



**THE MILTON  
KEYNES ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*



# **KS4 OPTIONS 2026**

# Welcome

This booklet is designed to provide all the information you and your child will need as they enter the next important phase of their education.

At Milton Keynes Academy we have created a broad and balanced curriculum which is designed to cater for all students to progress to Sixth Form or College, University, apprenticeships, and employment. We regularly review the curriculum to ensure that it is meeting the needs of all our students. Choosing the most appropriate and relevant courses which will lead to successful outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 for your child is a critical stage in their school career. We hope that you find the information in this booklet, along with the Options Information on our school website, helpful.

The deadline for students to complete their Options Form is **Friday 27th March**; our staff– including subject teachers, tutors and our senior leadership team- are also of course available to offer support and guidance in this important and exciting phase.

## The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our KS4 curriculum offer is divided into core curriculum and option subjects. All students at Milton Keynes Academy follow the **same core curriculum** and then select up to **four additional option choices** to complete their full curriculum offer.



# The Core Curriculum

All students at Milton Keynes Academy follow a **core curriculum** consisting of the following GCSE subjects:

- \* English Language
- \* English Literature
- \* Mathematics
- \* Combined Science (double award)

As well as:

- \* Physical Education (non-examined)
- \* PSHE include RS (non-examined)
- \* Religious Education (non-examined)

These subjects are not optional and therefore do not appear on the options form.

## Options

In addition to the core curriculum, students follow a guided options curriculum, selecting up to **four additional option** subjects. All students are expected to pick a Humanities subject, Geography or History. Students may opt to study both.

We do not insist that students choose a Modern Foreign Language GCSE, although for those who have a secure foundational knowledge in French or Spanish at Key Stage 3 we would of course encourage them to consider the courses carefully with the support of their subject teachers.

A smaller proportion of students will be invited to follow our *Exam Support Pathway*. This route allows students who need it more capacity to focus on achieving the greatest exam success in the core subjects and their three options subjects.

## Exam Support Pathway

If we believe this specialised pathway is right for your child, we will arrange an individual appointment with you and your child to discuss this in more detail.

The *Exam Support Pathway* is made up of the core curriculum, **three option choices** and an additional guided option of **Access** which includes additional support for literacy and numeracy. This is designed to support learners to be successful across all of their subjects.

# The Options Form

When options forms have been completed and returned we will review the options choices for all students and contact families where further discussion is required.

Please follow the guidance on the form very carefully. Students are asked to **select four option subjects** and **two reserve subjects**. Every effort is made to ensure that students can follow their first choices but there are some occasions when this is not possible. This may be because a course is over-subscribed and places are limited, or because a course cannot run due to insufficient take up, or because of clashes in the timetable blocks. Contact will be made with a student in the event that a reserve subject needs to be allocated.



## Year 9 Options Form 2026

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tutor Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the [options booklet](#) for more information about compulsory subjects and a detailed description of the GCSE and Vocational option subjects we offer at Key Stage 4.

For your first option, please pick a Humanities subject (if you wish to do both Geography and History, please tick one and select the other as an additional option subject)

Humanities option	
Geography	History

Please pick in order of preference **three** other option subjects from the lists below.

**Priority choices** - Please write **2** next to your second choice, **3** next to your third choice and **4** next to your fourth choice.

**Reserve choices** - Please write **R1** and **R2** next to your reserve choices (Not choosing reserves does not increase your chance of getting your first-choice subjects; everyone must pick reserve subjects).

GCSE Subjects	Preference
Business	
Computer Science	
Food & Nutrition	
French	
Geography	
History	
Photography	
Religious Studies	
Spanish	
Triple Science	

The Arts (If choosing 'The Arts' you can only choose one subject from this list) These are all GCSE qualifications.	Preference
Fine Art	
Graphic Communication	
Textile Design	

Vocational Subjects (Due to controlled assessment deadlines we would advise a maximum of 2 Vocational courses)	Preference
Drama (Vocational)	
Health & Social Care (Vocational)	
Sport Science (Vocational)	

Once you have decided on your choices, please either return this form to your tutor or Miss Ross.

**The deadline for Option Forms to be returned is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.** Forms which are submitted after this deadline will not be given priority on courses with limited places.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent email:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Your Guide to Qualifications

The Milton Keynes Academy offers a wealth of optional GCSE qualifications. GCSEs are mainly assessed by examinations taken at the end of the course. There are exceptions to this in certain practical subjects such as Art, Textiles, Graphics, Food and Nutrition and Sports Science.

Our GCSE offer is complemented by a broad range of Vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications offer a combination of non-examined assessment (coursework completed in exam conditions) that is assessed by the teacher and verified by the exam board as well as at least one examined component.

All qualifications are categorised by a level that is aligned with study in schools, colleges and universities. At Key Stage 4 the vast majority of students follow **Level 2 qualifications**.

GCSEs Grade System	BTEC Grade System	Qualification Level
9	Distinction*	<p><b><u>Level 2</u></b>  <b><u>Qualifications</u></b>            Grade 4 at GCSE (Level 2 Pass for BTEC) is considered to be a standard pass and Grade 5 at GCSE (Merit for BTEC) to be a strong pass.</p>
8		
7	Distinction	
6	Merit	
5		
4	Pass	
3	Level 1 Grading	
2		
1		

# GCSE

## English Language

GCSE English Language is an important foundation for many of the courses you may take in employment or further education, and a requirement for many university courses. It is a core subject, which helps you to develop your powers of self-expression and improve your reading and writing. It is a qualification essential for your future school and university studies, but it is also a skill you will make use of in all aspects of your life.

GCSE English Language is designed to develop and enhance personal skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and to encourage learners to be inspired and empowered by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It will prepare you to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices, to read critically, and to use language to participate effectively in society and employment.

### What topics do I cover?

GCSE English Language covers a wide range of basic language knowledge and skills. It will allow you to develop a good understanding of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. You will have the opportunity to read and evaluate these texts critically and make comparisons between them, as well as summarising and synthesising information or ideas.

You will use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your writing, being able to write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately. You will develop your use of grammar and punctuation as well as acquiring and applying a wide vocabulary, grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.



### How will I be assessed?

The course requires you to sit two exam papers. The first is a Creative Writing and Reading exam. Paper 2 explores the Writer's viewpoints and perspectives.

You will also sit a Spoken Language Component which involves an independent presentation which is videoed and submitted to the exam board.

### How will this course help me in the future?

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have GCSE English Language. The skills and knowledge that you will learn through the qualification will ensure that you are prepared for life.

There are several careers that would directly lead from studying this course, which include law, teaching, journalism, Public Relations, marketing and job roles within the media.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

You will need to be able to engage with the complex language of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century non-fiction. Reading non-fiction such as blogs, reviews, opinion articles and biographies now will help this. You will need to also understand a range of structural features; reading fiction will support this.



## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the AQA GCSE English Language specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Other useful websites include:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zc/bchv4>

## Anything else I need to know?

Reading, reading, reading! Please do not under-estimate the power of this. It broadens your vocabulary; it enables you to create powerful imagery; it gives you an insight into emotion, tone and mood. This is key to your success in this paper.



**“The development of language is part of the development of the personality, for words are the natural means of expressing thoughts and establishing understanding between people”**

**Maria Montessori**

# GCSE

## English Literature

GCSE English Literature is important in everyday life because it connects individuals with larger truths and ideas in a society. Literature creates a way for people to record their thoughts and experiences in a way that is accessible to others, through fictionalized accounts of the experience.

### What topics do I cover?

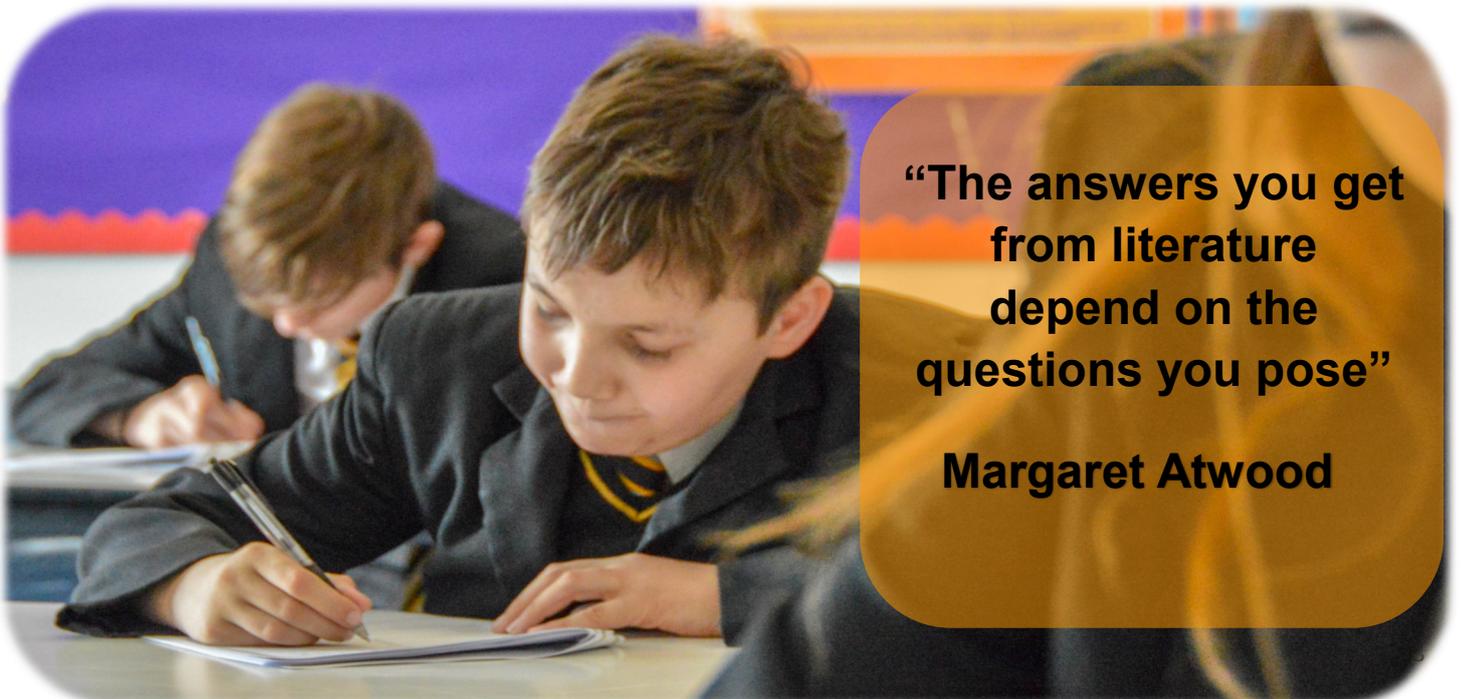
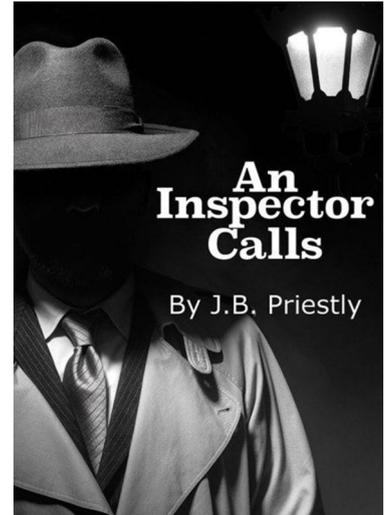
This is a core subject which all students are expected to study at GCSE level. As part of this course, you will read the following core texts:

***An Inspector Calls*** by JB Priestley  
***Macbeth*** by William Shakespeare  
***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens  
***Power and Conflict Poetry*** anthology (provided by AQA)

This course allows you to access and develop a wide range of basic language knowledge and skills. These include understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context, exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings, and distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied.

You will be able to identify the theme of a text, as well as being able to support a point of view by referring to evidence in it. You will be expected to understand writers' social, historical and cultural contexts and use this to make informed personalised responses that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text.

You will be able to analyse and evaluate how language, structure and form contribute to quality and impact, as well as using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation. You will compare and contrast texts, writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes.



“The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you pose”

Margaret Atwood

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exam papers. Paper 1 focuses on Macbeth and A Christmas Carol. You will receive an extract and will need to make links to the wider text.

Paper 2 involves you writing an essay response to An Inspector Calls, as well as writing a response to two of the conflict poems and two unseen poetry questions.

## How will this course help me in the future?

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have the skills you will develop studying GCSE English Literature. You will develop the ability to read critically, paying careful attention to detail. By considering content from a range of different perspectives, you will also be developing your interpersonal skills, and empathy.

There are several careers that would directly lead from studying this course, which include law, teaching, journalism, psychotherapy, advertising, and a wealth of creative jobs in the media.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

Pre-reading the set texts or researching them would be of benefit.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbhv4>

<https://www.sparknotes.com>

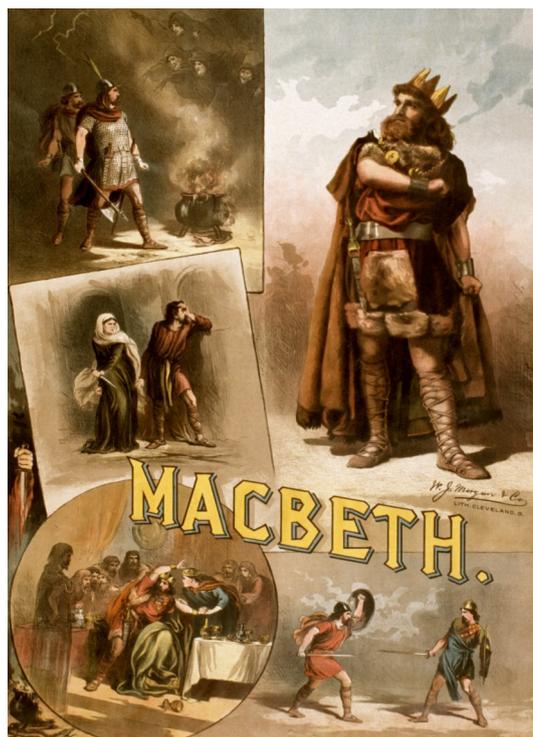
## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the AQA GCSE English Literature specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification>

## Anything else I need to know?

Literature helps us to broaden our understanding of the world. Literature makes the reader visit places, experience events, meet people, listen to them, feel their joys and sufferings. It takes years to acquire so much wisdom that a single book of literary merit instils in a reader. Literature can present us with a window from which to learn about a broad spectrum of subjects.



# GCSE

## Mathematics

Maths is a necessary life skill that is essential in our daily lives. In addition to the subject specific knowledge and skills, you will develop the ability to logically solve difficult problems, working both efficiently and effectively. It will also help you to think creatively when encountering problems for the first time.

When recruiting new staff, employers look for transferrable skills in problem solving, analysis, data handling and communication, to name just a few. These are useful in any job, and all of them are gained from studying Maths. Maths helps students to communicate complicated ideas clearly and precisely, avoiding misunderstandings.

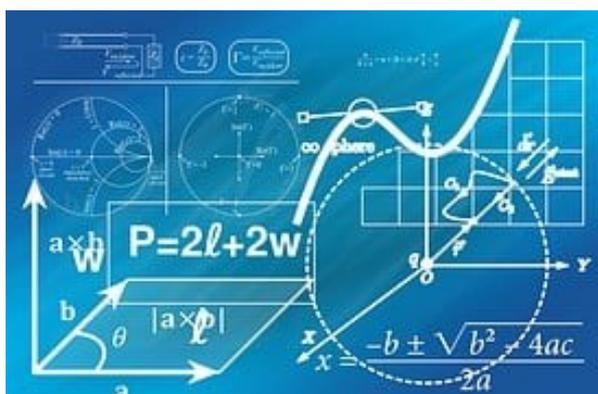
Maths is a subject essential to progress in further education. A good grade in Maths GCSE is needed for entry into Sixth Forms, as well as almost all college courses. In addition, a good pass in Maths can also help to get you a university place, especially the more technical and sought after courses.

Finally, Maths links into many subjects, especially Physics, Chemistry, Music, Computer Science and Business. A good foundation in Maths will help you do well in these subjects.

### What topics do I cover?

Maths GCSE is a core subject.

GCSE Mathematics covers a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. These are grouped into the key areas of Number, Ratio & Proportion, Algebra, Geometry & Measure, and Statistics & Probability.



### How will I be assessed?

Mathematics GCSE is a linear course. This means you do all the exams at the end of Year 11. It therefore does not involve any coursework or controlled assessments. The examination is made up of three 90-minute papers, each worth one-third of the total marks. One of the three papers is non-calculator and the remaining two allow the use of a calculator.

There are two tiers for the final examination – higher and foundation. You will be entered for the tier that gives you the greatest chance of achieving a good grade.

At MKA we follow the specification and exams created by AQA, one of the main exam boards.

## How will this course help me in the future?

For most employers, having a good grasp of maths puts you ahead of other applicants; from designing games to plumbing, midwifery to engineering, maths opens doors.

Learners achieving grades 7 - 9 are well equipped to continue their studies in Maths at A-level.

Other courses (both Sixth Form and College) with a mathematical content may also require a minimum grade at GCSE. You should make sure that you discuss this with the relevant subject teacher/course provider, so that you are clear of the grade that you need to reach.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

In Year 10, we will build on the mathematical skills and techniques that you have been taught in KS3, so revise many of the topics that we have covered in Year 9.

All students will need a scientific calculator and a geometry set. It is important to have this equipment from the start of the course so that you can use it during Years 10 and 11. That way you will walk into your final exams confident in how to use both your calculator and other tools.

## Anything else I need to know?

Remember, Maths GCSE is a compulsory core subject which you will study in Year 10 and 11. You will work towards a higher or foundation tier based on your ability and performance. Students in each tier will follow specific programmes tailored to their ability with regular formal assessments.

The highest grade on the foundation tier is 5 and for the higher tier, it is grade 9.

## How do I find out more information?

AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics-8300/specification>



# GCSE

## Combined Science

Science affects every aspect of our lives from understanding and protecting our environment to understanding medical information, how buildings are built, cars work and the fundamentals of technological development. Science is the building blocks of understanding the world around us and can provide numerous job opportunities in the future.

This is a core subject, meaning all students will access this course, unless they are recommended to choose the Triple Science option. This course covers all the key scientific knowledge that students would need to know to access A-level courses in the future.

### What topics do I cover?

The Biology content covers core understanding of Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and Response, Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution, and Ecology.

In Chemistry, students cover Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, and the properties of matter, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, and Chemistry of the Atmosphere.

In Physics, students learn about Energy, Electricity, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

### Anything else I need to know?

This is a compulsory course and you must complete the Biology, Chemistry and Physics aspects of the course. You will be awarded 2 GCSE grade equivalents at the end of the course but they will be awarded together under the bracket of 'combined science'.

### How will I be assessed?

There are 6 exams that are completed at the end of the two-year course: two exams in Biology, two exams in Chemistry and two in Physics. They are all worth 60 marks and are 1 hour and 15 mins long.

Students also complete a number of practical activities as part of the course which will be done during lessons.

### How will this course help me in the future?

Science creates many opportunities to students. Medicine, health, engineering, architecture and environmental science are all fields that are growing and changing as time progresses. It is an area where industries are searching for talented and qualified individuals to take on roles and where employment rates among graduates are high. The skills you will develop through your lessons are transferable and highly valued.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

Students have been completing the first part of the course (the fundamentals) in Year 9 lessons, and this provides a good foundation for this course. In Year 10 students will explore more specific and challenging content whilst recapping some of what has been studied previously. All students should ensure that they complete Year 9 studies to a high standard and revise the content regularly to ensure they are prepared for scientific studies in Year 10.

## How do I find out more information?

The AQA GCSE Combined Science specifications can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

BBC Bitesize, Seneca and Sparx Science also have subject specific content on them that students can look at in advance to see what you will be working on during this course.



**“Science is not only a disciple of reason, but also one of romance and passion”**

**Stephen Hawking**

# GCSE

## Triple Science

Laser surgery, looking for life in a meteorite from Mars, cable and satellite television, the internet, gene therapy... These are just a few of the things we take for granted in our times, markers of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century's scientific and technological revolution. Science has changed the way we work, communicate, and view the world.

### What topics do I cover?

You will study three separate sciences gaining three GCSEs: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. You are awarded individual grades for each of the three sciences.

Students who select Triple Science will study all the content from the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics disciplines of GCSE combined science, but with added extra material in each discipline. For example, in Physics you will study an astronomy unit, which explores ideas about the solar system, life cycle of stars and discussing evidence for the origin of the universe.

### How will I be assessed?

There are six exams, each 1hr 45 minutes long. Each exam will cover half of the content for that subject, i.e. 2 papers each for Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. The exams all follow the same format regardless of subject or tier. There will be a mixture of question types which will include multiple choice questions, short answers, and longer extended answers worth up to 6 marks.

Although this suite of qualifications includes both Foundation tier and Higher tier papers, it is expected that all students will have the aptitude to sit the higher tier papers and be aiming for grades 5-9.

You will receive a grade between 1 and 9 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE.



## How will this course help me in the future?

Asides from pursuing subjects at A level, University and beyond, there are countless careers including medicine, engineering, pharmacy, tree surgery, research, hairdressing... the list really is endless! Follow the link below for some ideas of where science can take you!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zjb8f4j/jobs-that-use-science/1>

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

You will be provided with all materials to use in class, including all practical materials. In addition to this you will have access to Sparx Science, though you may wish to purchase revision guides for use at home. These are sold by all bookshops and some online retailers.

## Anything else I need to know?

Triple Science requires a huge amount of commitment and you need to be willing to complete independent study outside of the classroom. Students wishing to do separate sciences should be targeted at least grade 6 in English, Maths and Science.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the AQA GCSE Science specifications, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications>



**“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less”**

**Marie Curie**

# GCSE

## Geography

Studying Geography is important because it allows us to understand what it is like living in our physical and human world. It can provide us with insight into the challenges we face everyday and how we respond to these challenges. These challenges can include earthquakes, flooding, and deforestation.

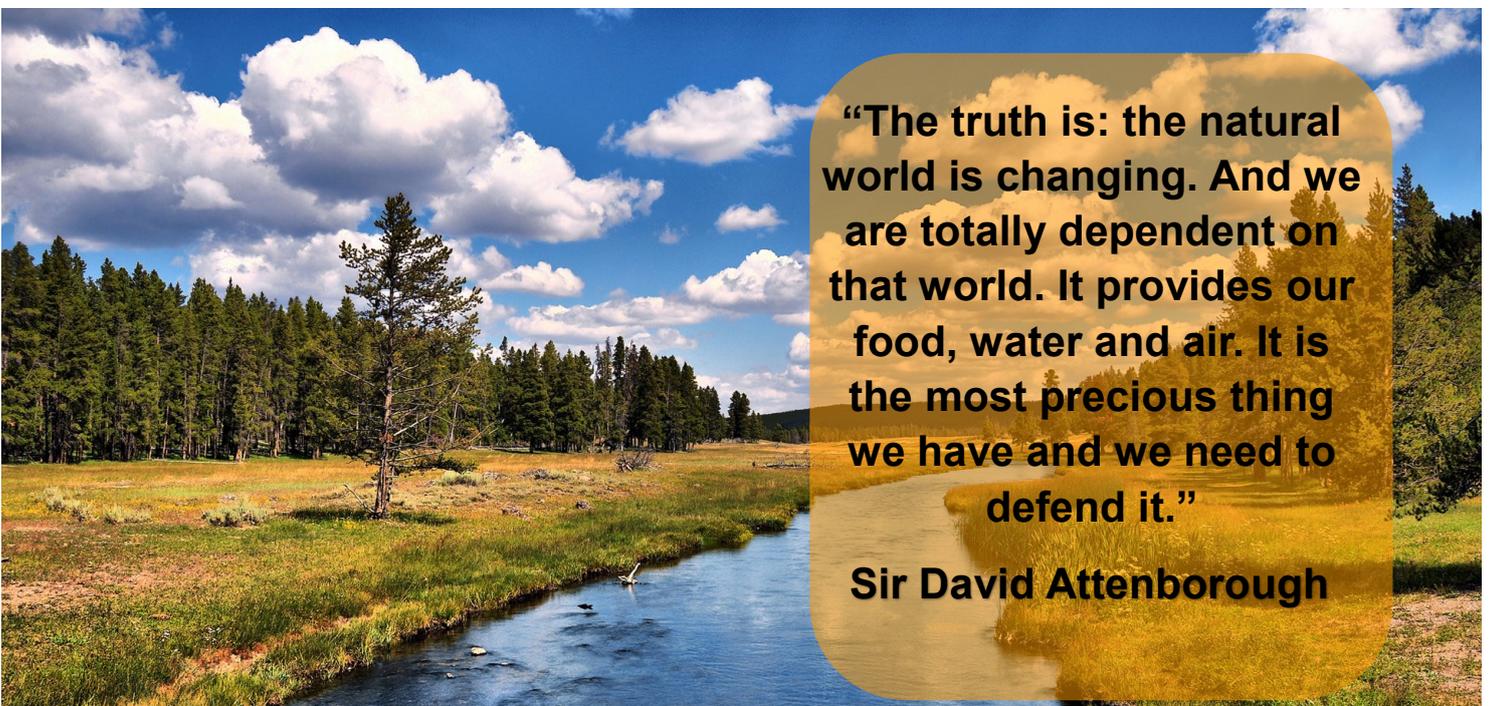
### What topics do I cover?

This course offers a wide variety of topics and skills. It has three examined units.

**Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment:** In this unit you will study the challenges of natural hazards, from tectonic hazards to climate change. You will investigate the living world and how ecosystems, tropical rainforests and hot deserts function. Finally, you will explore the UK's physical landscapes, including coastal and river landscapes.

**Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment:** This unit allows you to investigate urban issues and challenges including favelas, the changing economic world and resource management.

**Unit 3: Geographical Application:** You will be asked to apply your critical thinking and problem-solving through a task centred around a current issue. You will take part in fieldwork, which will include a physical and a human study. Throughout the course you will also be focusing on developing your geographical skills including graphical, numerical, statistical and data skills, all of which allow you to become a good geographer.



**“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”**

**Sir David Attenborough**



## How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through 3 examinations. Each exam is centred around the different units of study. The first two units are examined through 1 hour and 30 minute exams and are each worth 35% of the course. The final unit, Geographical Application, is a slightly shorter exam and is worth 30% of the overall course. This includes a pre-released resources booklet, which is made available 12 weeks before you will sit the exam.

## How will this course help me in the future?

Geographers progress into a wide variety of careers. Statistically, studying Geography at University makes you more likely to get a job than studying any other subject. This is due to the broad nature of the subject content and the wide range of skills that are developed through the study of Geography. Careers geographers enjoy including council town planning, environmental work, teaching and politics.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

Geography is a great subject and not just about knowing the capital cities of the world. Wider reading around physical and human issues are recommended before you join us in Year 10. You may also undertake some research into current natural disasters. What natural disasters have recently happened in the UK and around the world? What were the social, economic, and environmental impacts?

## Anything else I need to know?

You will take onboard lots of new information when studying Geography. Learning all the case studies is vital and being able to structure essays will also help you make progress, which we will support you with. A good attitude to learning and taking pride in your work are essential for success.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit AQA GCSE in Geography specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance>

# GCSE

## History

Studying History is important because it allows us to understand our past, which in turn allows us to understand our present. It can provide us with insight into our cultures of origin as well as cultures with which we might be less familiar, thereby increasing cross-cultural awareness and understanding. You will also develop your ability to evaluate carefully different sources of evidence, and consider events from different perspectives—skills which can be applied to a wealth of real-life contexts.

### What topics do I cover?

The course is made up of three examination units.

**Thematic study and historic environment: Paper 1-** Medicine in Britain and the British Sector of the Western Front

**Period study and British depth study: Paper 2–** Early Elizabethan England and The American West

**Modern Depth Study: Paper 3:** The USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad

### How will I be assessed?

The GCSE History course has 3 separate exam papers. Paper 2 has two separate sections on Elizabethan England and Superpower relations. All papers involve essay writing. There are several smaller questions based on the use of sources.

### How will this course help me in the future?

History gives you the opportunity to enter further academic study into further education and beyond. Subjects including A Levels in History, English Literature, Art, Drama, Sociology, Law and Politics often benefit from having studied History for GCSE. People who have studied history are highly regarded and sought after by employers in a great many sectors. Examples include journalism, law, teaching, research and media sectors.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

In preparation for the course, you should complete some research on the topics that would be taught. The first topics taught in Year 10 will cover Medicine in Britain c.1250–Present, and The British Sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

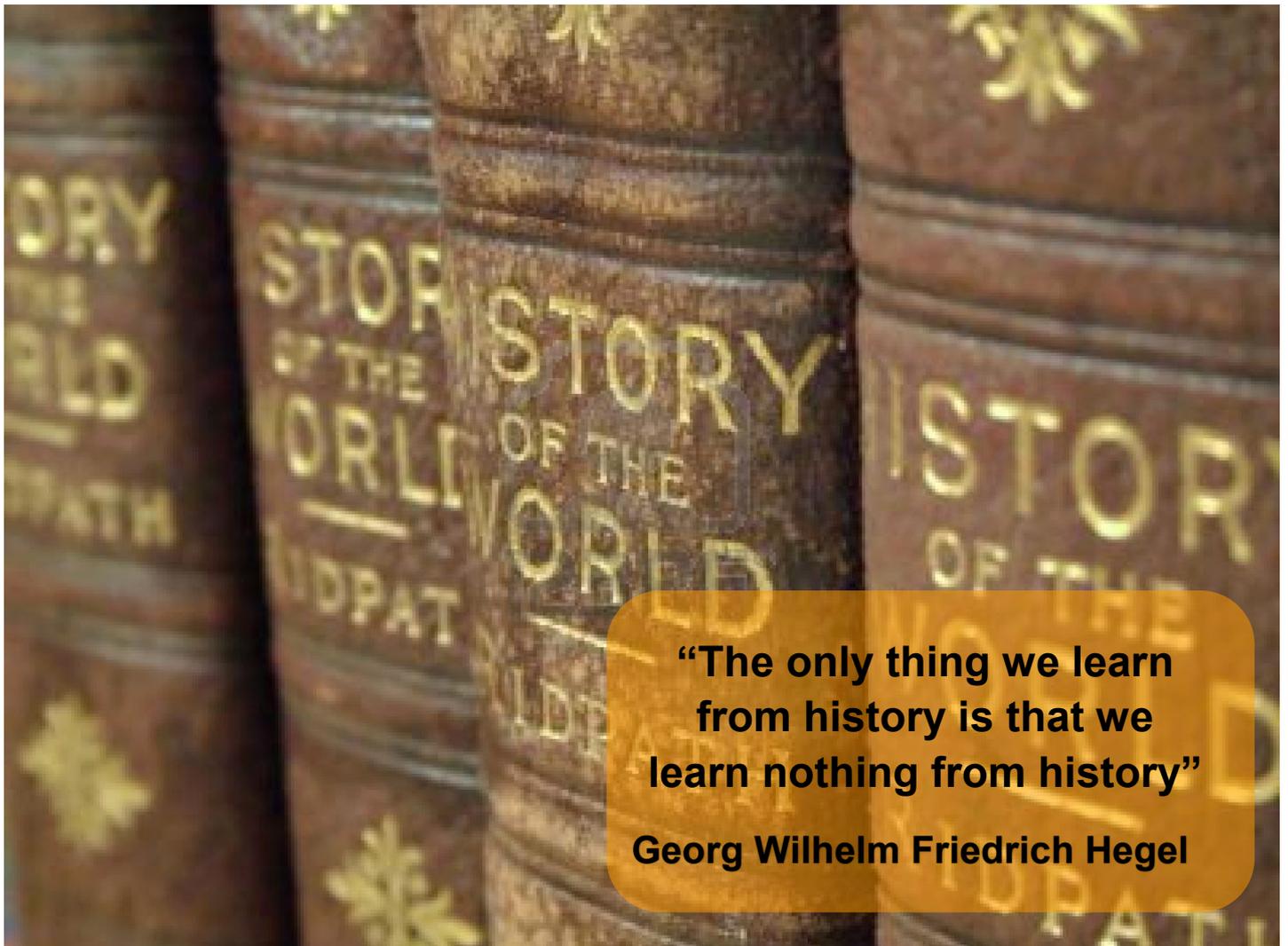
## Anything else I need to know?

Success at GCSE will need a great attitude towards revision for the final exams. Many of the skills that you will learn and develop will involve fact recall. History is a fantastically interesting subject.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the Edexcel GCSE History specification, which can be found here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>



**“The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history”**

**Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**

# GCSE

## Religious Studies GCSE (Philosophy & Ethics)

Religious Studies is important as it helps with your own personal development & supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social & cultural questions that surface again & again within your lives.

The course is made up of 2 Components, which are split into 6 sub-sections.

**Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practises** . In this component, you will study the religions of Christianity and Islam focusing on the core beliefs of both religions, the key teachings and how they are practised; studied on individuals, communities and societies.

**Component 2: Thematic studies.** This component will focus on four religious, philosophical and ethical themes

Theme A: Relationship and Families

Theme B: Religion and Life

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

These chosen themes will cover a wide range of issues of the modern day and help to develop a well-rounded understanding of the world.

The GCSE RS course has 2 separate exam papers. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes and are equally 50% of your final grade. Both involve essay writing.

Component 1: Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5, and 12 marks.

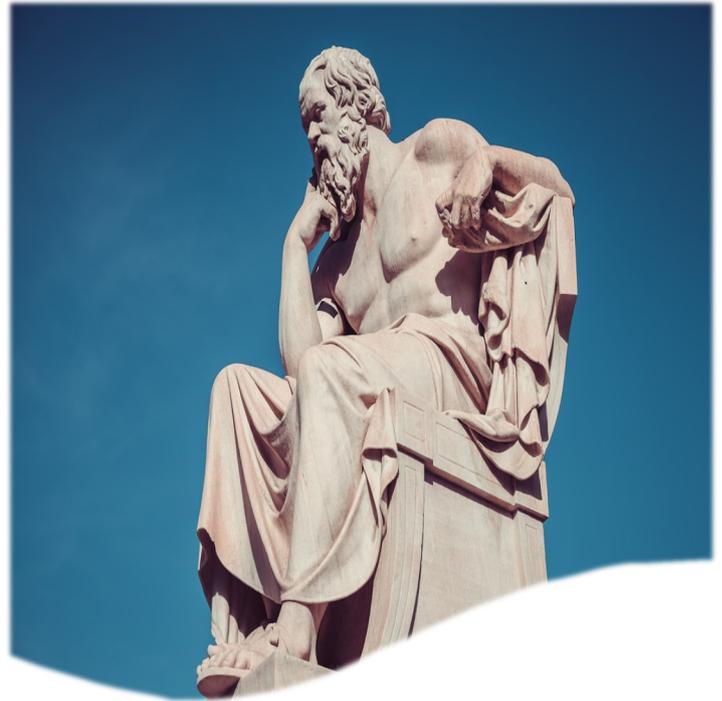
Component 2: Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1. 2. 4. 5 and 12 marks.

### How will this course help me in the future?

RS is a rigorous humanities subject. Young people will find RS both challenging and academically rewarding. This subject will equip you with an understanding of morality, ethics and reliability of evidence. It is recognised as providing suitable preparation for various degree courses at top universities. Subjects including A Levels in Religious Studies English Literature, Art, Drama, Sociology, Law and Politics often benefit from having studied RS at GCSE. Those who have studied RS are highly regarded and sought after by employers in a great many sectors.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

In preparation for the course, you should complete some research on the topics that would be taught. The first module taught in Year 10 will cover the Core Beliefs of Christianity such as the Nature of God.



## Anything else I need to know?

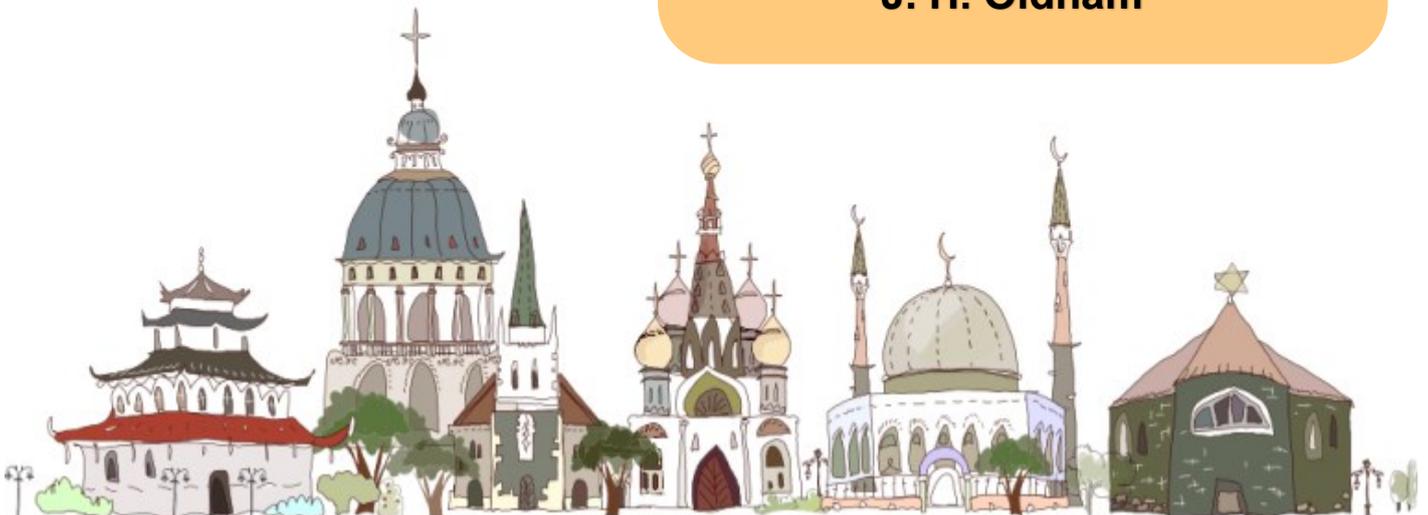
Success at GCSE will need a great attitude towards revision for the final exams. Many of the skills that you will learn and develop will involve fact recall. Religious Studies is a fantastically interesting subject.

You can visit the AQA RS specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

**“Differences were meant not to divide but to enrich”**

**J. H. Oldham**



# GCSE

## French

Having an additional language will enhance your job prospects, develop your logical thinking skills and broaden your knowledge of other cultures. **Languages open up the world.** Learning any language can make us more successful working abroad and builds resilience and agility. It provides 'cultural capital' In an age where soft skills are so important, being good listeners and communicators will not only boost your grades but give you the edge in networking and future life.

### What topics do I cover?

AQA new specification. There are 3 themes. Students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout the course.

#### Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others. Topic 2 : Healthy living and lifestyle. Topic 3: Education and work

#### Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities. Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations. Topic 3: Celebrity culture.

#### Theme 3 : Communication and the world around us

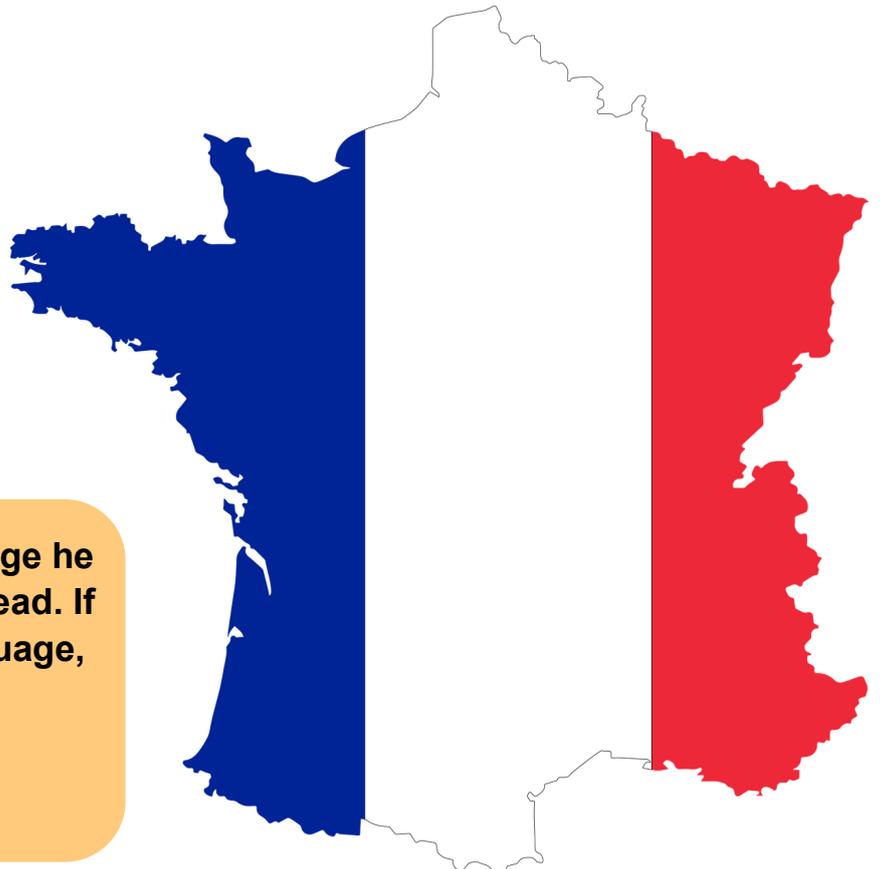
Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest. Topic 2: Media and technology. Topic 3: The environment and where people live.

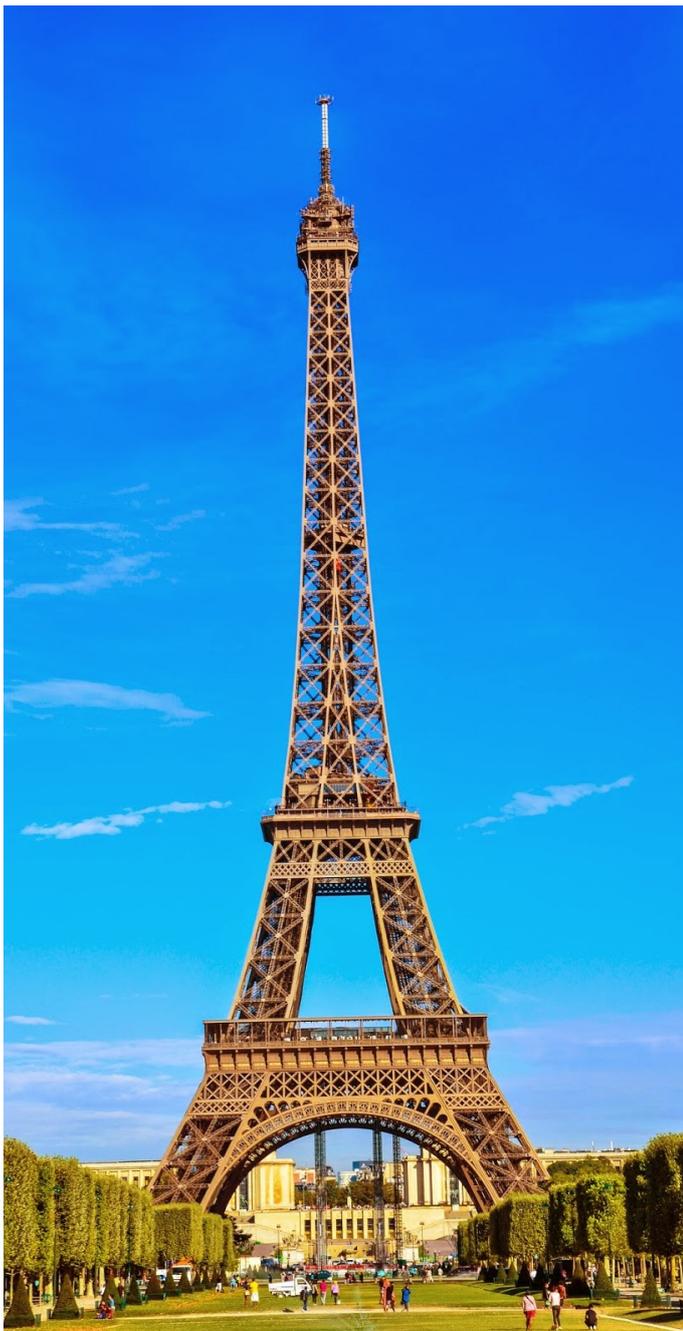
### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by end-of-course examinations in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Although there is no coursework or controlled assessment, your progress will be regularly measured by assessments to inform the teacher and yourself about your progress in French.

**“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”**

**Nelson Mandela**





## How will this course help me in the future?

In today's global economy, knowing another language really gives students a competitive edge when applying for jobs. Possible careers may be in translation, interpreting, international business, game localisation, legal careers, government careers including teaching, charity organisations, and a wide range of jobs in francophone countries.

This course can lead you into studying a language in further and higher education, and is seen as a facilitating subject when applying to universities.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

Regular revision of vocabulary and grammar of about 15 minutes three times a week will help. Use Apps such as Duolingo, watch French films and listen to French music and use YouTube. You should use authentic materials as much as possible, as well as revision guides.

## Anything else I need to know?

Languages are an essential skill which involves commitment, patience, and dedication. You will need to be fully engaged in your work and have a genuine desire to succeed, as well as a good dose of self-belief. It takes time and hard work to become fluent but it is a lifelong skill.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the AQA GCSE French specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

# GCSE

## Spanish

Learning a foreign language gives you a window into different cultures. It isn't just about translating words. It helps you learn about a country's past and present and more importantly it gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation of the people and their different cultures.

**Languages give you the edge-** language skills are very sought after by employers – GCSE and A Level qualifications open doors for traditional careers but also in digital marketing, social media and sales.

**Languages boost confidence-** speaking a second language teaches you communication, presentation and soft skills that help you connect to your audience more. All of these transferrable skills will give your overall confidence levels a boost particularly at interviews.

### What topics do I cover?

AQA new specification. There are 3 themes. Students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout the course.

#### Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others. Topic 2 : Healthy living and lifestyle. Topic 3: Education and work

#### Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities. Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations. Topic 3: Celebrity culture.

#### Theme 3 : Communication and the world around us

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, includeing places of interest. Topic 2: Media and technology. Topic 3: The environment and where people live.



### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by end-of-course examinations in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Although there is no coursework or controlled assessment, your progress will be regularly measured by assessments to inform the teacher and yourself about your progress in Spanish

## How will this course help me in the future?

In today's global economy, knowing another language really gives students a competitive edge when applying for jobs. Possible careers may be in both in the UK and internationally, hospitality, financial services, Civil Service, engineering, IT, journalism, teaching in the UK and abroad, Law, translation and interpreting to name a few.

This course can lead you into studying a language in further and higher education, and may be seen as a facilitating subject when applying to Universities.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

Regular revision of vocabulary and grammar of about 15 minutes three times a week will help. Use Apps such as Duolingo, watch Spanish films and listen to Spanish music and use YouTube. Your teacher will also enrol you into a class on Memrise which is a language learning and revision programme which is based on the vocabulary list issued by AQA. You should use authentic materials as much as possible, as well as revision guides.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the AQA GCSE Spanish specification, which can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>



# GCSE

## Computer Science

We live in a digital world. The use of computing is everywhere and is experienced across race, gender, class, age and culture. Screens, devices and sensors are in our homes, workplace, and pockets. Digital interactions between people and technology feed a network of data that exists in the background to generate experiences that influence our lives. The use of technology in our connected environment is creating many opportunities to support a digital-first world. Computer science will develop the core skills you will require to create products for this digital world you live in.

### What topics do I cover?

Broadly the course is split into two sections:

**Computer Systems:** you will develop an understanding of system architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, system software and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology.

**Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:** you will develop your abilities in creating, correcting and tracing algorithms and producing robust programs. You will also develop practical understanding of Boolean logic, programming fundamentals, programming languages and integrated development environments.

### What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

In preparation for the course, you should complete some research on the topics that will be taught. The first topic taught in year 10 is system architecture. BBC Bitesize provides you with understandable content on the topic and offer you the opportunity to assess your understanding.

### How will I be assessed?

The course requires you to sit two exam papers.

**Paper 1** relates to the content of the **Computer Systems**. This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions. multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and extended-response questions. You will need to recall, assess, and apply the knowledge acquired in the Computer Systems unit. All questions on this paper are mandatory. Additionally, this is a non-calculator paper.

**Paper 2** relates to the **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming** unit. This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. You will be required to answer both sections and all questions are mandatory. Section A will assess your ability to write or refine algorithms. You will be required to use **either** the OCR Exam Reference Language **or** a high-level programming language like python to create these algorithms. You will also be required to demonstrate computational thinking, problem solving and coding skills during the exam.

## How will this course help me in the future?

The skills you will learn can be applied to many disciplines. Computer Science complements maths because it teaches logical thinking and problem solving. It will support any subject that requires critical thinking helping you to analyse arguments in history and English literature/language.

There are many careers that you could pursue with Computer Science including banking, software engineering, cyber security, and website development.

This subject supports a pathway to Computer Science and IT courses at Key Stage 5, both through A Levels and with BTEC Nationals.

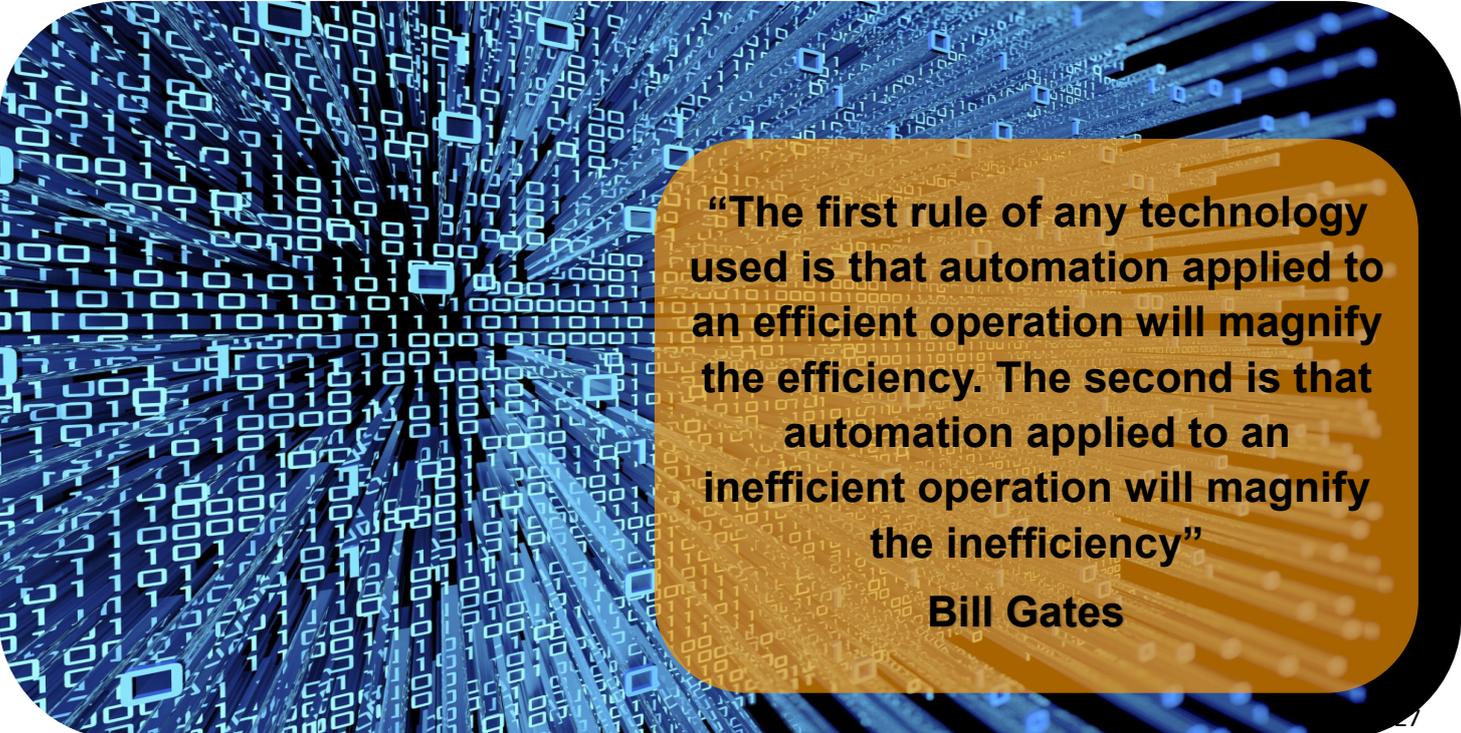
## Anything else I need to know?

We have a computing club which is held every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30, with a primary emphasis on enhancing students' programming abilities. Additionally, achieving success in this subject greatly relies on your commitment to consistently exhibit a growth mindset and engage in regular study.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR GCSE Computer Science webpage which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>



**“The first rule of any technology used is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency”**

**Bill Gates**

# GCSE

## ART: Fine Art

Art explores creativity and expression. Studying art deals with being able to problem solve and think 'outside the box'. Art provides a common ground across barriers and prejudices and teaches one to think critically. The course not only involves developing artistic skills through practise and experimentation, but also being able to research both past and contemporary artists to create a rounded knowledge of how art was and is being created.

### What topics do I cover?

The course has 4 key different assessment objectives, and these are be basis of the content of the course.

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

These are examined across two components.



**“There are 2 things in the painter, the eye and the mind; each of them should aid the other.”**

**Henri Matisse**

## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through two components. Component 1 consists of coursework which makes up 60% of the course. Component 2 consist of an externally set exam which makes up 40% of the course.

The first component consists of a major project where you will work with a chosen theme. You will also develop a smaller project which usually involves a gallery visit. The exam paper is given to you in January of Year 11 and the exam takes place at the end of April.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR GCSE Art and Design specification which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/220463-specification-accredited-gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176.pdf>

## Anything else I need to know?

Choosing Art is not just about being creative and being able to draw and paint what you want, but it is about learning how to produce work based upon a brief and then producing your own independent response.

Making Art can be very time consuming and to achieve high marks, producing work of a high quality is essential, and so you need to be dedicated to the course.

## How will this course help me in the future?

The subject offers direct routes into University, through the study of Fine Art and can lead to becoming a practising artist or a teacher. Other routes could lead to working in the theatre, game design, designing webtoons, cake decorating, printmaking, becoming an illustrator, to name but a few careers.

Art is more than just a creative subject and is seen as more of an interdisciplinary subject that can cross over to other subjects such as the sciences, performing arts, medicine and maths. The course you how to look at things differently, be creative and use critical thinking to be able to analyse, problem solve, research, develop and produce an outcome.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

There are many websites such as BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> that show what GCSE Art and Design entails.



# GCSE

## ART: Graphic Communication

Have you ever wondered who designed your favourite take-away menu, or the Nike logo? Well it would have been by a Graphic Artist! Have you ever thought that maybe you could have done a better job by changing the typography, or font, or image or colours? Well, then Graphic Art could be the right choice for you, especially if you love art but aren't that keen in drawing or going down a fine art route

Graphic Communication can be defined as the art of working with text and images to communicate ideas using a wide variety of techniques such as design for print, typography or branding. These are chosen to meet a specific brief, which could be for advertising, packaging, books and posters.

It's about being creative, using your imagination, exploring ideas and looking at things in a different way.

### What topics do I cover?

The course has 4 key different assessment objectives, and these are the basis of the content of the course.

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through two components. Component 1 consists of coursework which makes up 60% of the course. Component 2 consist of an externally set exam which makes up 40% of the course.

Component 1 consists of a major project where you will work with a chosen theme given to you by your teacher. In order to help you develop your ideas, a gallery visit usually takes place in year 10.

Component 2 consists of an exam paper which is released in January of Year 11. This enables you to prepare work and cover 3 of the assessment objectives. The final objective, A04, culminates in sitting the exam at the end of April and producing a final outcome in 10 hours.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR GCSE Art and Design webpage, which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design>

## Anything else I need to know?

Choosing Graphic Communication is not just about being creative, it is about learning how to creatively respond to a project brief, thoroughly exploring your ideas to produce your independent graphic product.

Whether you want to design a poster, book cover, game cover design or a logo, all successful ideas begin with drawing, planning, experimentation with the range of media including Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

You must also be able to work independently and develop your work according to the theme. The theme given is deliberately broad to enable you to focus on imagery that inspires you to work towards developing a unique final piece.

**You will not be able to choose this course with Textiles or Art, as these topics fall under the umbrella of the Art and Design GCSE**

## How will this course help me in the future?

The subject offers direct routes into University, through the study of Graphic Art and can lead to becoming a practising graphic designer. Studying Graphics could also lead to a career working in advertising, animation, designer for film, set design for theatre and television, exhibition designer, illustrator, web designer, packaging designer, media design and typography.

Graphic Communication is a creative subject that is an interdisciplinary subject that crosses over to other subjects including the Sciences, IT, Performing Arts and Maths. This course teaches you how to look at things differently, to use critical thinking to be able to analyse and creatively problem solve, research, develop and produce a final outcome.



# GCSE

## Photography

Have you ever wondered what makes a great photograph? Photography is a very powerful art medium that increasingly has a huge impact on our daily lives through advertising and social media.

Studying photography allows you to visually document your point of view, and through studying photography you will start to observe the world around you in greater detail, appreciate the light, shapes and colours, these details are key to taking a great photograph.

Through your studies you will also learn how to analyse a photograph, what does the photographer want you to think? To buy? To feel? To question it's authenticity, is it real? Has it been manipulated? If it has, then how and why?

Photography is a versatile skill, offering career opportunities in specialties like wedding Photography, photojournalism, fashion, and wildlife photography. Skills in Photography are also beneficial in fields like forensic science, print journalism and social media management.

### What topics do I cover?

The course has 4 key different assessment objectives, and these are the basis of the content of the course.

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through two components. Component 1 consists of coursework which makes up 60% of the course. Component 2 consist of an externally set exam which makes up 40% of the course.

Component 1 consists of a major project where you will work with a chosen theme given to you by your teacher. In order to help you develop your ideas, a gallery visit usually takes place in year 10.

Component 2 consists of an exam paper which is released in January of Year 11. This enables you to prepare work and cover 3 of the assessment objectives. The final objective, A04, culminates in sitting the exam at the end of April and producing a final outcome in 10 hours.

## Anything else I need to know?

Choosing Photography is not just about taking a great selfie. It is about learning how to work in response to a brief, planning and organisation skills, problem solving, learning through experimentation and experience, as well as the technical skills required to take a great photograph.

A professional photographer plans photography shoots in order to communicate an idea, a memory, a person or an event. The photograph may then be edited and manipulated using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. This photograph may be the work in its' own right, it might be a vital part of a commercial product.

To successfully complete the course you will need evidence of planning a photoshoot in response to a theme. You will need to explore the capability of you camera to experiment with light, depth of field and composition. Reflect upon your progress, question how you can refine your work and if the images fulfil the requirements of the design brief.

## How will this course help me in the future?

Photography as a subject in secondary education not only prepares students for University studies but also equips them with skills highly sought after in various fields of work. Additionally, the communication and problem-solving skills developed through photography are invaluable in fields such as journalism, marketing, and digital media, where visual storytelling plays a crucial role.

Furthermore, the entrepreneurial skills cultivated in photography can lead students to pursue careers as freelance photographers or entrepreneurs in the creative industry. Overall, the skills and perspectives gained from studying photography in secondary school provide a strong foundation for success both in higher education and in the professional world.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR GCSE Art and Design webpage, which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design>



# GCSE

## ART: Textiles Design

Throughout human history Textiles and Fashion have been essential, not just to keep us warm and to protect us but also to communicate who we are, which community or tribe we belong to and our status. This has evolved to a much more personal way of self-expression.

The course is ideal for anyone wishing to explore their creativity in a structured and supportive environment. It provides excellent preparation for further study and a career in the visual arts. Furthermore, students gain skills which are invaluable in any area of study, such as increased independence, visual awareness, creative thinking and problem solving, research and analytical skills and presentation skills.

Textiles is ideal for students who enjoy practical work such as: making and dyeing fabric, printing, creative stitching and constructing or personalising garments. The emphasis of the course is on practical work with some supporting written work to record critical and analytical thinking skills.

Current students have made: corsets, skirts and dresses as well as upcycling denim jackets, shoes and shirts.

### What topics do I cover?

The GCSE grade is:

- 40% Exam work and 60 % Course work

The course work requires students to complete 1 Coursework project that covers all 4 assessment objectives.

- Research – the relevant & exciting work of artists, designers, craftsperson's and architects, from different places in time and from around the world. To help develop your own work.
- Experiment – use a range of techniques, processes and media to develop your ideas
- Record your ideas – drawings, mark-making, photos, mind maps, written notes

An independent creative outcome – final piece, usually a garment.

To cover the research element of the course we visit art galleries, museums and fashion exhibitions. For example, last year students visited The Fashion & Textiles Museum and the V&A to see the Dior and the Mary Quant exhibitions. These are really valuable experiences, as the students get to see the objects that we are studying and visit the museums that have been established to inspire artists, designers and crafts people by being able to see the best artefacts from around the world.



**“Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening”**

**Coco Chanel**

## How will I be assessed?

The GCSE mark is 60% Coursework and 40% Exam work.

There are 4 assessment objectives

Research – the work of artists, designers, craftsperson's and architects, from different places in time and from around the world. To help develop your own work.

Experiment – use a range of techniques, processes and media to develop your ideas

Record your ideas – drawings, photos, mind maps, written notes

An independent creative outcome – final piece

## How will this course help me in the future?

A creative education teaches you to think creatively, express your individuality and solve complex issues in new ways. This GCSE can lead you to further studies at A-Level, College and University. The growing UK creative industries are now worth over £130 million a year. Within Fashion & Textiles there are over 71 job titles including: fashion designer, creative directors, costume designers, wardrobe managers, stylists, fashion journalists, fashion consultant, illustrators, garment technologists, garment historians and conservationists, textile designers, and there is also the business and retail side of fashion too.



## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

What you need is an enthusiasm for the subject and the willingness to learn skills and experiment with new ideas, techniques and media.

Ideally at home you will have access to: drawing equipment, sewing needles, thread and a sewing machine, but these are not essential as there are after school sessions to support your independent studies.

# GCSE

## Business

Businesses create jobs, inspire innovation, and boost local communities. Every industry relies on business principles to survive and thrive. In these changing times the primary role of business has remained the same: to provide people with the goods and services they need and want. Whether you are passionate about dancing, making food, playing sports, or working with numbers, there is a business side to it. Whatever your goals, you need business skills to promote your work.

### What topics do I cover?

The course is split into two components:

**Business activity, marketing and people:** Students are introduced to business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. They explore the purpose and role of a business from spotting an opportunity through to the growth of an established business. They also look at the role of marketing and human resources.

**Operations, finance and influences on business:** Students take a closer look at the role of operations and finance in business activity. Operations include production processes, quality of goods and services, customer service, and working with suppliers. Finance covers its role, its sources, costs, profit and loss, cash and cash flow.

They also explore how business responds to external influences, such as ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalisation, and the interdependent nature of business.

### How will I be assessed?

The course requires you to sit two exam papers:

**Paper 1** relates to the content of the Business activity, marketing and people.

**Paper 2** relates to the content of Operations, finance and influences on business.

Each paper may also draw some knowledge of the other theme.

### How will this course help me in the future?

The skills you will learn can be applied on any scale, from leading a small team to running a company. There are many careers that you could pursue with business including market research, management, public relations, banking or advertising.

This subject supports a pathway to Business and Economics courses at Key Stage 5, both through A Levels and with BTEC Nationals.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

You can prepare for the course by making note of all the different types of businesses you and your family use every day. Find out:

- Why you or family member choose to use that particular business
- If the businesses are local or national

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR GCSE Business webpage which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/business-j204-from-2017/>

**“The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won’t. It’s whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere.”**

**Barack Obama**

## Anything else I need to know?

The assessment is 100% written exam. You must be committed to working hard, thinking creatively and be self-motivated.

# GCSE

## Food Preparation and Nutrition

Making, creating and enjoying real practical outcomes that you can share with family, friends and even if just for yourself; what's better than to say "look what I've done for you?" Is there a better way than food? You might want to explore further and build a career from this. You may want to display your creative side and eventually design whole new dishes because you understand what's happening inside your food; the scientific you. This course will develop existing skills and knowledge and give you room to develop your creativity, interest and love of food.

### What topics do I cover?

You will develop your practical skills with lots of increasingly complicated dishes based on themes or topics. You will learn about commodities, food types, where they come from, how they work and are used. This is often done through practical sessions.

You will develop your understanding of the impact of the science behind ingredients through practical investigations, and you will produce dishes where you research and produce your own solutions for different culinary tasks.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed regularly across a range of skills and knowledge throughout the course, and the work you complete in Year 11 will decide your final grade.

There are two different pieces of coursework that you will need to complete.

**Food Investigation assignment:** this piece of coursework is an 8hr project set by the exam board requiring you to investigate an aspect of food or an ingredient and the impact it has on what you make. Completed in school time and the ingredients and equipment are supplied by the school. This is worth 15% of your final grade.

**Food Preparation assignment:** this is a 12hr project researching, planning, making and evaluating your outcomes. 3 hours is allocated to a practical examination where you are invited to show your skills while creating 3 dishes, managing your working environment and all aspects of safety. You will be expected to organise your own ingredients. This is worth 35% of your final grade.

**External Written Examination:** this exam is taken at the end of Year 11. This will examine your knowledge of food and commodities. This is worth 50% of your final grade.



## How will this course help me in the future?

Food Preparation and Nutrition offers a wide variety of opportunities in and associated with the hospitality and catering industry. You can go on and study Level 3 courses, although you may have to revise some skills at Level 2 first. You can apply for a wide range of apprenticeships that will allow you then become part of one of the biggest employment sectors in the country.

## What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

To get ready for the course it is always good to have had experience, whether this is from school or by helping out at home. Make sure you have a look at the catering tasks on MS Teams.

## Anything else I need to know?

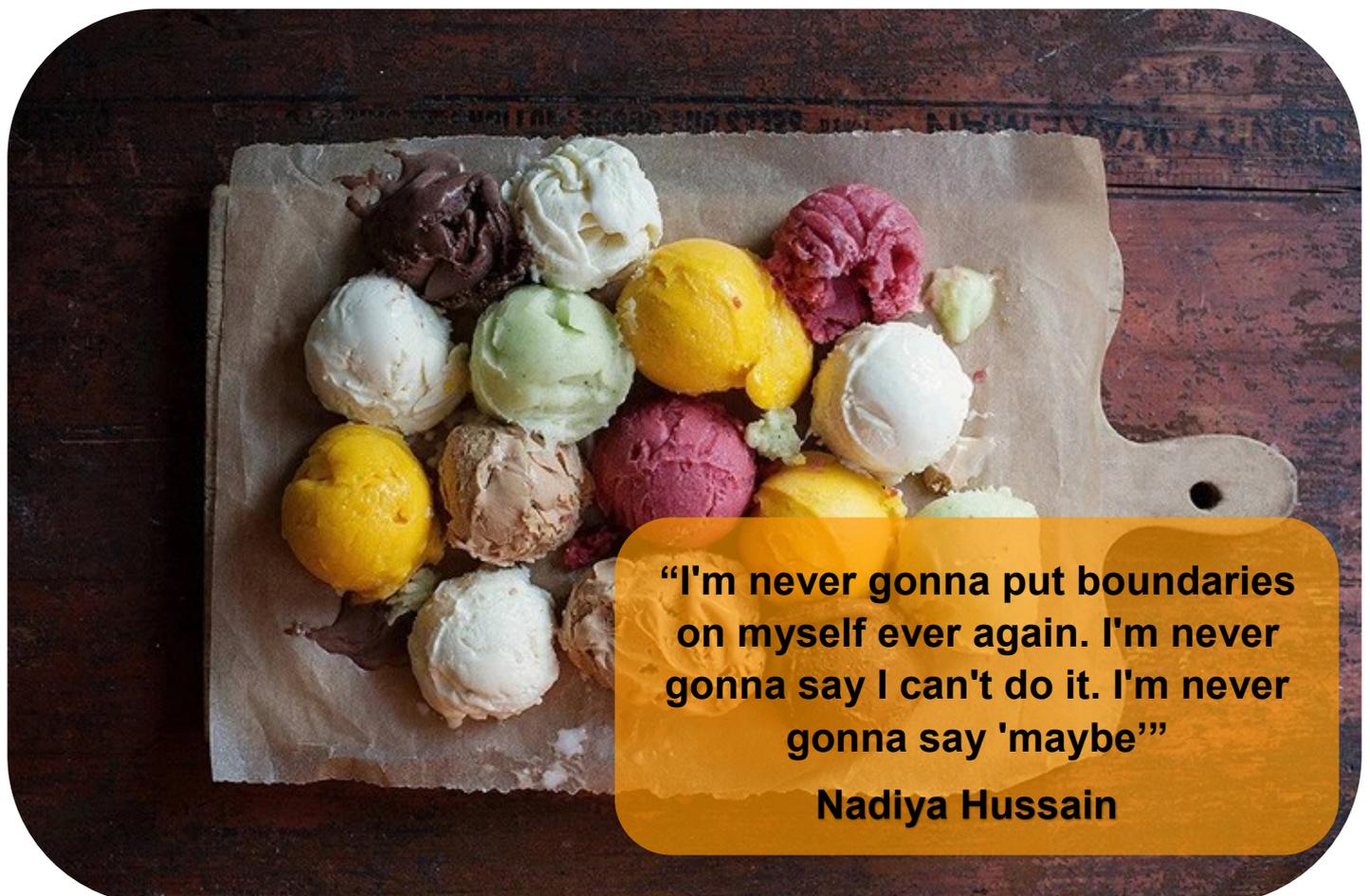
This is a course where you will learn about more than just food. It will teach you about organisation skills, working collaboratively, as well as developing your independent skills.

You will need to organise ingredients for practical sessions.

## How do I find out more information?

The resources section shows some of the skills and knowledge that you will learn while studying, and the link can be accessed here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585>



**“I'm never gonna put boundaries on myself ever again. I'm never gonna say I can't do it. I'm never gonna say 'maybe'”**

**Nadiya Hussain**

# BTEC Tech Award

## Drama

First and foremost, Drama can be a tool used to explore a story as well as create it. This develops key skills such as empathy and tolerance. It is the exploration and investigation of thoughts, feeling and emotions of ourselves and others around us.

Drama can be used to discover and facilitate exploration of the world in which we live and help us find answers to questions through various scenarios. It provides us with a fantastic opportunity to develop core skills through a social setting including teamwork, confidence, organisation and leadership.

### What topics do I cover?

The course is split into three components.

**Exploring the industry:** Looking at professional acting and performance in a variety of styles and how all the features of the piece work together to create something special. You will explore the style, ideas, influences, process and people involved in creating the piece.

**Developing Skills and Techniques:** Participating in practical workshops to develop your acting skills towards learning and performing a professional drama piece is at the heart of this unit. You will review your progress and performance throughout the process.

**Responding to a brief:** Working as either an actor or designer, you will be given a brief and a starting point to create a piece of drama or design portfolio. This is a collaborative project where everyone is encouraged to contribute and work collaboratively to create an effective piece that clearly communicates an idea to the audience.

### How will I be assessed?

The first two components are assessed by your teacher and evidence is created throughout the workshop lessons. You will produce a variety of evidence such as video recordings of practical work and performances, reflection sheets, milestone logs, presentations, logbooks and evaluations.

The final component is assessed by an external examiner by video. You will have 12 weeks to create and perform the piece. There are 3 written logs to complete alongside this which are written in supervised conditions, but you can use prepared notes.

### How do I find out more information?

You can visit the Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts which can be found here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>



## How will this course

Skills learnt in acting are transferrable such as self-discipline, resilience, communication, problem solving, teamwork, confidence and creativity. Those who study Drama may progress onto various pathways in the future such as performance on stage or screen, directing, teaching and production. Many students have also completed this course as an enjoyable and creative outlet alongside more academic subjects.

BTEC Drama is a vocational course with lots of practical experience so it has natural progression to a BTEC Level 3 course or A level in Drama or Performing Arts. It is a strong foundation for those wishing to study Drama or the performing arts at university or even the possibility of study at a national drama school.

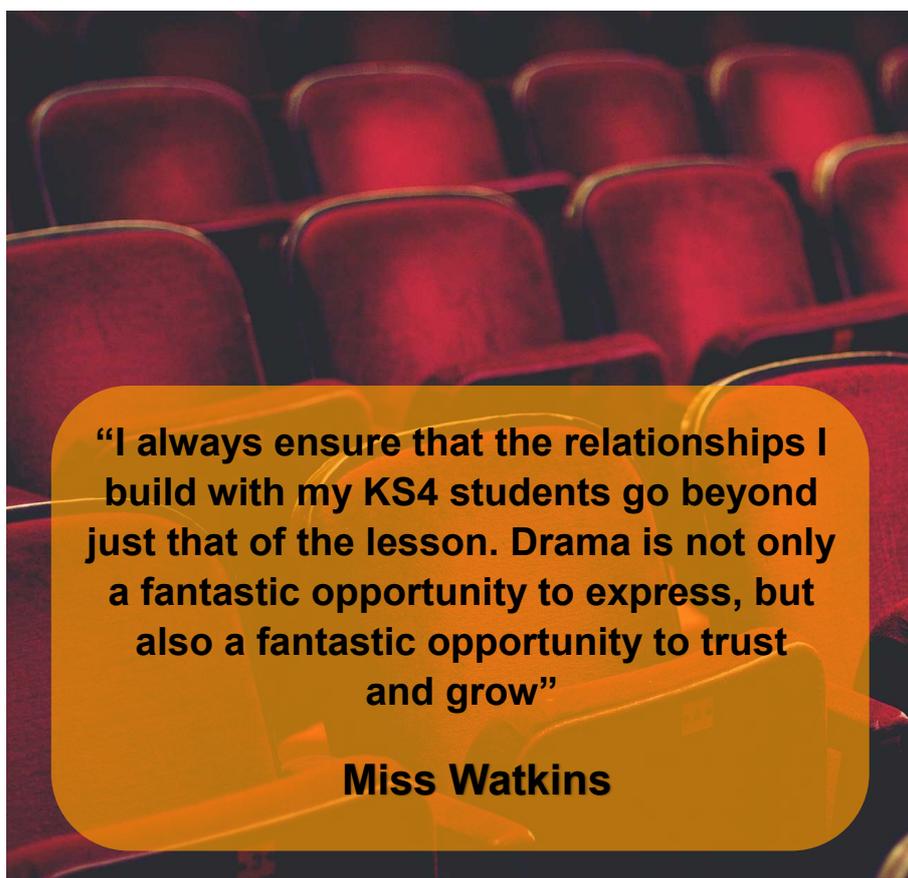
## What do I need to do to prepare for this

Try to develop and maintain your knowledge of performances and practitioners. Where possible, watch a variety of performance pieces online and at the theatre for inspiration (we have a subscription to Digital Theatre+ so you can access lots of performances on there). Participating in extra-curricular performing arts and performances would help to prepare you for after-school rehearsals and develop confidence in performing.

## Anything else I need to know?

You will be successful in this course if you are committed to lessons with energy and enthusiasm. We will provide opportunities such as workshops with professional artists and require an openness to try, positivity and motivation from you.

Attendance to lessons is important as components are marked though work created in these. Most of the course is evidenced with written work alongside the practical work.



**“I always ensure that the relationships I build with my KS4 students go beyond just that of the lesson. Drama is not only a fantastic opportunity to express, but also a fantastic opportunity to trust and grow”**

**Miss Watkins**

# BTEC Tech Award

## Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care is all about helping people. During the pandemic, we have seen how important it is to help vulnerable people in the community and provide them with support. In BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care you will explore how individuals develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially over time. Furthermore, you will learn which health and social care services are available and discover why people might need to use them. Finally, you will prepare to complete a study on an individual and create a health and wellbeing improvement plan in examined conditions.

### What topics do I cover?

**Component 1—Human Lifespan Development—** Learners will investigate different areas of growth and development and how different factors can affect an individual's health and wellbeing across the six different life stages. Links made to Physical, Intellectual and Emotional health and wellbeing.

**Component 2—Health and Social Care Services —** Learners will have an opportunity to understand the different types of health and social care services available within the UK and the potential barriers in accessing them. There will also be an opportunity to explore the different care values that underpin health care services and professionals.

**Component 3—Health and Wellbeing—** Learners will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and how to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

### What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

There are several news feeds which would help to prepare you for your studies in Health and Social Care in Year 10, including:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health>



**“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much”**

**Helen Keller**



## How will this course help me in the future?

There are many careers which complement a Health and Social Care qualification. Being successful on this course could lead you into Paramedics, Nursing, Health care practice, Diet and Nutrition, Occupational therapy, Psychology, Mental health care, Childcare, education, Social work and many more.

Studying this course will also support you with your next steps and to study Health and Social Care at Level 3 and to go onto further education,

## Anything else I need to know?

That this is a course where you will be able to reflect on your own health and well-being and learn how to interact with different people in a positive and non-judgemental way. It is an exciting course requiring commitment and dedication. There is a strong written emphasis in the course which you will need to stay motivated and work independently to complete.

## How will I be assessed?

BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care is equivalent to one GCSE grade, however, due to to being a vocational course, you will be awarded a grade ranging between, L1P—L2D\*.

# OCR Cambridge National

## Sport Science

Sport, activity and fitness is a growing industry. There are currently over 400,000 jobs in the UK. Sport, activity and fitness also has a positive impact on the health of the nation. Regular sport and physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions and illnesses, including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer and obesity. The OCR Cambridge National in Sport Science offers learners a chance to develop skills to progress directly to a job role in a sporting occupational area. The course has a focus on building skills across a range of areas. These skills can be used in sport careers and/or to advance studies to Level 3 and higher education.

### What topics do I cover?

The course is divided into three key units of study.

#### **Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions :**

In this topic, you will prepare as a participant to take part in physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring and to know how to react to common injuries that can occur during sport and physical activity,

#### **Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance :**

This unit involves you conducting a range of fitness tests, understand what they test and their advantages and disadvantages. You will also learn how to design, plan and evaluate a fitness training programme.

**The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this :** By completing this unit you will gain understanding of how both the cardio-respiratory and musculoskeletal systems provide you with the energy and movements needed to keep you exercising and in turn how exercise helps develop both systems.

### What do I need to do to prepare for this course?

To prepare for the course, you would significantly benefit from thinking about elements of sport, other than participation in sport. Students should look to use the specification (Link on next page) to help research the key elements of the course, and think about how to compare, contrast and analyse the reasons for participation and performance in sport.

### How will I be assessed?

The three units in the qualification give you the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the sports industry, and specialist skills and techniques in planning fitness training programmes and recommending nutritional strategies to improve fitness and performance at Levels 1 and 2.

Unit 1 is assessed externally through a written exam, lasting 75 minutes and contributes to 40% of the course.

Units 2 and 3 will be assessed internally. Each unit consists of 1 set assignment containing a number of tasks which specifically targets the assessment outcomes for the component. Assignments are assessed against Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria. The grade for each unit contributes to 30% of the overall course.

In order to achieve a grade in the course, you must successfully complete and pass each component.

## Anything else I need to know?

Before beginning this course, you need to be aware that you **will not** be assessed on your practical performance. If selecting this course, you should do so because you would like to explore the opportunity of a future career in sport that does not necessarily involve competing including performance analysts, sports coaching and PE teaching.

Lessons will predominantly consist of theory-based lessons with opportunities to apply learning through a vocational approach. The course will incorporate practical lessons to apply and further develop the knowledge that you acquire during the theory-based lessons. OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science provides you with the tools you need to complete the first step on the ladder for a future career in sport. It is essential you are aware of this and prepared to work hard in the classroom in order to be successful in this qualification.

This course uses and teaches reading and writing skills that you will be able to apply in your English lessons, as well as teaching elements which contain science content for areas such as anatomy and physiology. There are also elements of the course where you will be able to use and develop mathematic skills for reading and analysing graphs and other data relating to sports performance.

## How will this course help me in the future?

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Sport, which prepares learners to enter employment or an Apprenticeship, or to move to higher education by studying a degree in the sport or sport and exercise areas.

## How do I find out more information?

You can visit the OCR Cambridge National webpage which can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-1828/>

**“OCR Cambridge National in Sport Science goes beyond playing sport and provides students with an opportunity to acquire skills that will help them to follow a career in sport with a lifelong appreciation for health and fitness. This course also provides opportunities for students to develop key personal skills such as; independent learning, organisation, communication, problem solving and ICT skills, which will all help in a range of other subjects and throughout life.”**

