

Key Stage 4 Subjects Options 2017

Course Descriptions Compulsory and Option Subjects

January 2017

For Students, Parents and Carers

This booklet is intended to help guide students in their option choices that begin in year 9 by sharing course summary information.

Teaching in all option subjects runs for three years until the end of year 11. A Head of Faculty will co-ordinate the timing and specific details for examination and controlled assessments and these are subject to change during the course.

The academy believes in freedom of choice, students should choose subjects they are passionate about and want to study. Guidance is provided to ensure these choices support any future aspirations.

Explaining the 'English Baccalaureate' Award

The government introduced the English Baccalaureate award in 2010, a separate award to GCSEs. The award was created to increase uptake of core academic subjects. To obtain this award students have to attain a pass (Grade 5 or above) in each of the following 'Ebacc' subjects:

English GCSE	Mathematics GCSE	Two Science GCSEs	Language GCSE	History GCSE or Geography GCSE
To qualify for this award in the academy students will have to select a language along with either History or Geography. Note that no formal certificate is given.				

Explaining the 'Attainment 8' measure

Attainment 8 is a new measure, beginning in 2016, it averages the grades of 8 GCSE subjects:

English Language or English Literature (Best grade doubled. Both must be taken)

Maths (Grade doubled)

Three Ebacc GCSEs (Science, Computing, MFL, History and Geography are included)

Three other GCSEs or equivalent or BTEC awards

Students will have a free choice of three option subjects from either GCSEs or BTECs

Next steps:

Return reply slip by February 9 2017.

Complete the options form and bring to Year 8 Options evening, Tuesday 31 January 2017 16:30 to 19:00.

In the event, a replacement copy of the Options Form is required it is available on our website under the important information section. Alternatively, please see your Raising Standards Leader.

We hope all students enjoy studying their chosen option subjects through Key Stage 4 and we wish them the best of luck and success through the next stage in your education.

The following pages detail all option subjects offered to students, along with the compulsory subjects they will be studying.

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Compulsory Subjects

GCSE English Language (Compulsory)

English Language is...

- the subject that underpins all other subjects that rely on reading, writing and communication skills.
- the key qualification employers and further education establishments require their staff and students to have.
- challenging, varied and fun. You will engage with stimulating world issues through fiction and non-fiction.
- the route to your successful future.

All students will study this course. You will:

- develop your skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening.
- read a wide range of novels, stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction texts.
- write in a variety of forms focusing on technical accuracy and demonstrating an understanding of the purpose of your written work.
- be assessed for your Speaking and Listening skills either as an individual, in pairs or groups. This will include activities that encourage you to explain, explore, discuss, analyse and persuade.
- English Language is assessed through examinations and speaking and listening.

GCSE English Literature (Compulsory)

English Literature is...

- the study of the “best words in the best order” (Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s definition of poetry – it can relate to all good literature though).
- a way to appreciate the beauty of the written form.
- a way to understand the social, historical and cultural contexts and influences in the texts you study.
- an awareness of the ‘worlds’ presented in these texts.
- a way of inspiring and developing your own written work.

All students will study this course. You will:

- develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts.
- develop a sense of the people, places and times which produced the texts.
- develop the ability to create and convey meaning in speech and writing, matching style to audience and purpose.
- English Literature is assessed through examinations.

Further Education options: English, Humanities, Media, Sciences and Languages (Many of these subjects require at least a GCSE grade B to study at A Level).

Examples of jobs available: English will support all forms of employment dependant on the level studied to.

GCSE Mathematics (Compulsory)

Mathematics is...

- the subject that underpins all other subjects that rely on numeracy skills.
- the key qualification employers and further education establishments require their staff and students to have.
- challenging, varied and fun.
- the route to your successful future.

All students will study this course. You will:

- study the mathematical areas of number, algebra, shape, space, geometry and measures, handling data and using and applying Mathematics.
- learn about number and number systems, calculations, solving numerical problems, equations formulae and identities, sequences, functions and graphs.
- study geometrical reasoning, transformations and co-ordinates, measures and construction.
- learn about specifying the problem, planning, collecting data, processing and representing data, interpreting and discussing results.
- be assessed by two written examinations, one where a calculator may be used and one non-calculator. Each paper is worth 50%.

Some students will also have the opportunity to study statistics GCSE or Additional Mathematics GCSE depending on their progress.

Further Education options: Maths, Science, Technology, Engineering and Computing and Research.

Examples of jobs available: Maths will support all forms of employment dependant on the level studied to.

Mathematics now has no formal route to GCSE Statistics. Students who intend to study GCSE Statistics should select GCSE Statistics as a separate option subject.

Science Subjects

GCSE Science Double Award GCSE - Trilogy (Compulsory)

The sciences ensure students have the knowledge to enable them to develop curiosity about the natural world, insight into working scientifically, and appreciation of the relevance of science to their everyday lives, so that students:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiry that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry, problem-solving skills and mathematical skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other environments.
- develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

What will be studied?

The course will comprise approximately equal proportions of biology, chemistry and physics. The relevant mathematical skills required are covered in the programme of study for mathematics and should be embedded in the science context.

Biology topics will include:

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology.

Chemistry topics will include:

8. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
9. Structure, bonding and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes in chemistry
13. Rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry and the atmosphere
17. Using resources.

Physics topics will include:

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism.

Assessment

The AQA Combined Sciences (Trilogy) qualification is linear. This means that students will sit all their exams at the end of year 11. Assessment consists of 6 papers as listed below:

- Paper 1 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Biology topics 1–4 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Biology topics 5-7 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.
- Paper 3 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Chemistry topics 8-12 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.
- Paper 4 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Chemistry topics 13-17 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.
- Paper 5 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Physics topics 18-21 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.
- Paper 6 – 1 hour and 15 minutes. This paper assesses Physics topics 22-24 and will form 16.7% of the final grade.

There is no longer a coursework element as practical skills are assessed within the written papers.

GCSE Separate Sciences

This pathway will be available to students that achieve a 4L or above in key stage 3.

The 'Triple' Science option enables you to qualify in the three 'Separate' Sciences. You will be awarded three GCSE's: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, and GCSE Physics.

Further Education options: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Bio-Chemistry, Geology, Food Science, Medical, Dental, Engineering, Sport and many more.

Examples of jobs available: Doctor, Dentist, Physiotherapist, Pharmacist, Engineer, Chemical Engineer, Researcher, Colour Chemist, Food Analyst, Environmental Health Office, Police Investigator (CSI), Product Design, Government Advisor, Patent Law, Investment Banking and many more.

What will be studied?

Topic	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1	Cell Biology	Atomic structure & the periodic table	Energy
2	Organisation	Bonding, structure and matter	Electricity
3	Infection and response	Quantitative chemistry	Particle model of matter
4	Bioenergetics	Chemical changes	Atomic structure
5	Homeostasis and response	Energy changes	Forces
6	Inheritance, variation and evolution	Rate of chemical change	Waves
7	Ecology	Organic Chemistry	Magnetism
8	Key ideas	Chemical Analysis	Space physics
9		Chemistry of the Atmosphere	
10		Using resources	

Assessment

The qualification is now linear. This means that students will sit all their exams at the end of year 11.

Biology

- Paper 1 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 1 – 4 and will form 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 5 – 7 and will form 50% of the final grade.

Chemistry

- Paper 1 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 1 – 5 and will form 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 6 –10 and will form 50% of the final grade.

Physics

- Paper 1 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 1-4 and will form 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 – 1 hour and 45 minutes. This paper assesses topics 5-8 and will form 50% of the final grade.

There is no longer a coursework element to these qualifications as practical skills are assessed within the linear exams.

Physical Education - Core PE (Compulsory)

- ☐ is challenging, varied and fun. You will engage in various activities that will make you a reflective and in learner.
- ☐ is essential in order for you to maintain a healthy, balanced lifestyle.
- ☐ a great way for you to improve your confidence and self-esteem.
- ☐ is stimulating and will provide you with opportunities to evaluate and analyse.

All students will study this course. You will:

- ☐ develop your skills in many practical activities including rugby, netball and cricket.
- ☐ have the opportunity to enhance your literacy skills through class discussions, group work and question and answer activities.
- ☐ be physically and mentally active, fit and healthy.
- ☐ learn about leadership qualities and communication skills.
- ☐ strengthen peer relationships through participating in team games.
- ☐ improve your personal qualities from:
 - Co-operation – working with others.
 - Competition – testing yourself against others.
 - Physical challenge – testing yourself against the environment or your best performances.
 - Aesthetic appreciation – recognizing quality of movement in a performance.

Core PE has no formal route to GCSE PE. Please select GCSE PE as an option if you would like to study it.

Religious and Personal Studies - RPS (Compulsory)

RPS aims to develop students into not only having an awareness of the diversity of the world in which they live but also aims to develop them into responsible and conscientious citizens. Part of the RPS curriculum will be dealt with through the prism of world religion, examining attitudes of each major world faith towards issues that students will find relevant and help them make informed choices when they mature. In addition, RPS will contain the following elements of PSHCE and Citizenship:

- ☐ Sex and Relationships
- ☐ Financial Management
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ E-Safety
- ☐ Bullying
- ☐ Prejudice and Injustice
- ☐ Careers and life after school

RPS has no formal route to GCSE Religious Education, however students may be able to attain a GCSE in this subject by working in consultation with their RPS teacher.

Business Faculty

GCSE Business Studies

Business is an essential part of all our lives and an understanding of how business works is an excellent starting point for a range of further qualifications and careers. Business Studies is exciting and innovative, comprising of enterprise-themed units. It seeks to actively engage the students in the study of business and economics, developing independence with the ability to be critical and reflective thinkers.

What will be studied? Assessment.

Theme 1: Investigating small business (*Paper code: 1BS0/01)
<i>Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes</i> <i>50% of the qualification</i> <i>90 marks</i>
Content overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship• Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity• Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice• Topic 1.4 Making the business effective• Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business (Paper code: 1BS0/02)
<i>Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes</i> <i>50% of the qualification</i> <i>90 marks</i>
Content overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 2.1 Growing the business• Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions• Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions• Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions• Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Further Education options: Business Studies, Law and Economics.

Examples of jobs available: Lawyer, Accountant, Investment banking, Marketing Executive, self-employment and all branches of the business world.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

GCSE Art (Eduqas/WJEC)

Why should you choose Art?

Do you enjoy drawing, painting and being creative? Do you enjoy your art lessons at KS3? If you answered 'Yes' then Art could be the GCSE option for you!

Creating your own Artwork is both relaxing and challenging. Studying GCSE ART develops creative thinking skills that you can apply and use in other subject areas and in future careers. You will be provided with the opportunity to creatively and visually express your own thoughts and ideas through the exploration and use of different art materials.

What will I study?

The GCSE Art course is divided into 4 major projects:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work, Project 1: Cubism (Year 9) – You will develop and apply your knowledge and understanding of the use of different art materials (Colouring Pencil, Drawing Pencil, Pen, Ink, Watercolour, Felt Tip, Paint,) and a variety of different techniques (Drawing, Application of Colour, Painting, Collage, Photography, etc.) through the production of technical observational drawings on still lifes. You will look at, analyse and evaluate the work of artists from the Cubist Period and learn the difference between Analytical and Synthetic Cubism.

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work, Project 2: What is Art? (Year 10) – Building on the knowledge and application of different art materials explored in project 1, you will produce a series of artworks which show an understanding of different forms of art (Landscapes, Portraits and Still Lives) and knowledge of different Artistic Movements (Pop Art, Expressionism, Fauvism, Futurism, Realism, Surrealism, Art Nouveau, Minimalism, Impressionism). Following a trip to the Tate Britain in London during the second half of the project you will choose your favourite artistic movement to explore in more detail through the creation of a series of artworks, experimenting with different materials, processes and techniques, look at the work of existing artists and creative practitioners before producing a series of final outcomes.

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work, Project 3: Mock Exam (Year 11) – You will be given a choice of 4 themes as a starting point for your exam. Using the subject knowledge gained through the successful completion of Projects 1 & 2 you will explore your chosen theme through the creation of a series of artworks, experimenting with different materials, processes and techniques, look at the work of existing artists and creative practitioners before producing a final outcome under exam conditions.

Unit 2: Controlled Assignment, Project 4: Practical Exam (Year 11) – The exam board will provide you with a choice of themes as a starting point. Using the subject knowledge gained through the successful completion of Projects 1, 2 & 3 you will explore your chosen theme through the creation of a series of artworks, experimenting with different materials, processes and techniques, look at the work of existing artists and creative practitioners before producing a final outcome under exam conditions.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE Art course is split into 2 major components:

Part 1 – Portfolio of Work (60% of marks). This is all the artwork and coursework you produce for projects 1, 2, & 3. (See Above)

Part 2 – Controlled Assignment (40% of marks). This is all the artwork and coursework you produce for project 4. (See Above)

How will GCSE Art benefit me in the future?

Prospective employers and Universities look for students with an artistic and creative mind. Having studied Art, you will have developed the knowledge and skills which will enable you to be creative, resourceful, solve problems, think conceptually; be analytical, well organised, work to sustained periods of time, meet deadlines and show a high level of commitment, perseverance, determination, resilience and self-discipline.

Which careers can I access with GCSE Art?

The successful completion of Art at GCSE Level can lead to further study in the following areas: Fine Art, Photography, Printmaking, Media, Film, Textiles, Ceramics, Glass, Textiles, Fashion & Costume, Metalwork, Graphics, Game Design, Special Effects, Resistant Materials, Theatre Design, Product Design, Architecture, Marketing & Merchandising, Education, and many more.

GCSE Media Studies

Media Studies will help you develop a critical understanding of media texts that are read and understood by different audiences.

It will develop a critical awareness of media representations of individuals, groups and issues.

It will develop an understanding of the relationship between media industries / institutions / technologies, products and audiences.

This course will encourage an awareness of the role of the media.

It will enable candidates to explore and represent their own ideas and experiences by developing practical production skills.

What will be studied?

- ❑ In this course, you will be exposed to different forms of Media and their impact on society as a whole.
- ❑ It is a course that looks at contemporary examples of Media, including advertising, television news and programming and film.
- ❑ During each term, you will have the opportunity to develop the practical skills associated with each media task.

Further Education options: Media Studies, Music & Media Technology, Film & TV Production, Fashion Design & Media and Creative Media.

Example of jobs available: Film Design, Journalist and TV Executive.

GCSE Drama

In Drama, you will learn how to research, investigate, empathise, plan, review, evaluate and present. You will increase your knowledge and understanding of the theatre, acting, lighting, costume, make-up, props and scenery.

Drama will help you to gain confidence in the way you communicate and present yourself to the world. By having the opportunity to practice “stepping into other people’s shoes”, you will make informed decisions about the way they relate to other people and the world around you.

The study of Drama encourages you to be more communicative and express yourself with more success. These interpersonal skills will prove to be extremely useful to you as you make your way through the education system and the workplace.

You will carry forward many transferable skills including the ability to present yourself well at interview, be clear in the way you speak, and be able to listen well and process information effectively.

What will be studied?

- ☐ Students will spend the majority of their time in practical workshops. They will learn how to respond, develop and evaluate both their own work and that of others in their group.
- ☐ Students are taught how physicality and voice effect characterisation and how they might use the rules of improvisation to create plays of their own. They are taught how to explore ideas and dramatic concepts using established strategies such as improvisation, freeze frame, thought-tracking and thought tunnel.
- ☐ Students will need to have a high level of commitment and attendance as success on the course is on their ability to work with others.

Assessment

Component 1- Understanding Drama 40%

Written Paper

- Section A- Theatre roles and terminology
- Section B- Set Text (Blood Brothers)
- Section C- Live Theatre Review

Component 2- Devising Drama 40%

- Create and perform your own piece of original drama
- Devising Log (written)

Component 3- Texts in practice 20%

- Perform two key extracts from chosen play (Monologues, Duologues or Group)

Further Education options: Drama, Drama & Theatre Studies, Musical Theatre and Performing Arts.

Examples of jobs available: Actor, TV Presenter, Theatre Director and Stage Work and is a strong foundation in all areas of employment.

GCSE Music (Eduqas/WJEC)

Why should I choose Music?

Music is a fun, rewarding and inclusive course to study at GCSE, but it can also be very challenging. It is a subject that any student can study, whether you play the piano, guitar or sing. It can also appeal to rappers, drummers, beat-boxers and those who enjoy mixing samples with sequencing software. The course teaches you skills such as teamwork, listening, problem-solving, creativity and communication skills, which are transferable and useful in all subjects and future careers.

What will I study?

The course is divided into four areas of study: -

AoS1: Musical Form and Structure – you will learn how a composer structures their music by studying examples from classical and popular genres.

AoS2: Music for Ensemble - You will learn all about music written for groups of musicians, from string quartets to musical theatre and rock n roll bands.

AoS3: Film Music – You will learn how composers use music to describe the acting and affect emotion and atmosphere in film music. We will study famous movie soundtracks such as Star Wars and The Dark Knight, and you will compose your own music for these movies.

AoS4: Pop Music – you will experience an eclectic mix of popular music, from rock n roll to bhangra and fusion.

How will I be assessed?

Performing (30%) – You will be assessed on your chosen instrument, performing on your instrument or voice, or you can use sequencing packages such as GarageBand or Logic.

Composing (30%) – You will compose two different compositions throughout the course.

Listening & Appraising (40%) – you will complete a listening exam testing you on your understanding and opinions.

How will GCSE Music benefit me in the future?

Music gives you an edge over many candidates in the job market, as well as UCAS university applications, as you will be able to offer skills and experiences that employers are looking for. You will be creative, communicative, expressive individuals, all of which are extremely attractive to employers.

Which careers can I access with GCSE Music?

You can access careers in the Music Industry, but also Business Management, Broadcasting, Teaching and Arts Management.

Design and Technology Faculty

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Food Technology is a practical subject – if you like cooking and working with food then this is the subject for you. However, research, planning, and evaluation will also be key areas of study. It will develop your understanding of issues relating to all aspects of food and nutrition.

The study of this subject will develop knowledge and understanding of human needs within a diverse society and relevant technological and scientific developments. It covers areas that are essential for a career in the food industry, catering, consumer education, food hygiene and safety.

The course provides progression opportunities both directly into employment and to further learning opportunities within employment, or to further study.

What will be studied?

- ❑ You will be given the opportunity to work with a range of foods. This will help you gain an understanding of the processing techniques used when designing and making food products.
- ❑ You will be taught to relate the workings and functions of a wide range of materials, food products and applications to the intended purpose and market of the product.
- ❑ You will also study the design and making of quality food products through industrial and commercial practices.
- ❑ Food nutrition is a key aspect of the course, looking closely at the benefits of certain foods in our diet.

Further Education options: Food Science, Food Technology, Home Economics, Hospitality and Professional Cookery.

Example of jobs available: Chef, Nutritionist, Dietician, Catering Manager and Restaurant Manager.

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Design and Technology opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other industries e.g. medicine, law, and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, and problem solving will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork, time management and product development; which are highly prized by employers.

Design and Technology is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting! Studying GCSE Design and Technology will build on what you have learnt about designing and making in key stage 3. The course involves problem solving, practical work, and requires you to apply your knowledge and understanding to design and create functional and marketable products. As a design and technology student you will be encouraged to be an innovative and creative problem solver. You will work with a variety of materials and components, you will develop drawing and presentation skills, research techniques and use CAD/CAM to develop and create high quality products.

What will be studied?

- ❑ Pupils will work through a series of mini projects in which they learn and develop a range of practical skills.
- ❑ Pupils will analyse and investigate existing products to understand how they have been designed and made, and why they work.
- ❑ Pupils will learn about the work of past and present designers, makers and engineers.
- ❑ Pupils will work with a range of materials to solve problems and create high quality models and

products.

- ☐ In year 11 pupils will complete an extended project in which they will develop a high quality working prototype for a given context.
- ☐ The GCSE awarded is based on marks gained in the non-exam assessment (NEA) and written examination.

Further Education options: Product Design, Electronics, Graphic design, Engineering, Industrial Design, Fashion and Textiles, Art and Design, practical apprenticeships, technical and applied (vocational) qualifications

Examples of jobs available: Engineer, Product Designer, Architect, Furniture Designer, Packaging designer, Illustrator, Stylist and Fashion Designer.

Humanities Faculty

GCSE History

Studying GCSE History enables you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the past in order to interpret events that are happening today and put them into an historical context. It is held in especially high regard by employers as it covers the full range of academic skills and practice, as well as demonstrating extremely high levels of literacy and analytical thought. History will develop your ability to write descriptively, discuss analytically and present fluently. The course will also develop skills at extended writing and critical thinking, essential skills in the professional workplace and further academic study.

What will be studied?

- From three eras: Medieval (500-1500), Early Modern (1450-1750) and Modern (1700-Present Day)
- On three time scales: short (depth study), medium (period study) and long (thematic study)
- on three geographical contexts: a locality (the historic environment); British; and European and / or wider world settings
- At least 40% of the assessed content will be British History.

For the new History GCSEs we have decided to study the AQA History specification. This will allow students to meet the requirements for the qualification whilst providing rigorous and interesting topics. In Year 9 students will study for Paper 1:

Section A: Period Studies (25% of overall qualification)

Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

Section B: Wider World Depth Studies (25% of overall qualification)

Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918

Assessment will be in the form of a 1hr45 exam to be taken at the end of Y11. The exam will consist of short answer questions and longer, essay style questions.

Currently the History department at the Academy has not committed to what will be studied in Year 10 and beyond but ONE option from both of the following sections will be studied for Paper 2:

Section A: Thematic studies (25% of overall qualification)

- 2A Britain: health and the people, c1000–present

Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment (25% of overall qualification)

- Medieval England: the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307

Assessment will be in the form of a 1hr45 exam to be taken at the end of Y11. The exam will consist of short answer questions and longer, essay style questions.

A studious and committed approach to learning is essential to the study of History at GCSE level.

Further education options: - History A-Level, History Degree, Politics and International Relations, Sociology A-Level, Religious Studies A-Level, American Studies, Sociology Degree, Law and A-Level Philosophy.

Example of jobs available: - Teacher/Lecturer, Law, Politics and Government, Finance, Armed Forces, Business, Historian, Archivist, Curator, Conservator, Antiquities, Advertising, Media and Journalism.

GCSE Geography

Geographers are highly regarded in the professional employment market. Whether it's international banking, leisure & tourism, town planning, engineering or architecture, you'll find that our syllabus has much to offer. As well as preparing you for work, we aim to make the course interesting and exciting.

We follow the Edexcel Geography B (2016) specification. Please find below a break-down of the areas of study:

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification

94 marks

Content overview

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

Assessment overview

An externally-assessed written exam with three 30-mark sections. Of the 94 raw marks available, up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology¹.

Section A: Hazardous Earth

Section B: Development dynamics

Section C: Challenges of an urbanising world

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification

94 marks

Content overview

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities.
- *Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including **one** physical fieldwork investigation and **one** human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5.

*For the past few years we have conducted a 3 day residential trip to Somerset to undertake our physical field work requirements- The Langley Academy subsidise part of the cost but there will be some cost involved with this. FSM students are eligible for further funding. Please speak to Mr Ryan if you have further questions.

Assessment overview

An externally-assessed written exam with three sections. Of the 94 marks available up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

Section A: The UK's evolving physical landscape

Section B: The UK's evolving human landscape

Section C: Geographical investigations

- C1: Students choose **one** from two optional questions (Coastal change and conflict **or** River processes and pressures)
- C2: Students choose **one** from two- optional questions (Dynamic urban areas **or** Changing rural areas).

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and 8-mark extended writing questions.

Component 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

25% of the qualification

64 marks

Content overview

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

Assessment overview

An externally-assessed written exam with four sections. Of the 64 raw marks available, up to 4 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and their of specialist terminology.

Section A: People and the biosphere

Section B: Forests under threat

Section C: Consuming energy resources

Section D: Making a geographical decision

The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response and extended writing questions. Section C will include 8-mark extended writing questions and Section D will offer a choice of **one** from three decisions assessed through a 12-mark extended writing question.

Investigating Geography (Unit 4)

- This unit is internally assessed under controlled conditions. Students complete one of the fieldwork tasks from the list provided by Edexcel. They must write up the fieldwork task under controlled conditions.
- The task is marked out of a total of 50 marks across the following areas: planning, methods of data collection, data presentation and report production, analysis and conclusions, and evaluation.
- The task will be marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel.

All units are equally weighted at 25%.

Examinations: Units 1-3, will take place at the end of Year 11. Unit 4 - Investigating Geography is a piece of controlled assessment and will be undertaken in Year 11.

Further Education options: Geography, Environmental Studies, Geology, Land Based Studies, Leisure Studies and Travel & Tourism.

Examples of jobs available: Town Planner, Geologist and Climatologist.

GCSE Religious Studies (RE) (Not an option – students are selected by their RPS teacher)

Religion plays an important role in our society and can influence what people think, feel, and believe. Through studying religion students will have the opportunity to explore and examine their own perspectives on the world and will be encouraged to develop a sense of tolerance of views and opinions that may be different from their own.

What will be studied?

Students will gain a broad insight as to how religion and spirituality form the basis of our culture. Religious Studies also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- ☐ analytical and strategic thinking;
- ☐ research skills;
- ☐ critical judgment
- ☐ the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- ☐ an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict
- ☐ problem-solving skills
- ☐ leadership skills
- ☐ understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- ☐ an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

Assessment

We follow the AQA syllabus B and cover two units – Religion and Ultimate Questions and Religion and Citizenship. There is no coursework for this exam but there are two exams each lasting 1.5 hours.

Further Education options: Religious Studies A-Level, Politics and International Relations, Sociology A-Level, History A-Level, History degree, American Studies, Sociology Degree, Law and A-Level Philosophy.

Examples of jobs available: Religious Studies is a relevant qualification for any job which involves working with other people. The UK is a multi-faith society and an understanding of our differences will help us live and work together peacefully. Skills developed in RE are particularly useful for future careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

Communications Faculty

GCSE French or GCSE Spanish (eBacc subjects)

You will develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of French or Spanish in a range of contexts. You will learn how to communicate effectively in French or Spanish, both orally and in writing and learn about other countries and communities where French or Spanish are spoken.

What will be studied?

- ☒ Identity and culture, lifestyle, values and beliefs.
- ☒ Environment, local, international and global areas of interest.
- ☒ Current and future study and employment.

Further Education options: A Level French and A Level Spanish

Community Languages (GCSE Urdu, Panjabi, Polish, Portuguese, Dutch, German, Italian, Arabic, Mandarin...)

These are not option subjects however they can be taken in consultation with the MFL department.

Achieving a grade A*-C in your community language would give you an additional GCSE and would count as a Modern Foreign Language in the E-Bacc subjects (bucket 2).

Please note that the community languages are NOT taught as option subjects and rely on the student's existing ability and his/her in preparation, however some enrichment support clubs are in place for some of the languages.

Example of jobs available: Broadcasting, Journalism, Diplomatic Services, Marketing, Retail, Event Organising, Recruitment Consultancy, Logistics and Distribution, Finance, Administration, Travelling Companies, Tourism, Sales, Law, Army, Catering, Hospitality, Social Media, Health, Video Games Industry, Research, Engineering and Motor Industry, Teaching, Translation.

The reality is that you could work in any sector you wish but you could do so in more parts of the world and your chances of employability would increase in English speaking countries.

Communications Faculty

GCSE Computing

“The world is changing and we are using computers a lot more now. I thought it would be a relevant topic to learn about to help me in future life. I like GCSE Computing because it’s challenging. I most enjoyed the programming section of the course because it allowed us to write our own programs, such as calculators and conversion devices.” Kareem – Year 11 student

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

What will be studied?

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on ‘behind the scenes’, including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who’ve taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

Further Education options: A-levels in Computer Science, Information Technology, Graphic Design, App Development. Level 3 courses such as Cambridge Technicals, Applied ICT and BTEC.

Examples of jobs available: Game Design, Software Development, Website Developer and Accounting and Finance.

PE Faculty

GCSE Physical Education (Cannot be studied with BTEC Sport)

Course content:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

60% Theory

The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.
What's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applied anatomy and physiology• Movement analysis• Physical training• Use of data
How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes• 78 marks• 30% of GCSE
Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.
Exam paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.
What's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports psychology• Socio-cultural influences• Health, fitness and well-being• Use of data
How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes• 78 marks• 30% of GCSE
Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

40% Practical

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.
What's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).• Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.
How it's assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessed by teachers• Moderated by exam board• 100 marks

- 40% of GCSE

Questions:

- For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in the full context (15 marks per activity).
- Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport (Cannot be studied with GCSE PE)

Course content:

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional specialist units. Learners must complete the two core units, and a choice of optional units to reach a total of 120 GLH. This BTEC First Award has units that your centre assesses (internal) and a unit that Edexcel sets and marks (external). BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context.

25% Exam

- Unit 1- Fitness for Sport and Exercise (external- online exam)
 - Know about the components of fitness and the principles of training.
 - Explore different fitness training methods.
 - Investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

75% Coursework

- Unit 2- Practical Sports Performance (internal)
 - Understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports.
 - Practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports.
 - Be able to review sports performance.
- Unit 5- Training for Personal Fitness (internal)
 - Design a personal fitness training programme.
 - Know about exercise adherence factors and strategies for continued training success.
 - Implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives.
 - Review a personal fitness training programme.
- Unit 6- Leading Sports Activities (internal)
 - Know the attributes associated with successful sports leadership.
 - Undertake the planning and leading of sports activities.
 - Review the planning and leading of sports activities.

Further Education options from either GCSE or BTEC Sport: A Level PE, Level 3 BTEC Sport (single, double or triple)

Examples of jobs available from either GCSE or BTEC Sport: PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist, Personal Trainer, Sports Development Officer, Sports Nutritionist, Sports Journalist, Sports Scientist/Physiologist, Sports Psychologist, Sports Administrator, Sports Therapist.

BTEC courses are equivalent to and have the same weighting as GCSEs

Vocational Curriculum

Health & Social Care BTEC First Diploma (Cannot be studied with another BTEC)

Many thousands of people work in the health and social care sectors and find their work very rewarding and exciting. The BTEC First Diploma prepares you for employment in these sectors and provides a good grounding to go on a more advanced course such as the BTEC National Diploma or Certificate in Care or Health Studies.

What will be studied?

The course is made up of four units – two core units and two specialist units. The core units are:

- ☐ Human Lifespan Development
- ☐ Health and Social Care Values

The specialist units enable students to study a particular area in more depth. Two will be chosen from the following:

- ☐ Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- ☐ The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing

You will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to meet the needs of the health and social care sectors.

You will learn about the role of the health or social care worker, their relationship with patients/service users and their responsibilities towards patients/service users and the wider health and social care sectors.

You will develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Assessment

Unit one is by external examination with the remaining units by internal coursework.

Further Education options: Childcare, Health & Social Care and Health Studies.

Examples of jobs available: Social Care Worker, Nutritional Therapist and Counsellor.

BTEC courses are equivalent to and have the same weighting as GCSEs

Travel & Tourism BTEC First Diploma (Cannot be studied with another BTEC)

If you are interested in travel, the travel industry and tourism, this is the course for you. Whether your idea of a holiday is two weeks in Benidorm or a fishing break in the Highlands, every holiday takes a great deal of organisation and costs money and therefore has an impact on the consumer, patterns of demand in the industry and on the local area. The course provides education and training for students wishing to seek employment in the travel and tourism industry with a good progression route to more advanced qualifications.

What will be studied?

There are two core units and two specialist units in this course. For the core you will study:

- ☐ The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
- ☐ UK Travel and Tourism Destinations.

In addition you will take two specialist units from:

- ☐ International Travel and Tourism destinations
- ☐ Factors affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism

Assessment

Unit one is by external examination with the remaining units by internal coursework.

Further Education options: Travel & Tourism, Specific Industry related courses in the leisure and entertainment sector.

Examples of jobs available: Travel Agency, Airline and Airport Employment, Hotel Management and Overseas Travel Representative.

BTEC courses are equivalent to and have the same weighting as GCSEs