

TARLETON ACADEMY

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Optional qualifications beginning September 2025

What options do I have for my Key Stage 4 education?



Options Information Booklet

Key Stage 4 is the name given for the two years (Years 10 and 11) during which students study the subjects that lead to the final external qualifications that your son or daughter will leave us with. In most cases these are GCSE subjects but there are some other qualifications we offer.

There are some elements of Key Stage 4 which are compulsory and some elements which are optional. This booklet will outline some of the key details, including which courses will be on offer in the coming two years.

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What are GCSEs and how are they graded?

In 2013 the Government announced an overhaul of the grading system for the GCSE examination. This is displayed on the left.

The reformed GCSEs:

- are more demanding
- have been designed for a two-year period of study
- will be linear, so students will take all of their exams at the end of the course
- will have non-exam assessment removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs
- will have a grading scale from 9 to 1 (with 9 being the highest)

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B <u>GOOD PASS (DfE)</u> 5 and above = top of C and above
5	
4	C <u>AWARDING</u> 4 and above = bottom of C and above
3	
2	D
1	E
	F
	G
U	U



The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself; it is the name given to a collection of subjects which include English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography.

To achieve the English Baccalaureate students must have secured a grade 5 in each of their subjects within this collection.

The English Baccalaureate (or 'EBacc' as it is known) is not compulsory, though there are some who believe that to have the EBacc shows a certain level of academic achievement in addition to other subjects.

All students who want to make their applications stand out are strongly advised to choose subjects which would lead to the 'EBacc' as this may give them an advantage when their applications are considered. This is particularly the case if students hope to go to university or want to make their application to college or a higher-level apprenticeship stand out.



The Compulsory Element

The compulsory element is made up of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Personal Development

There are different pathways within some of these subjects and these are explained later in the booklet.



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.

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.

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 18 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 either 'An Inspector Calls' or 'Blood Brothers'. Students will not have a copy of the text in the exam.

Section B (20%)

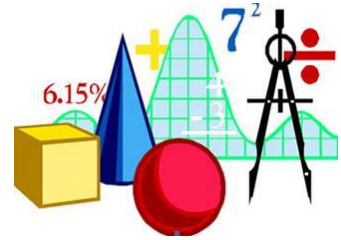
19th Century Prose – Students will answer an essay-style question on an extract from 'A Christmas Carol'. Students will not have a copy of the text in the exam.

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.

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 and 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.

GCSE: SCIENCE

(Combined Award or Separate Sciences)



Exam Board: AQA

How is the course structured?

In year 10 our students continue to study Science within the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. At the end of Year 10, students will take internal exams and their attainment in these exams, along with ongoing assessment throughout the academic year, will dictate which of the following courses they will follow:

Separate (Triple) Science

Students that have adapted well to GCSE Science across all three disciplines and attained highly in Year 10 will go on to study additional material in Year 11, resulting in the award of three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How is this course assessed?

Six exam papers of 1 hour and 45 minutes: two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

'Combined' Science

All students not following the Separate Science pathway will continue to study a more focused combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This will allow more time to consolidate and build on prior learning, resulting in the award of two GCSEs. Combined Science **is suitable** preparation for A-Level sciences.

How is this course assessed?

Six papers of 1 hour 15 minutes, all equal weighting: two in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics

PSHCE & Personal Development

PSHCE stands for **Personal, Social, Health, and Careers Education**, and it is a vital part of a student's overall development. This subject aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to navigate various aspects of life in a responsible and informed way. PSHCE focuses on helping students develop their personal well-being, make positive contributions to their communities, and understand how to manage their health and relationships in a healthy and balanced manner.



Core Areas of Study: Within PSHCE, students explore several important topics, which include:

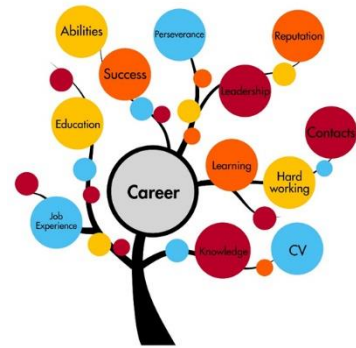
- **Sex and Relationships Education:** This section covers key aspects of emotional and physical well-being in relation to personal relationships, understanding healthy boundaries, consent, and emotional intelligence. It aims to empower students with the knowledge to build respectful and safe relationships throughout their lives.
- **Drugs Education:** In this topic, students learn about the effects, risks, and legal implications of different substances, as well as the importance of making informed choices when it comes to drug use. It also emphasizes strategies for resisting peer pressure and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.
- **Citizenship:** This area teaches students about their rights and responsibilities as active members of society. Topics include understanding democracy, law, and social justice, as well as encouraging students to engage with issues such as equality, environmental responsibility, and community involvement.
- **Personal Finance:** Students are introduced to financial literacy, learning about budgeting, saving, spending, debt management, and the importance of making sound financial decisions. This helps to prepare them for independent living and future financial planning.
- **Careers Education:** This aspect of PSHCE aims to provide students with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their future career paths. Topics include exploring different career options, understanding the world of work, developing employability skills, and planning for further education or training.

Religious Education (RE) Integration: While PSHCE covers many areas of personal development, it also incorporates elements of **Religious Education (RE)**. However, it's important to note that while RE topics are addressed within the PSHCE framework, they are not the same as the full RE GCSE course. PSHCE seeks to broaden students' understanding of diverse worldviews and ethical considerations, without the same level of depth or focus as in a dedicated RE GCSE subject.

Assessment and Examination: It is essential to understand that PSHCE is **not an examined subject**. Rather, it is assessed through continuous participation, engagement, and reflection. The goal is to ensure that students develop life skills that they can carry with them into adulthood, and the emphasis is on personal growth rather than formal academic assessment.

Careers Education at KS4

In all year groups, but particularly in Years 10 and 11, **Careers Education** is delivered both through the **Personal Development** curriculum and across our wider subject areas. Regardless of the subjects your child chooses to study, they will be exposed to a range of careers related to different disciplines. This is further supported by a variety of engaging activities throughout the school year, including **Personal Development lessons, tutor time, and assemblies.**



In **Personal Development lessons**, activities are carefully planned to help students identify their strengths, skills, and interests, and understand how these relate to different career options. Our careers curriculum also includes essential lessons on practical skills such as writing **CVs**, completing **job applications**, preparing for **interviews**, and understanding **workplace etiquette**. Year 10 students will also have the opportunity to participate in **work experience**, which offers valuable job shadowing experiences and a first-hand look at the world of work.

We have established strong partnerships with a range of external agencies, colleges, sixth forms, and universities. These organisations regularly visit the school to deliver expert advice and guidance on career pathways. Students in Years 10 and 11 will also have the opportunity to attend **Taster Days** at local colleges and sixth forms. These visits allow them to explore both **vocational and academic courses**, helping them make informed decisions about their post-16 options. Representatives from these institutions are also available during **careers drop-in sessions** at lunchtime and at **Key Stage 4 Parents' Evenings**, where students can have one-to-one discussions.

Additionally, we subscribe to **Careers North**, a provider of high-quality, independent careers advice and guidance for students. Representatives from Careers North will be available on **Options Evening** and at various points throughout the year to offer personalised support. For more information about Careers North and how they can assist your child, please visit their website at www.careernorth.co.uk.

OPTION CHOICES



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS

Students are required to choose 3 option subjects, which will be studied for 6 hours a fortnight. You must choose at least one subject from the following: History, Geography, Spanish, or Computing.

Please read the next section carefully, as it outlines the content and assessment requirements for each subject.

Ask Yourself These Questions

- Am I good at the subject?
 - Am I interested in the subject?
 - How can I maintain balance in my choices?
 - Could dropping a subject disadvantage me in the future?
 - What about subjects that contribute to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?
 - Is the subject necessary for my future career?
 - What if my career interests change?
-

Find Out the Facts

- What are my strengths?
 - What are my weaknesses?
 - What subject-specific skills will I need?
-

Who Can Help Me With My Decisions?

- **Parents** – who know you best and can offer valuable advice.
 - **Subject Teachers** – who are familiar with your abilities in their subject areas.
 - **Form Tutor** – who sees you daily and is available for discussions on any concerns.
 - **House Progress Leader** – who wants the best for you and may follow up on your discussions with your tutor.
 - **Senior Leadership Staff** – who may offer further guidance if there are any concerns with your options.
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Important Notes

- Some practical subjects, such as Art and Design, Design & Technology, and Food Preparation and Nutrition, may have limited class sizes due to health and safety requirements.
- We do our best to provide the choices you have selected, but we cannot guarantee every option will be available. A course may not run if insufficient students opt for it, while others may be oversubscribed.
- The availability of courses depends on resources and staffing.
- It is essential to keep up with your work in all current subjects and have a backup choice in mind.

Important Dates in the Options Process

- **December – Students have filled out a pre-options form to express an interest in subjects they think they might choose.**
- **January 2025 – Options launch - students have an assembly in school.**
- **January – February – GCSE taster lessons to take place during normal lesson time in school.**
- **13th February 2025 – Year 9 Parents’ Evening – Parents and Students should attend.**
- **27th February 2025 – Year 9 Preference Evening – Parents and Students should attend.**
- **6th March 2025 – Final Options submission from option pool groups via google form.**
- **March to April 2025 – All students will have an individual options discussion with a relevant member of staff in school and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss their final choices.**
- **May/June 2025 – Options offer to students and parents.**

GCSE ART AND DESIGN



Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Art & Design?

Studying Art and Design 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 and Design, 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.

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.

GCSE DRAMA

Exam Board: AQA



Why should I study Drama?

Drama helps students develop valuable transferable skills such as collaboration, empathy, analysis, and performance. While the majority of 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?

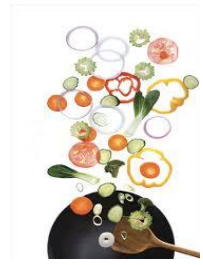
The AQA GCSE Drama course is divided into three components:

- **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 allows students to appreciate Drama as an art form while developing creativity, presentation, language skills, and confidence. It also enhances research and analytical skills through character and text exploration. Drama provides a fun and engaging way to build essential life skills. Drama strengthens self-confidence, time management, and communication skills, which are vital for many careers. It complements fields such as law, public relations, journalism, politics, social work, hospitality, and acting. The course prepares students for a range of professions, particularly those that require strong interpersonal and creative skills.

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION



Exam Board: AQA

Why should I study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This course focuses on cooking skills, nutrition, food provenance, and food science, preparing students for careers in the food industry by developing practical skills and knowledge of food and health.

What will I study?

- **Food Preparation Skills**
Practical skills, including knife skills and food technology, to prepare a range of foods.
- **Food, Nutrition, and Health**
Study of nutrients, their functions, sources, and the impact of deficiencies. Focus on hydration and healthy choices.
- **Food Science**
Explores cooking methods and food science, such as protein coagulation and emulsification.
- **Food Safety**
Learn food spoilage, contamination, storage, and the role of microorganisms.
- **Food Choice**
Examines influences on food choice, including cultural, ethical, and marketing factors.
- **Food Provenance**
Study of environmental impacts, food security, and global food markets.

How is the course assessed?

- **End-of-Year Written Exam (1 hour 45 minutes):** Covers theory.
- **Non-Exam Assessment 1: Food Investigation (30%)**
Practical investigations on food properties.
- **Non-Exam Assessment 2: Food Preparation Assessment (50%)**
Planning, preparing, and cooking food, demonstrating nutrition knowledge.

What can this course offer me?

Opens career paths in hospitality, catering, retail, and health, providing skills for diverse industries.

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.

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 Germany.

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.

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.

GCSE MUSIC



Exam Board: WJEC EDUQAS

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 MusicThe 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.

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.

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* helps students develop performance and leadership skills, managing both team and individual activities under pressure. An optional unit like *R186: Sports and the Media* explores 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.

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.