



# Key Stage 4 Option Subjects

2022



CORE  
CURRICULUM

# English Language GCSE

This qualification is taken in conjunction with English Literature.

Students will study GCSE English Language, which will be assessed entirely through examinations at the end of Year 11. English Language is based on skills in reading unseen texts and writing in various styles, with an increased emphasis on technical accuracy. Students will be tested by means of two examinations.

The first examination is one hour forty five minutes in total and is worth 50% of the qualification. It requires students to read and answer questions on one extract of Literature from the twentieth or twenty first century, and then write a piece of creative writing from a selection of two tasks.



**Acting Director of Learning: Miss D Hughes**

**Examination Board: AQA**

*There are no longer tiers of entry for English Language GCSE*

The second examination is also one hour forty five minutes in length and is worth 50% of the total GCSE. Students will have to read and answer questions on two extracts of high quality non-fiction from the nineteenth and twentieth or twenty first centuries. They will then complete one compulsory viewpoint/persuasive writing task.

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

English Language is 100% Examinations



**Further Information**

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





CORE CURRICULUM

# English Literature GCSE

This qualification is taken in conjunction with English Language.

Students will study GCSE English Literature, which will be assessed entirely through examinations at the end of Year 11. English Literature is based on the study of set texts from the British Isles in the forms of novels, plays and poetry. Students will be tested by means of two closed-book examinations.

The first examination is one hour forty five minutes in total and is worth 40% of the total GCSE. Students will study and then answer essay-based questions on a Shakespeare play and a nineteenth century novel.

The second examination is two hours and fifteen minutes long and is worth 60% of the total GCSE. For this exam, a post 1914 novel or play and poems from an Anthology will be studied. Students will then answer an essay-based question on each. Finally they will answer two questions on two unseen poems.



**Acting Director of Learning: Miss D Hughes**

**Examination Board: AQA**

*There are no longer tiers of entry for English Literature GCSE*

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

English Literature is 100% Examinations



**Further Information**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>



CORE CURRICULUM

# Mathematics GCSE

The written examination can be taken at the Higher (Grades 9 - 4) or Foundation (Grades 5 - 1) tiers.

All students will be following a Linear course.

The course covers:

- Number
- Ratio and Proportion
- Algebra
- Shape
- Space and Measures
- Data Handling



Director of Learning: Mr R Musson

Examination Board: OCR

*There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics*

There have been significant changes to the Maths GCSE with additional content being introduced and a change to the grading system. There is also a much greater emphasis placed on applying mathematical skills to problems, both in context to the real world, and as abstract algebraic problems.

Breakdown of Examination Components:

Students will sit 3 papers, one non calculator and two calculator in May/June of Year 11.  
Each paper will last 1hr 30mins and will be worth 80 marks.  
Final exam 100%



Further Information

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/>





CORE  
CURRICULUM

# Combined Science GCSE

The written examination can be taken at the Higher (Grades 9 - 4) or Foundation (Grades 5 - 1) tiers.

Students are advised to buy the Edexcel Combined Science revision guides from the school library.

In Years 10 and 11, students follow the GCSE Combined Science course of the Edexcel programme of study which is worth two GCSEs. This course is examined at the end of Year 11 and is based on six external examinations worth 100% of the course. Practical skills are assessed in the written examination and are worth 15% of the total marks.

This course is an inspiring blend of science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) with an emphasis on practical work and the relevance of science in our everyday lives. Students will undertake 18 Core Practicals, based on the apparatus and techniques listed in the DfE criteria. The Core Practicals are designed to enhance students' investigative skills and are assessed through the written examination.



**Director of Learning: Ms H Young**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

This course will enable students to transition to A-level Science subjects. In addition, Edexcel GCSE Combined Science prepares students for a range of apprenticeships, as well as employment opportunities.

## **B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Six examinations (worth 100% of the total grade)  
2 x Biology      2 x Chemistry      2 x Physics  
1 hour 10 minute written papers taken at the end of Year 11



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/sciences-2016.html>



OPTION  
SUBJECT

**One Tier of  
Entry  
(AQA Art, craft  
& design 8201)  
Grades: 9 - 1**

# Art & Design GCSE

**G**CSE Art, Craft & Design is a very popular and successful course at Priestnall school. The Art Department is very clear in its objectives: ultimately we want our students to achieve the best grades but we also want them to develop as artists, craftspeople and designers, both in the academic sense and in their practical abilities. The GCSE course is structured to allow each individual to flourish and find a way of working that suits their strengths and interests.

Students can choose to work in a wide range of materials from drawing and painting to mixed media, digital photography and paper cutting. They are led expertly through an exciting course which teaches them a wide range of processes. When the student arrives at the externally set task they will know what their strengths and weaknesses are and will thoroughly enjoy working with independence. There are extra-curricular opportunities to enable students to extend learning and begin to develop an opinion on 'what is art?' The study of art, craft & design enables our students to really think about the world around them and how they engage with it creatively. Students write about their findings, influences and processes as part of the reformed GCSE and this takes the form of short written annotations and creatively presented artist analysis. This is a practical subject and written content is kept to a minimum.

Our broad syllabus is inclusive of traditional and contemporary practice, as well as each of our student's ideas. Each year we are tailoring course content as we respond to contemporary ideas, issues and experiences. We support and develop links to prepare students for future studies and careers in the creative industries. We are proud of the consistently high grades our students are rewarded with for their artwork and would welcome as many new candidates as possible through this year's options process.

In an ever-changing economic and social landscape, art, craft and design remain constant and relevant and feed directly into careers in the design industry, as well as media & culture. Creativity, which is at the core of our curriculum, continues to be one of the most desirable characteristics employers look for in an employee.



**Curriculum Leader: Mr A Nokes**

**Examination Board: AQA**

*There is no written exam in GCSE Art*

Taking Art at GCSE level allows students to continue to explore this valuable side of their skillset ready whatever career path they choose.

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Coursework 60% - completed in class across Year 10 & 11.  
Final Exam 40% - a practical submission of preparation work and Final piece(s) at the end of Year 11



**Further Information**

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





OPTION  
SUBJECT

This exam  
is untiered.  
Grades: 9 - 1

# (Art) Graphic Communication

**G**raphic communication is defined here as the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief.

## Areas of study

- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Advertising and branding
- Illustration
- Typography

## Skills

Students must demonstrate the ability to work with:

- typography
- illustration
- digital working methods
- pencil, pen and ink, pen and other graphic media
- digital media

## Component 1 Portfolio

A sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; independent study and evidence of the student's specific role in any group work undertaken.

## Component 2 Externally set assignment

AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment with seven different starting points.



**Director of Learning: Mr D Carter**

**Examination Board: AQA**

## **B**reakdown of Examination Components:

### Component 1:

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

### Component 2:

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE



**Further Information**

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



OPTION  
SUBJECT

This exam  
is untiered.  
Grades: 9 - 1

# (Art) Textile Design

**T**extile design is defined here as the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose.

## Areas of study

- Fashion design and illustration
- Costume design
- Constructed textiles
- Printed and dyed textiles
- Surface pattern
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles
- Soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors

## Skills

Students must demonstrate the ability to work with:

- stitching
- appliqué
- construction methods
- printing
- threads/ fabrics
- textile

## Component 1 Portfolio

A sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; independent study and evidence of the student's specific role in any group work undertaken.

## Component 2 Externally set assignment

AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment with seven different starting points.



Director of Learning: Mr D Carter

Examination Board: AQA

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

### Component 1:

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

### Component 2:

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE



Further Information

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





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Business Studies GCSE

**G**CSE Business Studies is a linear course consisting of 2 units. The units are designed to encourage candidates to consider the practical application of business and economic concepts. The units provide students with the opportunity to explore the theories and concepts in the context of events in the business and economic world.

The course consists of 2 units:

## Theme 1 Introduction to Small Business

This is a compulsory unit which is externally assessed. The unit focuses on start-up businesses and includes looking at: spotting a business opportunity; showing enterprise; putting a business idea into practice; making the start-up effective; understanding the economic context.

## Theme 2 Building a Business

This is a compulsory unit which is externally assessed. The unit focuses on growing businesses and includes looking at: Marketing; Meeting customer needs; Effective financial management; Effective people management: The wider world affecting business.



**Curriculum Leader: Mrs H Drury**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

## **B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Introduction to Small Business  
Written Examination (1 hour & 30 minutes )  
90 marks 50%

Building a Business  
Written Examination (1 hour & 30 minutes )  
90 marks 50%



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>



OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Computer Science GCSE

Computer Science provides students with an exciting, practical focus on real-life programming, developing skills relevant to the future.

Students have the opportunity to :

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of CS, including abstraction,
- decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and
- debugging programs. Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems. Understand the impact of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy and cybersecurity. Apply mathematical skills relevant to CS.

Component 1: Principles of Computer Science

Students will develop their knowledge, skills understanding within the following topics:

1. Computational thinking. 2. Binary for data representation. 3. Computers (Hardware/Software). 4. Networks. 5. Issues and the Impact of computers.

Component 2: Application of Computational Thinking

Students learn to: 6a Develop code, 6b Identify structural components of programs, 6c Write programs using primitive data types/structures, 6d Enable inputs/outputs using validation and accessing arrays/text files, 6e Make use of arithmetic operators. 6f By creating functions.



**Curriculum Leader: Mrs H Drury**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

*Success on this course requires good mathematical skills.*

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

**Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science**  
Written paper 1 hr 30 mins. 5 questions, 1 for each of the topic areas and include multiple choice, short, medium and extended open responses, and tabular and diagrammatic items.

**Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking**  
2 hours. On-Screen Examination covering topic 6 problem solving with programming. The exam consists of 6 compulsory questions where students will code Python 3 using an Integrated Design Environment (IDE).



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/computer-science-2020.html>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Dance GCSE

The GCSE Dance course is aimed at students, both boys and girls, who have a keen interest in dance and performance. The course focuses on developing students' technical and expressive skills in performance as well as their ability to create movement which expresses and communicates a range of different ideas and concepts.

From the start of the course, six new and vibrant professional dance works (which form the 'AQA GCSE Dance Anthology') are studied in a practical and theoretical manner to broaden students' knowledge and understanding of the diverse range of dance works being performed in the United Kingdom today.

Students will develop their performance skills through being taught a range of different dances throughout the course. They will showcase these skills by performing as a soloist and in as a trio in a formal examination at the end of Year 11. Students will also develop their knowledge and understanding of the craft of choreography through responding creatively to an externally set stimulus by AQA.

To cement all the above skills, students will develop the skills to evaluate, analyse and appreciate their own performances as well as the six professional works from the anthology, which will be examined through a written paper at the end of Year 11.



**Curriculum Leader: Mrs J Morrison**

**Examination Board: AQA**

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

Component 1: Performance & Choreography (60% of Total Grade)  
Two Set Solos (40 seconds each) - 15% of Total Grade  
Trio Performance (3-5 minutes) - 15% of Total Grade  
Group Choreography based on a stimulus set by AQA (3 minutes) - 30% of Total Grade

Component 2: Dance Appreciation (40% of Total Grade)  
Written Exam (1 hour 30 minutes)



**Further Information**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236>



OPTION  
SUBJECT

This exam  
is untiered.  
Grades: 9 - 1

# Design & Technology GCSE

The GCSE in Design & Technology is an academic qualification which has been designed for students with a preference for theoretical learning. The GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. The GCSE also draws on the knowledge learned in Maths and Science which must be demonstrated during the course in relation to Design & Technology.

The use of mathematical skills is a key requirement and is tested in the examination (15% of the paper). The GCSE in Design & Technology offers progression into Level 3 vocational qualifications and A-Level Design & Technology and supports progression into technical careers in product design / product development. There are 2 components to the GCSE.

Component 1: Written paper (externally assessed)

Students will undertake a 2 hour written paper worth 100 marks. Maths questions make up 15% of the paper.

Component 2: non-examined assessment

Students will study three main areas:

1. Core technical principles: Includes areas such as understanding a systems approach when designing, new and emerging technologies and materials and their working properties.
2. Specialist technical principles: Includes areas such as forces and stresses on materials, scales of production and ecological and social footprints.
3. Designing & making principles: Includes areas such as understanding primary and secondary data, design strategies and communication of design ideas.



Director of Learning: Mr D Carter

Examination Board: AQA

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Component 1: | Component 2:               |
| Written Exam | non Examination Assessment |
| 2 hours      | 30-35 hours                |
| 100 marks    | 100 marks                  |
| 50% of GCSE  | 50% of GCSE                |



Further Information

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

### Level 1

- Award
- Certificate
- Extended Certificate
- Diploma

Design & Technology

# Construction Multiskills

**Plastering** | Plaster solid backgrounds | Plaster non-solid internal walls | Prepare and fix plasterboard and set

**Tiling** | A wall with an internal angle | A wall with an opening | A wall with decorative feature

## B

reakdown of Examination Components:

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Award = 11 Credits

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Certificate = 17 Credits

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Extended Certificate = 26 Credits

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Diploma = 37 Credits



**Director of Learning: Mr D Carter**

### NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Award in Construction Multiskills (2020)

*The purpose of this unit is to allow learners to develop and demonstrate basic construction multiskills.*

The purpose of these qualifications is to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to progress to further training in either construction multiskills or a trade specific qualification at Level 2, and on completion at Level 2 to progress into a job role in the construction industry.

These Level 1 qualifications provide learners with a range of skills and knowledge from core construction trades. Learners will also develop an understanding of the health and safety requirements for working in the construction industry.

The award and certificate focus on skills and knowledge from a variety of construction trades but learners can choose to complete an extended certificate or diploma to broaden their construction skills and knowledge. Tasks will include:

**Carpentry and Joinery** | Joinery joints | Hanging a door | Fit kitchen units and worktops | Fit skirting and architraves

**Painting and Decorating** | Preparing surfaces | Painting doors | Painting a feature wall | Applying wallpaper and decorative finishes



### Further Information

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Award in Construction Multiskills (2020)

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Certificate in Construction Multiskills (2020)

NOCN\_Cskills Awards Level 1 Diploma in Construction Multiskills (2020)





OPTION  
SUBJECT

This exam  
is untiered.  
Grades: 9 - 1

Design & Technology

# Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE



Director of Learning: Mr D Carter

Examination Board: Eduqas

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

### Component 1

Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

### Component 2:

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action - Non-examination assessment:

Assessment 1: 8 hours, Assessment 2: 12 hours

50% of qualification

The GCSE in Food Preparation & Nutrition develops skills and knowledge of food preparation and food science as well as enabling students to make informed decisions about food and nutrition.

The GCSE in Food Preparation & Nutrition offers progression into Level 3 vocational qualifications and A-Levels and supports progression into careers such as food scientist and nutritionist.

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different



Further Information

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/food-preparation-and-nutrition/>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

This exam is  
untiered.

Design & Technology Technical Award

# Hospitality & Catering

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (internally assessed)

In this unit students will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for them to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. Students will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes.

A number of practical skills, techniques and cooking methods must be practiced before the students complete a practical cooking exam. Students will cook weekly to ensure that their skills are developed before the practical exam.



Director of Learning: Mr D Carter

Examination Board: WJEC

*Graded as: Distinction \*, Distinction, Merit or Pass at Level 2 (Equivalent to 1 GCSE) Pass at Level 1 is also available.*

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

Unit 1: Written Exam (40%) 90 Marks, 90min Exam

Unit 2: Controlled Assessment (60%) 9 Hours

The Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering offers progression into Level 3 vocational qualifications and supports progression into several careers in the food / catering industry.

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (externally assessed)

In this unit, students will learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. Students will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. The knowledge and understanding students gain will enable them to respond to issues relating to all factors within the hospitality and catering section and provide them with the ability to propose a new provision that could be opened in a given location to benefit the owner and the local community.



Further Information

[www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Search for Hospitality & Catering and select the 'Level 1 / 2' qualification



OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Drama & Theatre Arts GCSE

Students are assessed on their knowledge of how drama and theatre is developed and performed and on their ability to analyse and evaluate the live theatre work of others.

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

## Component 1: Understanding Drama

Section A: Knowledge & understanding of drama terminology & theatre

Section B: Study of set text - four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen

Section C: Live theatre production - Analysis & evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

## Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

Process of creating drama

Performance of devised drama

Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

Performance of two extracts from one play

Practical Work

Study and performance of two key extracts from one scripted play (monologue, duologue or group performance). Devising (evidenced in Devising Log) and performance of devised drama (duologue or group). Minimum performance times:

- monologue - two minutes
- duologue - three minutes
- group - four minutes.



Curriculum Leader: Mr G Dever

Examination Board: AQA

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

Weightings 40% Written exam 60% Practical

Component 1: Written exam: 40% of GCSE - 1 hour 45 minutes

Component 2: Practical exam: 40% of GCSE - Evidenced in Devising Log

Component 3: Practical exam: 20% of GCSE - Marked by a visiting examiner

Practical Assessment: Component 2 is marked by teachers (postal moderation)

Written exam paper—Split into three compulsory sections:

Section A : four multiple choice questions on roles and terminology

Section B : four questions on a given extract from the set play chosen

Section C : one two part question (from a choice) on a live production seen.



Further Information

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Ethics & Philosophy GCSE

In Year 10 students can opt to take Philosophy, Ethics and Religion at GCSE. In this subject students will consider Atheist, Agnostic and Theist approaches to belief and practice along with considering a range of ethical situations and philosophical ideas. Issues will be considered from a range of different faiths and secular perspectives, but will focus on Christianity, Islam and atheist approaches.

The topics students will consider include:

Religion and Life

1. Philosophical and Ethical approaches
2. Cosmology and creation
3. The nature of God
4. The problem of evil and suffering
5. Sources of guidance including Holy Texts
6. Human rights and rules base on a range of sources of morality
7. Faith in practice
8. Celebrations and symbolism
9. Relationships and Family

10. Matters of life and death (Abortion and Euthanasia)
11. Life after death

Lessons are full of discussion and debate, arguments about moral issues and if the choices people make are 'right or wrong'. Students learn to write constructive and challenging responses. They are asked to think deeply about their own values and the values of others. Art, photography and film are used to enhance learning.

These are challenging topics and this is an highly academic subject – but we do have fun!



**Curriculum Leader: Mr M Jones**

**Examination Board: WJEC**

*There is no coursework in this GCSE*

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Assessment is 100% examination through 3 paper:

Paper 1 Religion, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World | 2 hours | 50% GCSE Mark

Paper 2 – Study of Christianity | 1 hour | 25% GCSE Mark

Paper 3 – Study of a world faith (Islam) | 1 hour | 25% GCSE Mark



**Further Information**

<http://eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/gcse/>



OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Film Studies GCSE

**G**CSE Film Studies (formely Media) has a very tangible crossover with English Literature in terms of the exploratory and evaluative skills that the students will be developing; the course is very much essay-based (six essays across two exam papers,) and thus especially suited to students who enjoy constructing extended essay-style responses. Furthermore, as there are a number of subtitled films that we will be covering, it is imperative that pupils are equally prepared to 'read' films from other countries and cultures.

Ultimately, Film Studies GCSE is ideal for students who are interested in developing a critical and analytical understanding of how Film as an artform has developed over the course of the 20th and 21st Century, and the manner in which it both reflects and directs society itself. In this sense, there is also some overlap between subjects such as History, Politics, Sociology and Film Studies itself. To this end, in order to engage with the course, pupils should enjoy independent research and making deeper, wider observations on the context and ideological influences underlying the films that we will be studying.

Throughout the course, students will cover the following key aspects of Film Studies:

Genre | Narrative | Context | Representation | Specialist Writing | Aesthetics

During the course students will develop their ability to:  
Respond critically and analytically to a range of mainstream and independent

films. Write scholarly, multi-layered essays addressing a range of ideological influences.

Develop understanding and knowledge of the contexts informing film production  
Explore the relationship between finished film product and audience.

Enhance their skills in the planning and creation of films within a specific genre.  
Explore the developing world of media technologies.

The GCSE Film Studies course is divided into three areas:

**Component 1** Developments in US Film: Students will be studying two thematically-linked films produced by the mainstream/Hollywood studios and an Independently-produced US film.

**Component 2** Global Film: Students will be studying three films: Global (English Language), Global (Non English Language) and Contemporary British.



**Curriculum Leader: Mr D Poole**

**Examination Board: WJEC**

*Success on this course will depend upon a student's ability to communicate effectively through extended writing: good English Literature skills are highly desirable.*

**Component 3** Students will be required to both construct and produce a script for two, two and a half minute sequence for a film within a specific genre.

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Component 1 Externally Assessed Exam | 1 hour 30 min | 35% GCSE Mark

Component 2 Externally Assessed Exam | 1 hour 30 min | 35% GCSE Mark

Component 3 Non-Examined Assessment Film production, followed by a 750-800 word evaluation | 30% GCSE Mark



**Further Information**

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies/film-studies-gcse/>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Geography GCSE

Firstly a topic on urban issues and challenges, followed by the changing economic world and finally resource management specifically looking at food, water and energy resources.

## Geographical applications

This unit has two sections the first in an issue evaluation where students will explore a geographical problem and make decisions on how it should be managed. This is based on a pre-release booklet that students get 12 weeks before the exam which we then study in case. Then in the second section, questions will be based on the two fieldwork visits that students undertake in Years 10 and 11 - a Human Geography (Urban) field trip in Year 10 and a Physical Geography (Rivers) field trip in Year 11.



Curriculum Leader: Mrs J Rackham

Examination Board: AQA

The Geography GCSE course is made up of three components:

### Living with the Physical Environment:

For the Paper 1 examination, students will study a range of physical geography. The first topic examines natural hazards including tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change. This is followed by a topic on ecosystems including tropical rainforests and cold environments and finally we will explore UK physical landscapes including coastal landscapes and river landscapes.

### Challenges in the Human Environment:

For the Paper 2 examination, students will study a range of human geography.

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

- Paper 1 Living with the Physical Environment | 1 hour 30 min | 35% GCSE Mark
- Paper 2 Challenges in the Human Environment | 1 hour 30 min | 35% GCSE Mark
- Paper 3 Geographical applications | 1 hour 15 min | 30% GCSE Mark

All papers are made up of a mixture of short (1 to 2 marks), medium (3 to 4 marks) and long (6 to 12 marks) questions.



Further Information

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# History GCSE

**T**here are three components to this course:

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment: taking the theme of Medicine in Britain students will look at how ideas about, and treatment of, disease have progressed from 1250, to the high technology medicine of today. Students will also study a topic called The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918; injuries, treatment and the trenches

**Paper 2:** Period study and British depth study: studying two important areas, Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 and Super power relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991. In these studies students will focus on how Elizabeth I dealt with threats to her position from home and abroad. Part of this study also involves

looking at Elizabethan society and the age of exploration. Students will also study the development of the Cold War. This will involve looking at key events such as the building of the Berlin Wall and its fall in 1989.

**Paper 3:** Modern depth study: studying The USA, 1954-1975: conflict at home and abroad. This paper will concentrate on the development of the civil rights movement. This will involve looking at Little Rock, Rosa Parkes, the Ku Klux Klan and Emmet Till, the Freedom Riders, Malcolm X and the assassination of Martin Luther King to name only a few areas. Students will also study the Vietnam War. As part of this the course will cover the reasons for US involvement in Vietnam, how the war was fought and the reasons why the USA failed in Vietnam.



**Curriculum Leader: Miss J Halfacre**  
**Examination Board: Edexcel**

**B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Paper 1 Medicine/Western Front | 1hour 15 mins | 30% GCSE Mark

Paper 2 Elizabethan England/Cold War | 1hour 45 mins | 40% GCSE Mark

Paper 3 USA, 1954-1975 | 1hour 20 mins | 30% GCSE Mark



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/history-2016.html>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Modern Foreign Languages: French

The GCSE in French centres around the four attainment areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Competences such as note-taking, drafting, editing and identifying key points and other work-related skills are integral to the topics and themes studied.

Topics to be covered in preparation for the listening and reading examinations:

Identity and Culture | Local Area, Holidays and Travel | School | Future Aspirations, Study and Work | International and Global Dimension

All topics and sub-topics are designed to build on previous work to lead to success in the GCSE exam. Listening, Reading and Writing are assessed by examination at the end of Year 11. Speaking is also assessed by one final examination during the summer term of Year 11. Staff provide a high level of

assistance to ensure students are fully supported.

The format of these exams and skills needed (detailed below) is made clear and practiced as much as possible over the course. We use GCSE resources which include exam papers to give the students invaluable practice using correct examination techniques. Students are provided with key vocabulary lists at the start of each series of lessons and are encouraged to revisit regularly to check recognition and spelling. It is these lists which feed into regular vocabulary tests and indeed, all assessments and they are organised to make it manageable for learners.

We set active learn homeworks at the end of each module which offer perfect exam practice for reading and listening skills. In addition to this, there are vocabulary learning tasks, tests and also grammar activities.



**Director of Learning: Miss S Durkin**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

*Students can be entered for higher or foundation for the French GCSE but it is one overall entry (same tier of entry for each of the 4 skills.) This is discussed with the class teacher throughout the course and then tailored to each child's best interests.*

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

- Listening Exam (Q&A in English/ Q&A in French) | 25% GCSE Mark
- Speaking Exam (Role Play/ Picture discussion/Conversation) | 25% GCSE Mark
- Reading Exam (Q&A in English/Q&A in French/Translation from French to English) | 25% GCSE Mark
- Writing Exam (Varied length written responses including picture response, written paragraph, choice of 2 extended essays/Translation English into French) | 25% GCSE Mark



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Music GCSE

A minimum of four minutes and a maximum of seven minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance.

## Component 3: Composing Music

Composition 1: Composition to a brief

Composition 2: Free composition

A minimum of three minutes and a maximum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required.



**Curriculum Leader: Mr G Parker**

**Examination Board: AQA**

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

Component 1: Written exam | 1 hour 30 minutes | 40% GCSE Mark

Component 2: Music Performance | 30% GCSE Mark

Component 3: 30% GCSE Mark

There are three components to this course:

### Component 1: Understanding Music

Western classical tradition 1650 - 1910

Popular music

Traditional music

Western classical tradition since 1910

### Component 2: Performing Music

Performance 1: Solo performance

Performance 2: Ensemble performance



**Further Information**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Physical Education GCSE

Written exam. Assessed consists of multiple choice, short and extended answer writing.

## Component 3: Practical Performance

The three activities must be: one team sport, one individual and one of choice.

## Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Students will produce a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP), analysis and evaluating performance. Assessment is both written and practical. The three activities must be: one team sport, one individual and one of choice.



**Director of Learning: Mrs C Jenkins**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

## Breakdown of Examination Components:

- Component 1: Written exam | 1 hour 45 minutes | 36% GCSE Mark
- Component 2: Written exam | 1 hour 15 minutes | 24% GCSE Mark
- Component 3: Practical | 30% GCSE Mark
- Component 4: Written Practical | 10% GCSE Mark

This course covers both practical and theoretical aspects of PE.

### Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training, Use of data.

Written exam. Assessed consists of multiple choice, short and extended answer writing.

### Component 2: Health and Performance

Health, fitness and well-being, Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Use of data.



**Further Information**

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





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

Physical Education  
**OCR Level 1 / 2  
Sports Studies**

### R185 Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities

Topic Area 1: Key components of performance. Performers participate in 2 activities from the activity list

Topic Area 2: Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activities. Performers complete written coursework highlighting strengths and weaknesses in performance.

Topic Area 3: Organising and planning a sports activity session. Performers plan an activity sessions.

Topic Area 4: Leading a sports activity session

Topic Area 5: Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session



**Director of Learning: Mrs C Jenkins**

**Examination Board: OCR**

*Level 2 Distinction\* - Level 1 Pass  
Equivalent to 1 GCSE grades of 9-1*

### R187 Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Topic Area 1: Provision for different types of outdoor and adventurous activities in the UK. Performers complete a written piece of work.

Topic Area 2: Equipment, clothing and safety aspects of participating in outdoor and adventurous activities. Performers complete a written piece of work

Topic Area 3: Plan for and be able to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity

Topic Area 4: Evaluate participation in an outdoor and adventurous activity

**T**his course covers the following three Units.

#### R184 - Contemporary Studies – Exam Unit

Topic area 1: Issues which affect participation in sport

Topic Area 2: The role of sport in promoting values

Topic Area 3: The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country

Topic Area 4: The role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport

Topic Area 5: The use of technology in sport



**Further Information**

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals-sport-studies-level-1-2-j803-j813/>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

The written examination can be taken at the Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) Graded Tier.

# Separate Science GCSE

Students can opt to study the Edexcel Separate Science Awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This involves studying all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) separately to gain three distinct GCSE grades by the end of Year 11.

Over the two years, this course covers a wider range of scientific concepts from the fields of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Learners are given the opportunity to develop a critical approach to scientific methods and evidence, while applying their knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society. Practical work is embedded throughout and a minimum of 8 Core Practicals will be completed per individual GCSE and assessed through the written examination (15% of the total marks per paper).

The course is ideally suited for students who have a keen interest in science and the work ethic and enthusiasm to commit to completing this course to the very best of their ability. This course is an excellent foundation for those who are considering science related careers and / or those who have a real passion for science.

Students are advised to buy the Edexcel Biology, Chemistry and Physics revision guides from the school library.



**Director of Learning: Ms H Young**

**Examination Board: Edexcel**

*Please note: in order to achieve appropriate balance in class sizes, it is sometimes necessary for students to move year-half in order to access the Separate Science option.*

## **B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Six 1 hour 45 minute written examinations  
(worth 100% of the total grade) taken at the end of Year 11

2 x Biology  
2 x Chemistry  
2 x Physics



**Further Information**

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/sciences-2016.html#tab-1>





OPTION  
SUBJECT

One Tier of  
Entry awarding  
grades 9 - 1

# Sociology GCSE

**T**he Sociology course studies the culture and behaviour of groups within society. It examines structures such as the social class system, culture and social issues, crime and education. Sociology challenges commonly held beliefs about society and encourages skills of enquiry, independent research and evaluation. Topics include:

**The Sociological Approach:** Students explore notions of culture, socialisation and identity.

**The Family:** Focusing on how family imparts socialisation on its members and how the UK family has changed throughout history.

**Education:** Students examine different educational approaches and its purpose, as well as who the system benefits the most. Relationships within schools and between schools and the work place are also studied.

**Crime and Deviance:** We consider definitions of crime and deviance, as well as how society is controlled. We focus on patterns of crime (which groups are most

likely to commit crime) as well as investigating why some people are more like to commit crime. Students also look critically at how we measure crime, questioning the various methods of collecting data on the frequency of crime.

**Social Stratification:** This element of the course examines inequality in society and the balance of power. Students question where power comes from and why it is that some are born into positions of power whilst others' opportunities may be limited.

**Social Research:** Examining the basics of completing social research and understanding how sociologists investigate society. We consider problems and limitations of social research and explore techniques to create valid and useful studies of social phenomena.



**Curriculum Leader: Ms L Natshcowny**

**Examination Board: AQA**

*Sociology is an essay based subject.*

## **B**reakdown of Examination Components:

Assessment 100% examination | 2 units | each 50% GCSE Mark.  
Both units will be sat at the end of year 11.

Unit 1: 50% Compulsory Core  
Extended written questions on The Family and Education.

Unit 2: 50% Compulsory Core  
Extended written questions on Crime & Deviance and Social Stratification.



**Further Information**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>