy and physiology of the human body. 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 or outside school. You will be assessed on your ability to identify your own strengths and weaknesses, suggesting ways that you could improve.



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

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.
The exam board is AQA.

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

A strong practical ability in at least three sports (graded at 6-9 from Year 7 - 8 PE) with a specialism in at least one - you will need this in order to gain a good practical mark in order to complete coursework. A willingness to learn new sports and spend extra time outside of school to develop upon your skills. You will be required to join a school club and take part in team fixtures - you may also be attending a club outside of school which is part of a recognised competition. As this is a science based subject, the theory side of the course requires the same academic skills as Science GCSE.

How will this 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.

Useful Websites:

www.activesurrey.com

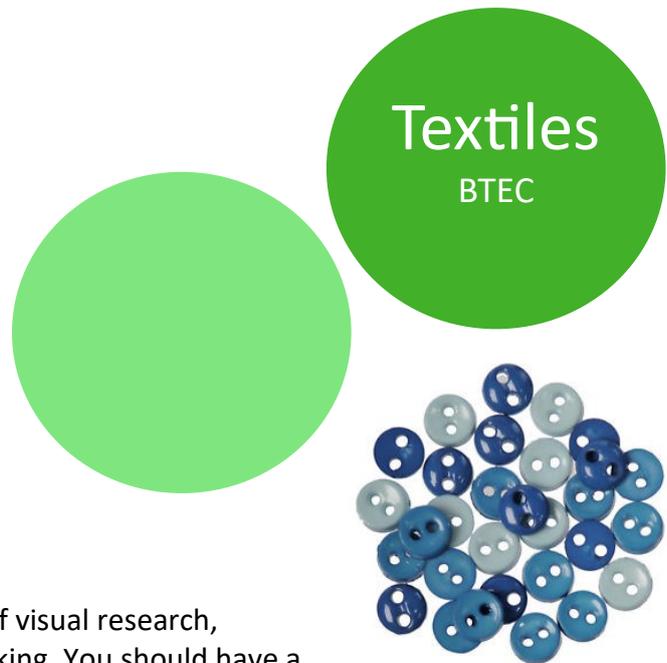
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zp49cwx>

www.senecalearning.com

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

Textiles

BTEC Level 1/2



What is BTEC Textiles about?

This course is very practical and involves lots of visual research, experimentation, sketching, designing and making. You should have a keen interest in fashion and textiles.

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

- Good time management and organisation
- Strong self motivation
- A keen interest the fashion and textiles world
- Willingness to be experimental with your work
- Some drawing skills

What will I learn?

You will learn a wide range of practical techniques including both decorative techniques such as tie dye and printing, and construction techniques such as garment making. You will learn how to respond to a brief in an exciting and original way through carrying out effective research, lots of experimentation and a range of designing techniques. You will learn how to analyse others work as well as critiquing your own work.

How will this course help me prepare for my future?

This course will aid progression into further studies in art, fashion and textiles. The course also helps you to be analytical, experimental and open minded and to develop your creative side.

The Exam board that we follow is Edexcel Pearson.

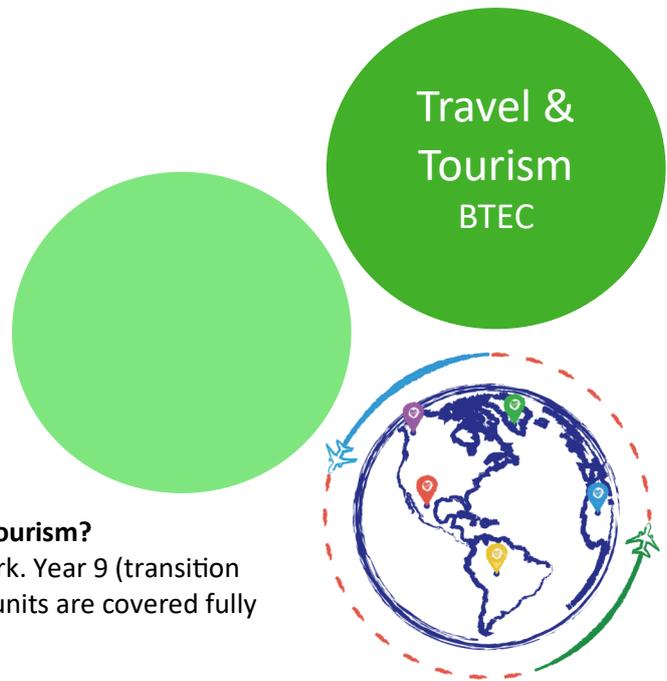
Useful websites:

<http://www.vogue.co.uk>

<http://www.vam.ac.uk>

Travel & Tourism

BTEC First Level 1 / 2



What is involved in taking BTEC First Travel and Tourism?

During the three years you will cover 4 units of work. Year 9 (transition year) lessons will cover core exam content then 2 units are covered fully in Year 10 and the remaining 2 units in Year 11.

Unit 1: The UK Travel and Tourism Sector - an externally assessed unit (Exam Unit)

Unit 2: UK Travel and Tourism Destinations - an internally assessed unit

Unit 3: Customer Experience - an internally assessed unit

Unit 4: International Travel - an internally assessed unit

The rationale for all qualifications in the BTEC First suite in Travel and Tourism is to:

- Inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the travel and tourism sector
- Give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the travel and tourism sector
- Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic tourism course or an apprenticeship
- Give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the travel and tourism sector, for example posts in travel agencies, visitor attractions and the tourist information centre.
- Learners who take this course must be prepared to visit local tourist businesses as going out on school trips is an essential part of the course.

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

You will have three lessons a week. The course involves completing 3 assignments per unit. Each unit is worth 25% of the overall qualification.

Exam Board: Pearson.

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

The skills which you gain are applicable to jobs in many different industries. Leisure and Tourism can include working in sports centres, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, museums, theme parks, hotels, airports, travel agents and many other places. Other offices and businesses outside the leisure and tourism industries also appreciate the skills that you learn on this course.

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 for you. It is designed to be a practical foundation for training for a job in these areas or to lead on to study the subject at a higher level in Further or Higher Education.

Useful Websites:

www.lonelyplanet.com

www.nationalgeographic.com

