OPTIONS BOOKLET

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What options do I have at Key Stage 4?

Options Information Booklet

Key Stage 4 refers to the two years of study in Years 10 and 11. During this time, students follow courses that lead to the final qualifications they will leave school with. For most students, these will be GCSEs, although we also offer some other recognised qualifications.

At Key Stage 4, some subjects are compulsory for all students, while others can be chosen based on interests, strengths and future plans. This booklet explains how the options process works and provides key information about the courses available over the next two years.

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How are GCSEs graded?

GCSEs in England have been graded using a 9 to 1 scale since 2017, replacing the previous A* to G grading system.

Grade 9 is the highest grade a student can achieve and grade 1 is the lowest. A grade U means the qualification is ungraded.

The table below shows how the new grades compare with the old A* to G scale.

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

How is the combined science double grade different?

In combined science a ‘double grade’ is awarded. These can either be different or the same (for example 9–9, 9–8, 8–8, 8–7 and so on.

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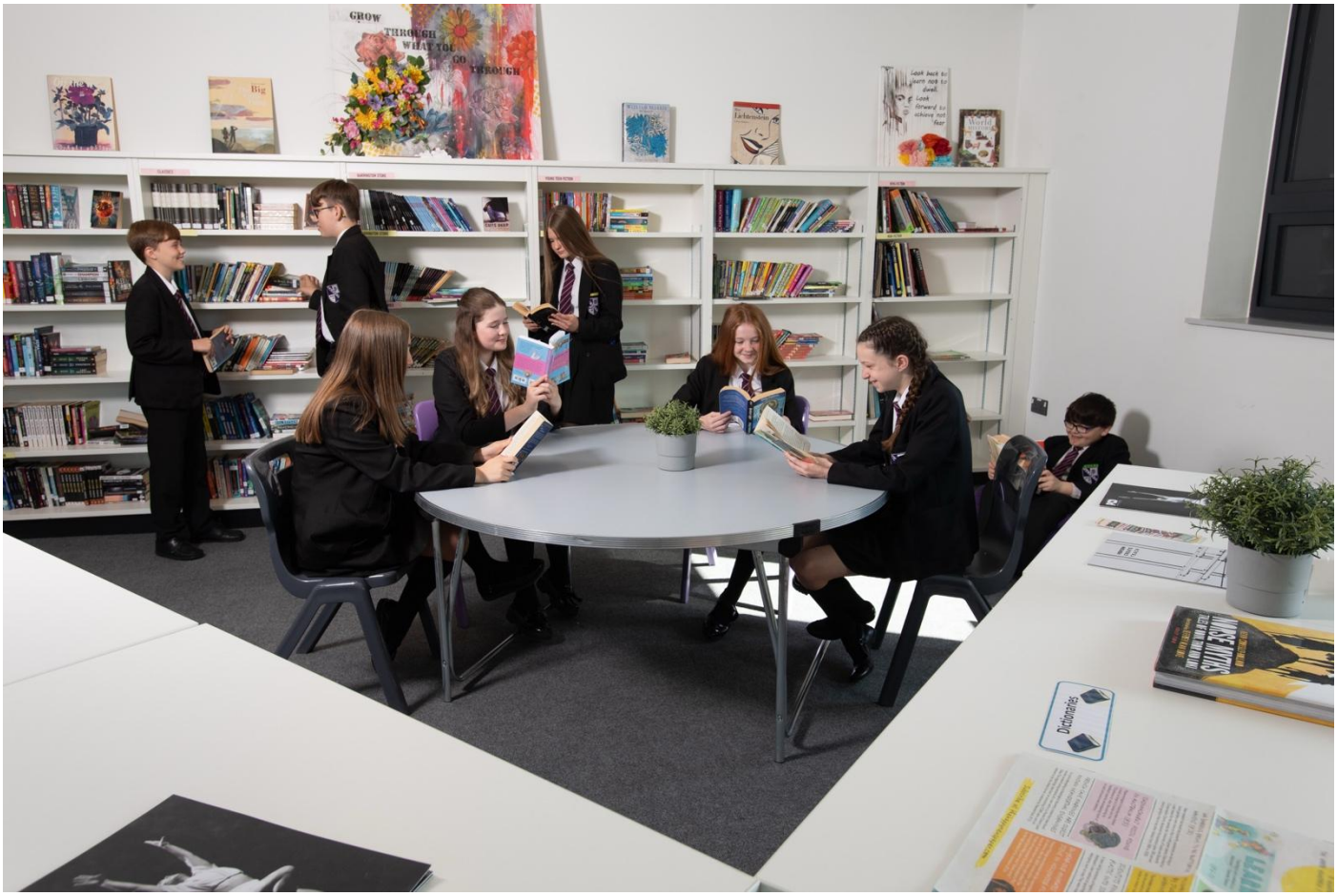
The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate is not a separate qualification. It is a group of subjects that includes English, Mathematics, Science, a Language, and either History or Geography.

Students achieve the EBacc by gaining at **least a grade 5** in each of these subjects.

The EBacc is not compulsory. However, some people see it as a strong academic combination of subjects that can support future study and career opportunities alongside other qualifications.



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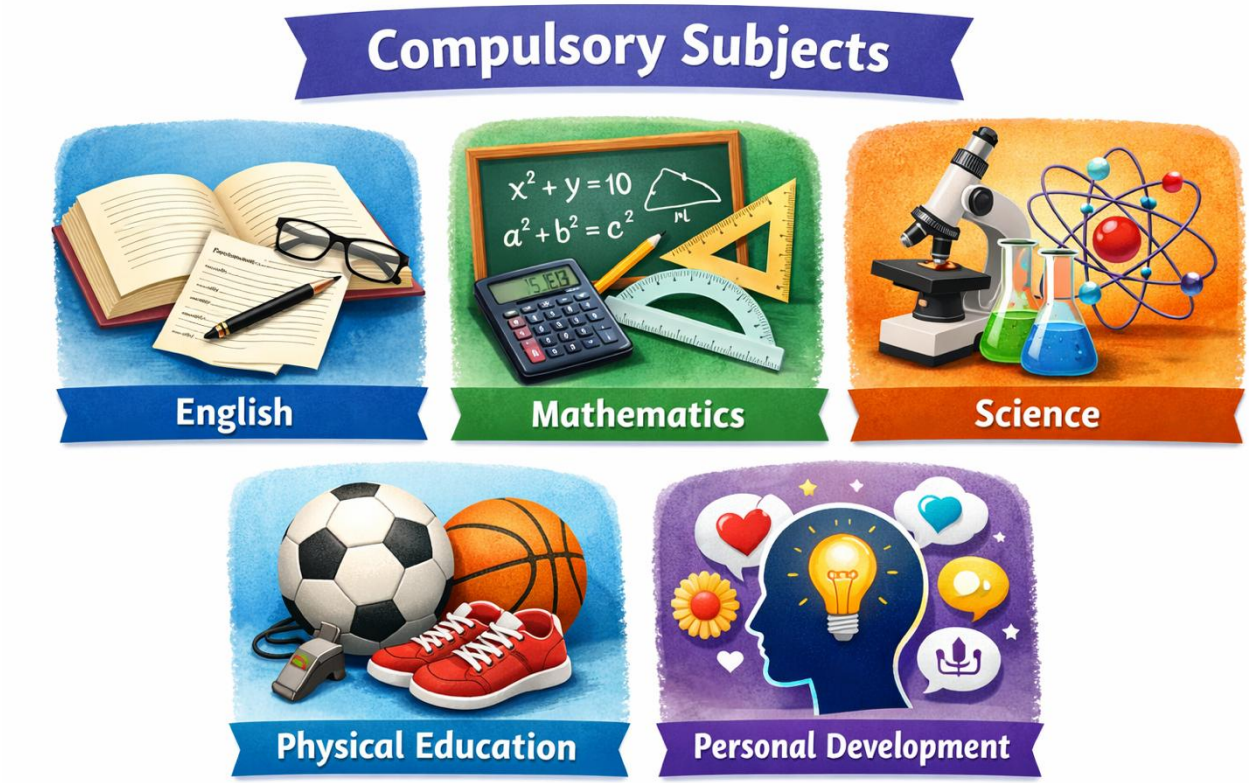
The Compulsory Subjects

All students study a core set of compulsory subjects as part of Key Stage 4. These are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal Development / PSHCE



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GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Why study English Language?

Although English Language is a compulsory subject, it is important that students appreciate the breadth of skills which are nurtured within English lessons and are applicable across all other subjects. Whilst studying English Language, students will practice reading with efficiency and detail, learn to express themselves clearly both orally and within their academic writing, as well as learning to articulate complex ideas and form convincing, developed arguments. These are valuable, transferable skills in the workplace and beyond.

GCSE English Language

Exam Board: AQA
The English Language GCSE is 100% exam assessed
Examinations are in one tier only

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A Reading (25%) Students will answer reading questions on a fictional prose extract

Section B Writing (25%) Prose writing – Students will write either a descriptive or narrative piece from a choice of two tasks.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A Reading (25%). Students will answer reading questions on two non-fiction texts. The texts will be from two different eras.

Section B Writing (25%) Students will complete a transactional writing response (for example: a letter, speech or article).

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

Students will present a speech to the class upon a relevant topic of interest and will respond to questions relating to this.

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GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study GCSE English Literature?

It is important to be aware that all our students study English Literature as a GCSE. As you will see from looking at the specification outlined below, students are exposed to an incredibly diverse repertoire of Literature spanning from the pre-19th Century to more modern texts. As well as fostering creativity and imagination, the English Literature course also aims to broaden students' worldly view through exposure to texts which often challenge current thinking and ideas.

GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: EDUQAS

The English Literature GCSE is 100% exam assessed.

Examinations are in one tier only and students will be awarded the grading of 9 to 1 (9 being the highest grade awarded).

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry Anthology

Section A (20%) Shakespeare – students will answer questions on an extract from Macbeth and one essay question upon the whole play. Students will not have a copy of the play in the exam.

Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to present day – Students will answer two questions based on the 16 poems studied.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Section A (20%) Post-1914 prose/drama - Students will answer an essay-style question on 'An Inspector Calls'. Students will not have a copy of the text in the exam.

Section B (20%)
19th Century Prose – Students will answer an essay-style question on an extract from 'A Christmas Carol'. Students will not have a copy of the text in the exam.

Section C (20%) Unseen poetry from 20th/21st Century – Students will answer two essay-style questions on two poems they have not read. One question will involve comparison.

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GCSE MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: OCR

All students will study Mathematics leading to one GCSE qualification.

How is the course structured?

The Maths GCSE is 100% exam assessed.

The examination has two tiers of entry, Higher and Foundation. Both tiers of entry allow access to a grade 4 and 5, decisions on tiers will be decided by the Maths Faculty to ensure students are entered into a tier at a level that best suits their abilities. Students will be awarded the grading of 9 to 1 (9 being the highest grade awarded).

Foundation Tier:
Grades possible: 1 – 5

Higher Tier:
Grades possible: 4 – 9

This course is intended to help students become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics, ensure that students can reason mathematically and develop competence in solving increasingly sophisticated problems. Students will build on their learning from key stage 3.

Assessment objectives ensure that each paper will assess students' ability to recall, select and apply their knowledge of mathematics, to reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and to solve non-routine problems. The content will cover number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

How is this course assessed?

The course will be examined in three equally weighted written examination papers in May/June of year 11.

Paper 1 and 3 are calculator assessments and paper 2 is a non-calculator assessment, each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and carries a total of 100 marks per paper.

Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

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GCSE SCIENCE (Combined Award)

Exam Board: AQA

Combined Science gives students a broad understanding of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, helping them develop important skills such as problem solving, analytical thinking, investigation and evaluation. Students learn how to interpret data, apply scientific knowledge to real-life situations and think logically when exploring new ideas.

A good grade in Combined Science can enable students to progress to A Level sciences, including Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as other science-related courses. It also supports future pathways into a wide range of careers such as healthcare, engineering, environmental science, forensic science, technology, research and many other STEM fields.

How is the course structured?

Combined Science GCSE is assessed through written examinations at the end of the course.

There are two tiers of entry: Higher and Foundation. The Foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5, while the Higher tier covers grades 4 to 9. Both tiers allow students to achieve a grade 4 or 5.

Decisions about which tier a student is entered for are made by the Science Faculty to ensure each student is entered for the tier that best matches their progress and ability.

Students receive GCSE grades using the 9 to 1 grading system, where 9 is the highest grade. Combined Science awards two GCSE grades (for example 5-5).

How is this course assessed?

Each science is assessed by **two written examinations**, taken at the end of Year 11. Six papers of 1 hour 15 minutes, all equal weighting: two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics

There is **no coursework**, although practical work is an important part of the course and is assessed through exam questions.

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Personal Development / PSHCE

PSHCE stands for Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education. It is an important part of the curriculum that supports students' personal development and prepares them for life beyond school. In PSHCE, students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed decisions, look after their wellbeing and build positive relationships.

Students study a range of key topics, including:

• Relationships and Sex Education, focusing on healthy relationships, boundaries and consent

• Drugs education, helping students understand risks and make safe choices

• Citizenship, including rights, responsibilities and understanding society

• Personal finance, such as budgeting, saving and managing money

• Careers education, exploring future pathways, employability skills and next steps

• Elements of Religious Education, helping students understand different beliefs, values and ethical issues (this is not the full RE GCSE course)

PSHCE is not an examined subject. Students are supported through discussion, reflection and participation, with a focus on developing important life skills that will support them in the future.

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Careers Education at Key Stage 4

Careers education is a key part of the Key Stage 4 experience and is delivered through Personal Development lessons as well as across different subjects. Whatever subject's students choose, they will learn about the careers linked to those areas.

In Personal Development lessons, students explore their strengths, skills and interests, helping them understand possible career pathways. They also develop practical skills such as writing CVs, completing applications, preparing for interviews and understanding expectations in the workplace. Year 10 students take part in work experience, providing valuable insight into the world of work.

Students benefit from strong links with colleges, sixth forms, universities and external organisations, who regularly visit school to provide advice and guidance. Year 10 and 11 students may attend taster days to explore both vocational and academic courses and help them make informed post-16 choices. Opportunities to speak with providers are also available through careers drop-ins, parents' evenings and key school events.

We also work with Careers North, who provide independent careers advice and guidance. They support students at key points during the year, including Options Evening, offering personalised guidance to help students plan their next steps. For more information about Careers North and how they can assist your child, please visit their website at www.careernorth.co.uk.

Career North

Your Career Starts Here

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Options Choices

OPTIONS BOOKLET

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How to Choose Your Options

Students choose three option subjects, which are studied for six hours each fortnight. You must choose at least one subject from the following: History, Geography or Spanish. Before making your choices, read the subject information carefully so you understand what you will study and how each subject is assessed.

Ask Yourself

- Do I enjoy this subject?
- Am I confident and making good progress in it?
- Does this subject keep my choices balanced?
- Could this subject help with future study or careers?
- What happens if my interests change later?

Find Out the Facts

- What are my strengths and areas for improvement?
- What skills will I need for this subject?
- What does the course involve and how is it assessed?

Who Can Help

- Parents and carers: Who know you well and can support your decisions
- Subject teachers: Who understand your progress in their subject
- Form tutor: Who can talk through your ideas and questions
- Head of Year: Who can support you with your choices
- Senior Leadership Team: Who can provide further guidance if needed

Important Information

Some practical subjects, such as Art, Design and Technology, and Food Preparation and Nutrition, have limited places due to health and safety requirements. We aim to give students their preferred choices, **but this cannot be guaranteed.** A subject may not run if too few students choose it, while others may be oversubscribed. Course availability also depends on staffing and resources.

Students have already completed a practice options selection in school following an assembly. This has given us an indication of their preferences and has helped us create the initial options blocks.

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GCSE ART

Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Art?

Studying Art at GCSE is the first step for students to take should they be interested in a career within the creative industries. The UK's creative industries are world leading, and the sector is continually growing. Covering a huge range of professions and activities, it's always evolving to include new artforms and technologies. It certainly is an exciting sector to work in. The main industry areas include visual arts, architecture, photography, illustration, fashion, graphic design, media, TV and advertising. The opportunities within this field are endless.

What will I study?

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media and technologies. Candidates can create work using a wide range of art, craft and design materials and processes. This may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, illustration and mixed media.

How is the course assessed?

The Assessment consists of:
60% Component 1: Coursework Portfolio
40% Component 2: Externally Set Task (EXAM)

The Coursework Portfolio is made up of two themed projects from which students' select and present work that exemplifies their skills. The externally set task consists of a selection of projects set by the exam board from which students choose one. The final piece is then completed in 10 hours of supervised time under exam conditions.

What can this course offer me?

Throughout the GCSE course students develop a wide range of skills. Students will observe and record their ideas and experiences through drawing in a range of forms. They will conduct research and visually analyse the work of other artists, craftspeople and designers. They learn to experiment with a wide range of materials and to develop their own original ideas. In addition to practical skills, imaginative ideas and creative thinking, students develop self-confidence, responsibility and organisation. This course will develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding of Art, whilst giving them an excellent foundation should they choose to study Art or any form of design at Post 16 or take an employment route into the creative industries.

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GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board: OCR

Why should I study Computer Science?
GCSE Computer Science provides an in-depth understanding of computer technology, including programming. It encourages students to:

- Understand concepts like abstraction, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- Solve problems through programming, including design, writing, and debugging.
- Think creatively, critically, and apply relevant mathematical skills.
- Understand digital systems and their impacts on society.

What will I study?
The course covers two main components:

Component 1: Computer Systems
Topics include system architecture, memory and storage, networks, security, systems software, and the ethical, legal, and environmental impacts of digital technology.

Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming
This unit covers algorithms, programming fundamentals, boolean logic, and programming languages.

Practical Programming
Students will complete programming tasks, applying knowledge from both components to solve problems or meet specifications.

How is the course assessed?
The GCSE is assessed as follows:

Component 1 (Computer Systems): 50% exam
Component 2 (Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming): 50% exam

What can this course offer me?
This course helps students develop key skills, including:

- Applying computer science principles to problem-solving.
- Designing and debugging programs.
- Thinking logically and critically, using mathematical skills.
- Understanding how digital systems work and their societal impacts.

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GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board: Eduqas (9-1) Design and Technology

Why should I study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology (D&T) connects with various subjects and offers exciting career opportunities. Studying GCSE D&T lets you use your knowledge and skills to design and make real-life solutions. You'll work independently and in groups, using a variety of materials, tools, and equipment to develop valuable skills.

What will I study?

- Materials, their properties, and uses in design.
- Design techniques.
- Manufacturing skills.
- Hand tools and machinery skills.
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM).
- Sustainability and responsible design.

How is the course assessed?
The course is divided into two parts:

- **Component 1 (50%)**: A written exam on design and technology in the 21st century.

- **Component 2 (50%)**: A Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) involving a design and make task, with a portfolio and a final prototype.

What can this course offer me?

GCSE D&T can lead to a range of careers in creative, engineering, and manufacturing industries. Designers and engineers often earn significantly above the national average, and there are opportunities for entrepreneurship. D&T also provides excellent preparation for higher education, such as A-levels, BTECs, T-levels, apprenticeships, or degrees in Manufacturing, Engineering, Design, Architecture, and more. Additionally, the skills you'll develop—such as independence, teamwork, and time management—are highly valued by employers. The course is also relevant to careers in fields like medicine, law, and computer science.

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GCSE DRAMA

Exam Board: AQA - Due to changes in leadership, the curriculum will be reviewed during the summer term. This review may result in a change of exam board.

Why should I study Drama?
Drama helps students develop valuable transferable skills such as collaboration, empathy, analysis, and performance. While most students focus on acting, there are opportunities for design elements like lighting, costume, sound, and set. These skills are highly valued by employers, particularly in areas such as communication, teamwork, and presentation.

What will I study?
The course covers a variety of key theatrical skills:

- Using voice, body, and movement to communicate meaning.
- Evaluating a live theatre production.
- Studying a performance text.
- Collaborative work through devising from a given stimulus.

How is the course assessed?

The AQA GCSE Drama course is divided into three components:

- **Component 1: Understanding Drama (40%)**
  A written exam covering a set play (*currently Blood Brothers by Willy Russell*) and a live theatre production.
- **Component 2: Devising Drama (40%)**
  A non-exam assessment where students create a devised performance, supported by a written log.
- **Component 3: Texts in Practice (20%)**
  Students apply their skills in acting or design by presenting two extracts from a performance text to a visiting examiner.

What can this course offer me?

This course explores Drama as an art form while developing creativity, confidence, communication and presentation skills through practical performance and script work.
Students build key life skills such as teamwork, time management and self-confidence, supporting careers including law, journalism, public relations, politics, social work and hospitality.

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GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Exam Board: Eduqas

Why should I study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This course is ideal if you enjoy cooking and want to learn about **food, nutrition, health, and science**. You will develop strong practical cooking skills while learning how food affects the body and how food is produced. It prepares you for further study and a wide range of careers in food and health-related industries.

What will I study?

- Practical cooking skills, including knife skills and safe use of kitchen equipment
  Preparing a wide range of dishes
- Food, nutrition and health, including nutrients, their functions and healthy choices
  Food science, such as cooking methods and key scientific principles
- Food safety, including storage, hygiene, contamination and food poisoning
  Food choice, exploring cultural, ethical and consumer influences
- Food provenance, including where food comes from, sustainability and global food issues

How is the course assessed?

Written Examination – 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

NEA 1: Food Investigation Task – 15%

- A scientific investigation set by Eduqas
- Students investigate the working characteristics or chemical properties of food

NEA 2: Food Preparation Task – 35%

- A practical cooking task set by Eduqas

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GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Geography?

Geography helps you understand why the world is changing and prepares you for those changes. The world is likely to change more in the next 50 years than ever before, and Geography explains these transformations.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

- Natural Hazards: Tectonic hazards, weather hazards, and climate change.
- The Living World: Tropical rainforests, plus either deserts or cold environments.
- Physical Landscapes in the UK: Coasts, plus either rivers or glaciation.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban Issues and Challenges.
- The Changing Economic World.
- Resource Management: A choice of water, food, or energy.

Unit 3: Geographical Applications

- Issue Evaluation: Pre-released sources 12 weeks before the exam.
- Fieldwork: Two field trips exploring human and physical environments. Geographical Skills: OS map reading, graphical, numerical, statistical, and literacy skills, assessed throughout the course.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE is assessed through 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

- **Paper 1 (35%):** Living with the physical environment (1 hour 30 minutes).
- **Paper 2 (35%):** Challenges in the human environment (1 hour 30 minutes).
- **Paper 3 (30%):** Geographical applications (1 hour 15 minutes).

Question types: multiple choice, short answer, and extended prose.

What can this course offer me?

Geography equips students with transferable skills, including problem-solving, spatial awareness, teamwork, and computer literacy. These skills make Geography graduates highly employable, as the subject combines scientific facts with an understanding of the arts.

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GCSE HISTORY

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why should I study History?

History helps us understand the world we live in today by exploring key people, places, and ideas from the past. Students will learn how past cultures shaped the world and how new discoveries brought about change. The course encourages debate, discussion, and critical thinking.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment (30%)

- Medicine in Britain (c1250-present): From Medieval England to modern medicine
- The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: Trench warfare and medical developments during WWI

Unit 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (40%)

- British Depth Study – Early Elizabethan England (1558-88): Queen, government, religion, and societal challenges
- Period Study – The American West (1835-1895): Settlement, development, and conflicts

Unit 3: Modern Depth Study (30%)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918-1939): The rise of Hitler, Nazi control, and life in Nazi German

How is the course assessed?
The course is assessed through three exams:

- **Paper 1 (30%):** Medicine through time (1 hour 20 minutes)
- **Paper 2 (40%):** Elizabethan England and the American West (1 hour 45 minutes)
- **Paper 3 (30%):** Weimar and Nazi Germany (1 hour 20 minutes

What can this course offer me?

History is a respected subject that equips students with valuable skills, including critical thinking and analytical abilities. It opens doors to careers in law, journalism, politics, business, tourism, and more. A History qualification broadens future opportunities.

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GCSE Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why should I study Modern Foreign Languages?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language enhances employability, helps you stand out for university applications, and provides the opportunity to travel and work abroad. It also broadens cultural awareness and opens doors to international career opportunities.

What will I study?

Students can choose to study Spanish, covering topics including:

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

It is recommended that students pursuing a second language are enthusiastic and have a strong aptitude for language learning.

How is the course assessed?
The course is assessed via final exams in four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each skill accounts for 25% of the overall GCSE grade. The exams are offered at two tiers:

- **Foundation** (Grades 1-5)
- **Higher** (Grades 4-9)

What can this course offer me?

The course offers interactive and diverse learning methods, including individual and group work. You will develop the ability to communicate confidently, solve problems, and gain other transferable skills valuable for future careers. A Modern Foreign Language adds an international dimension to your qualifications, highly valued by employers. This course prepares you for lifelong learning and equips you to be part of a global community. It also prepares you for further study, including Sixth Form, where many students go on to study languages at A Level.

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GCSE: SEPARATE (TRIPLE) SCIENCES

Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Triple Science?
Triple Science is an excellent choice for students who are curious about how the world works and enjoy science lessons. Studying Triple Science allows you to explore Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth than Combined Science, helping you develop strong analytical, problem-solving and practical skills. It is particularly well suited to students who are considering science, engineering, medicine or technology related careers, or who simply enjoy being challenged academically.

What will I study?
Triple Science leads to three separate GCSEs: **Biology, Chemistry and Physics**.

- **Biology** looks at living organisms, including cells, genetics, human biology, ecosystems and evolution.
- **Chemistry** focuses on substances and reactions, such as atomic structure, chemical bonding, energy changes and rates of reaction.
- **Physics** explores the laws that govern the universe, including forces, energy, electricity, waves and space.

All three subjects include required practical experiments to help students develop essential laboratory and investigative skills.

How is the course assessed?

- Each science is assessed by **two written examinations**, taken at the end of Year 11, six exam papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes: two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
  There is **no coursework**, although practical work is an important part of the course and is assessed through exam questions.
- Students receive **three separate GCSE grades (9–1)**: one for Biology, one for Chemistry and one for Physics.

What can this course offer me?
Triple Science keeps a wide range of future pathways open. It is highly valued by colleges, sixth forms and universities, particularly for students wishing to study sciences, maths, engineering or medical subjects at a higher level. Beyond qualifications, the course helps students build confidence in logical thinking, data analysis and problem-solving skills that are useful in many careers, not just science-based ones.

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GCSE MUSIC

Exam Board: EDUQAS - Due to changes in leadership, the curriculum will be reviewed during the summer term. This review may result in a change of exam board.

Why should I study Music?

Music at Key Stage 4 is an exciting and rewarding subject, offering students the chance to explore their own musical ideas and styles while deepening their knowledge of music.

What will I study and how is it assessed?

Component 1: Performing Music (30%)

Internally assessed and externally moderated. Students perform at least two pieces (solo or ensemble), totalling 4-6 minutes. Performances can be recorded throughout Year 11.

Component 2: Composing Music (30%)

Internally assessed and externally moderated. Students create two compositions (at least three minutes combined): one to a brief set by the exam board and one free composition.
The department provides Apple Mac computers with Garageband, Logic, and Sibelius for composing and refining ideas.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising Music (40%)

Externally assessed written exam. Student's study four areas of music:

- AOS 1 – Musical Forms and Devices
- AOS 2 – Music for Ensemble
- AOS 3 – Film Music
- AOS 4 – Popular Music

The exam includes eight questions and questions on two set musical works.

What can this course offer me?

The course builds confidence through performance, enhances teamwork through collaboration, and fosters creativity through composition. Students will also learn the value of refining and evaluating their work. This course prepares students for further study in music-related subjects, including A-level music, BTEC music, and music technology, and can lead to a career in the music industry.

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GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: OCR

Why should I study Physical Education?

GCSE Physical Education offers both practical and academic challenges, providing opportunities to perform in sports and gain a deeper understanding of sports performance. Students will learn how physical and mental factors impact performance, how to improve through theory application, and the societal and health effects of physical activity.

What will I study?

- A variety of physical activities and sports, with a focus on improving skills and performance.
- How the physiological and psychological state affects sports performance.
- Methods of analysing and evaluating performance for improvement.
- The relationship between physical activity, health, fitness, and well-being.
- Socio-cultural influences on participation in sports.

How is this course assessed?

- **Component 01: Physical Factors Affecting Performance (30%)**
  Focuses on anatomy, physiology, and physical training, and explores how the body functions during activity and the effects of training.

- **Component 02: Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology (30%)**
  Examines social, cultural, and psychological factors affecting participation in sports, including the impact of media and commercialization.

- **Component 03: Performance in Physical Education (40%)**
  Assesses practical performance in three sports (20 marks each) and a performance analysis task (20 marks). Students must demonstrate effective performance and tactics and create an action plan for improvement.

What can this course offer me?

This course provides a foundation for further studies such as A-Level Physical Education or BTEC Sport. It also promotes knowledge in areas like psychology, biology, anatomy, and nutrition, making it valuable for various careers in health, fitness, and sports industries.

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Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies

Exam Board: OCR

Why should I study Sport Studies?

The OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Sport Studies develops knowledge, practical skills, and understanding in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport, and Health sector. It offers an engaging, real-life learning experience through practical application, such as understanding contemporary issues in sport and enhancing leadership and performance skills.

What will I study?

Student's study two mandatory units:

R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport and *R185: Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities*, along with one optional unit. The mandatory units cover topics like participation barriers, ethical issues, high-profile events, and the role of technology and National Governing Bodies in sport. *Performance and Leadership* help students develop performance and leadership skills, managing both team and individual activities under pressure.

An optional unit like *R186: Sports and the Media* explore the relationship between media and sport, including the impact of technology on viewership and media representation of sports.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of written exams, coursework, and practical assignments. *R184* has a written exam, while *R185* and optional units are assessed through project-based coursework. Assessments test both theoretical knowledge and practical application.

What can this course offer me?

The course helps develop transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and communication. It also emphasizes healthy living, research, report writing, and presenting. The qualification is ideal for those interested in a career in sports, health, fitness, or media, preparing students for further education or work in related fields.

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GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam Board: EDUQAS (Route A)

Why should I study Religious Studies?

GCSE Religious Studies prepares students to thrive in a diverse, multi-faith society by exploring life's big questions such as "How did we get here?" and "What happens when we die?". It also tackles current ethical dilemmas like euthanasia, human rights, and crime, equipping students with critical thinking skills.

What will I study?

- **Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World**
  Students will examine four themes – Relationships; Life and Death; Good and Evil; Human Rights.
- **Component 2: Christianity**
  This section explores core beliefs, teachings, and practices in Christianity, considering its impact on society today and its internal diversity.
- **Component 3: Islam**
  Students study the beliefs, teachings, and practices within Islam, along with its relevance to modern life and societal impact.

How is the course assessed?

At the end of Year 11, students will sit three exams:

- **Paper 1**: Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Studies (50%)
- **Paper 2**: Study of Christianity (25%)
- **Paper 3**: Study of Islam (25%)

What can this course offer me?

Religious Studies offers valuable skills like empathy, debate, and analysis, preparing students for careers in fields such as law, journalism, medicine, social work, politics, and education. It is especially relevant for students pursuing jobs involving human interaction, such as teaching, counselling, and the media.