

## ENGLISH

All pupils will study English and complete GCSEs in both Language and Literature. The skills of literacy, critical evaluation and spoken communication developed in this subject will benefit pupils in almost any career path to which they might aspire, be it an academic discipline such as law, or a more vocational route into the workplace.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8700
Examination Element	100% examination 2 papers	One tier of entry

#### Course Overview

This GCSE enables candidates to explore English Language in great depth over two years and is designed so that pupils should read and be assessed on high quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Texts studied will make significant demands on pupils in terms of the content, structure and the quality of language. The texts studied will include literature and extended literary non-fiction, as well as other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism.

#### Examination Overview

##### Paper 1

This will include a series of reading questions which will all relate to a 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century fiction source. Students will also be asked to write a narrative or descriptive piece based on an image that is given to them.

##### Paper 2

This will include a series of reading questions which will all relate to two non-fiction sources from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Students will also be asked to write an extended piece which presents a strong viewpoint.

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8702
<b>Examination Element</b>	100% examination 2 papers	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This GCSE encourages pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Pupils will have a chance to develop an appreciation of the finest modern texts, poems, plays and 19<sup>th</sup> century texts that have been written.

### Examination Overview

#### Paper 1

This paper will ask students to respond to an extract from the play, *Macbeth*, and to comment on the play as a whole. They will also answer the same style of question about the 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel, *A Christmas Carol*.

#### Paper 2

This paper will begin with an essay style question on the modern play, *An Inspector Calls*. Students will then compare two poems from the *Power & Conflict* Anthology that they have studied, and finish by analysing an unseen poem.

# MATHEMATICS

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	Pearson Edexcel	1MA1
Examination element	100% examination 3 papers	Foundation Grades 5 - 1 Higher Grades 9 - 4

## Course Overview

All pupils will study GCSE Mathematics, which helps to develop skills in logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. The course is designed to enable pupils to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. Pupils will acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems. They need to learn how to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. They will also learn how to interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

## Examination Overview

The GCSE Mathematics (1-9) examination consists of 3 x 1.5 hours written papers:

- Paper 1 - Non-calculator
- Paper 2 - Calculator
- Paper 3 - Calculator

There are two tiers:

Foundation: Grades 1 - 5

Higher: Grades 4 - 9

## SCIENCE

All pupils will follow one of two pathways at GCSE level. This is either Combined Science or Separate Sciences which consist of GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## COMBINED SCIENCE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8464
Examination element	100% examination 6 papers	Foundation Grades 5 -1 Higher Grades 9 - 4

### Course Overview

This qualification is worth 2 GCSEs and includes elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### Examination Overview

The exam consists of 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics exams.

Each paper comprises 70 marks in 1 hour 15 minutes. Questions can be multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and long answer. Pupils could be asked about any of the 21 practical activities they have studied.

## SEPARATE SCIENCES/ TRIPLE SCIENCE – PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	Biology 8461 Chemistry 8462 Physics 8463
Examination element	100% examination- 2 papers per subject	Grades 9 - 1

### Course Overview

This qualification is worth 3 GCSEs. Students will study separate sciences.

.

### Examination Overview

#### Biology

Two 105-minute examinations

#### Chemistry

Two 105-minute examinations

#### Physics

Two 105-minute examinations

All examinations will contain a significant proportion of marks related to the quality of written communication.

.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	Pearson Edexcel	1RB0
Examination element	100% examination 2 papers	One tier of entry

## Course Overview

The aims and objectives of a qualification in Religious Studies enables students to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of two religions (Christianity & Islam) and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism, utilitarianism and humanism.
- Engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life. Reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and will contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.
- Develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.
- Understand the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies, the significant common and divergent views between and/or within religions and beliefs. Analyse questions related to religious and non-religious beliefs/ values as well as construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying.

## Examination Overview

### Paper 1

This paper is based on *religion and ethics through Islam*. It is 105 minutes and is worth 50% of the qualification

### Paper 2

This paper is based on *religion, peace & conflict through Christianity*. It is also 105 minutes and is worth 50% of the qualification.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - CORE**

All pupils will take part in two hours of physical education per week. Our aspiration is that pupils will develop independence, organisational skills and the ability to lead a variety of activities. All pupils will be working towards achieving the department's Certificate of Achievement which assesses pupils on their organisation, leadership, participation and resilience. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to undertake the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award; this award requires a substantial commitment from students.

## SPORT, ACTIVITY & FITNESS – BTEC TECH AWARD

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Sport	Pearson Edexcel	600/4779/3
Examination element	25% External Examination 75% Controlled Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

BTEC Sport is designed to develop a theoretical and practical knowledge of sport and the leisure industry. The award covers a variety of aspects including health and fitness, sporting performance, sports leadership and sport and active leisure. There will be four units delivered over two years and pupils will work towards gaining up to distinction\* level through a wide variety of activities, assignments and experiences.

### Examination Overview

#### Unit 1: Fitness for Sport & Exercise – externally assessed (25%)

In this unit, students know about the components of fitness and the principles of training; explore different fitness training methods; and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

#### Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport – internally assessed (25%)

In this unit, students understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports; practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports; and learn to review sports performance.

#### Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Training – internally assessed (25%)

In this unit, students design a personal fitness-training programme; learn about the musculoskeletal system and cardiorespiratory system and the effects on the body during fitness training; 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 – internally assessed (25%)

In this unit, students learn about the attributes associated with successful sports leadership; undertake the planning and leading of sports activities; and review the planning and leading of sports activities.



## ART AND DESIGN GCSE – FINE ART

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J171
Examination element	40% External Examination 60% Coursework Portfolio	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

Through this course, students develop their knowledge and understanding of the following aspects:

- Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as the work progresses.
- Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Pupils will consider a range of artists' work and enjoy a range of forms, including photography, ceramics, painting, drawing, sculpture and textiles. There will be opportunities to take part in trips to exhibitions and to work with professional visiting artists.

### Examination Overview

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design

Exam Theme: Set by exam board from a choice of five questions.

# MUSIC

## MUSIC GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J536
Examination element	40% Examination 60% Non-Exam Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This course equips students with an awareness of musical genres and styles, performing, listening and composing skills, and music technology proficiency. The non-exam assessment is split as follows:

- 30% is performance on their instrument (at least 4 minutes, a mixture of solo and ensemble performances)
- 30% is composition (one free choice composition, and one to a brief set by the board in the September of Y11)

### Examination Overview

This exam tests your ability to listen to and analyse music through responding to questions about musical excerpts played during the exam. It is worth 40% of the final grade.

## MUSIC RSL CERTIFICATE IN TECHNOLOGY AND COMPOSITION

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
Certificate in Technology and Composition	RSL	
Examination element	12 credits assessed internally 8 credits assessed externally	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

Pupils study three units over the two years. The two core units are:

- **Music Knowledge Development.** (4 credits) Pupils will study a range of contemporary music styles and be able to identify and analyse the key stylistic and musical elements within each style. Pupils produce a project focusing on two musical styles discussing key musical elements.
- **Music Sequencing and Production.** (8 credits) This is the externally assessed unit. Pupils will build on their music technology skills by studying the key processes of sequencing. They will also be taught the process of project management.

They then study one (or both) of the following units:

- **Composing Music** (8 credits) - focusing on the creative process of composing: generating ideas, developing them and then structuring them into a final piece.
- **Using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)** (8 credits) -further exploring computer generated music, sequencing techniques and producing a piece of sequenced music to a brief which is then evaluated.

### Examination Overview

Pupils study three units over the two years; two core units and one specialist unit.

This will give them the required total of 20 credits.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## DRAMA BTEC

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
BTEC Tech Award	Pearson Edexcel	N/A
Examination element	Internal Synoptic external	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This course develops team working skills, personal management, discipline and effective communication skills. Pupils develop drama skills and knowledge in a practical learning environment. The areas of study are: analysing professional repertoire; developing acting skills and play study; and devising performance to a brief. The processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance are also studied.

### Examination Overview

**Component 1:** Students will study professional (live or recorded) repertoire in order to gain theoretical and practical aspects of theatre making. This is internally assessed and worth 30% of the final grade.

**Component 2:** Students will study a chosen play, in order to recreate it as a full piece of dramatic work for a live audience. They must use teacher led workshops, rehearsal time and extracurricular time to develop their skills and abilities in drama. This is internally assessed and worth 30% of the final grade.

**Component 3:** Students will create a piece of devised theatre lasting 10-15 minutes based on the brief outlined by the exam board. This will be accompanied by three written reports analysing their ideas, skills and evaluating the final performance. This component is externally assessed and worth 40%.

## DANCE BTEC

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
BTEC Tech Award	Pearson Edexcel	N/A
Examination element	Internal Synoptic external	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This course develops fitness, personal management, discipline and effective communication skills. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their dance skills and knowledge in a practical learning environment. The main areas of focus are the development of technical dance skills and dance ability through reproducing professional repertoire or responding to a stimulus. Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts are studied, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance.

### Examination Overview

#### **Component 1 - Internally assessed (30%)**

Pupils will develop their understanding of dance by examining professional dance pieces and the processes used to create performances. They will study three contrasting dance pieces through practical dance workshops and theory lessons.

#### **Component 2 - Internally assessed (30%)**

Pupils will develop their dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of professional repertoire. By learning existing dance pieces, they will apply dance skills and techniques to reproduce the professional work. In this component, pupils will develop performance skills and techniques in at least two contrasting dance styles through practical dance workshops.

#### **Component 3 - Externally assessed (40%)**

Students will work in groups to choreograph a dance performance lasting 10-15 minutes using a brief given by the exam board. This will be accompanied by three written report analysing your ideas, skills and evaluating the final performance.

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8552
Examination element	50% Examination 50% Controlled Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

In this course, pupils will gain awareness of wider influences on Design and Technology, including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. They will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, and develop technical and practical expertise. Pupils will study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes and materials techniques. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

### Examination Overview

#### Written exam:

This paper is focused on core technical principles, specialist technical principles, and designing and making principles. It is a 2 hour written paper and worth 50% of the final grade.

#### Non-exam assessment (NEA):

The NEA assesses the practical application of core technical principles, specialist technical principles, and designing and making principles. Students have approximately 35 hours to complete their work which is worth 50% of their final grade.

## FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8585
Examination element	50% Examination 50% Non-Exam Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills, as well as ensuring students develop a sound understanding of food science. In particular, understanding the functional and chemical properties of the ingredients used in every day cooking and baking. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills, as well as developing their understanding of the important link between food, nutrition and health

### Examination Overview

#### Non-exam assessment (NEA) 1:

This assessment is an investigation of a particular ingredient in which students consider its working characteristics, and functional and chemical properties. It is worth 15% of the final grade.

#### Non-exam assessment (NEA) 2:

For this assessment, pupils produce a portfolio of work and demonstrate four technical skills. They are required to Plan, Prepare, Cook and Present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills. This NEA is worth 35% of the final grade.

#### Written exam:

This paper is 1hr 45 minutes and is worth 50% of the final grade.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J276 J277 (from 2020/21)
Examination element	100% Examination	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

Through this course students will develop their understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of programming as well as computational thinking skills. They will learn about programming and systems analysis; what algorithms are, how they are used and how they work; and then create their own algorithm in Python/C and PHP. Students will also learn about the components of computer systems, truth tables, logic statements and assembly code, as well as understanding computer networks.

### Examination Overview

Paper 1: This exam is focused on Computer Systems including architecture, memory, storage, networks, security, and software. It is worth 50% of the final grade.

Paper 2: This exam is focused on Computational thinking, algorithms and programming, including programming techniques, computational logic and data representation. It is worth 50% of the final grade.



## FRENCH GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	AQA	8658
Examination element	100% examination	Foundation Grades 5 - 1 Higher Grades 9 - 4

### Course Overview

The French GCSE covers the contexts and themes of *Identity and Culture, Local, National and International issues; School, Future Aspirations and Employment*. The course will prepare pupils' language skills including short translations from and into French and understanding the gist of authentic texts.

### Examination Overview

#### Listening

Foundation: 35 mins

Higher: 45 mins

#### Reading

Foundation: 45 mins

Higher: 60 mins

*This includes a short translation into English*

#### Speaking

Foundation: 7-9 mins

Higher: 10-12 mins

#### Writing

Foundation: 60 mins

Higher: 75 mins

*This includes a short translation into French*

# GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	Edexcel B	601/8135/7
Examination element	100% examination	One tier of entry

## Course Overview

Studying Geography GCSE enables pupils to investigate and understand the natural and human environment and investigate global connections. As part of the course, pupils complete fieldwork activities and visits to rural and urban areas.

The key themes included in the course are:

- **Global Geographical Issues** including earthquakes, volcanoes, development and wealth, city living around the world.
- **UK Geographical Issues** – including Geographical Investigations/Fieldwork, rivers and coasts in the UK, changing UK cities, coastal and city fieldwork.
- **People and Environmental Issues** including global ecosystems, threats to rainforests, energy use and the environment.

## Examination Overview

### Paper 1: 1hr 30min. 37.5% of final grade

- Hazardous Earth: Climate Change, Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Development issues
- Challenges of living in urban environments

### Paper 2: 1 hr 30min: 37.5% of final grade

- Urban and rural processes & change in the UK
- The UK's natural landscape
- Assessment of urban and rural fieldwork skills

### Paper 3: 1hr 30min. 25% of final grade

- People and the Biosphere: Ecosystems
- Forests under threat
- Our use of Energy resources
- A decision-making task

# HISTORY GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	Pearson Edexcel	1HI1
Examination element	100% examination 3 papers	One tier of entry

## Course Overview

GCSE History encourages pupils to investigate evidence, make judgments about the past, analyse and evaluate their ideas and construct balanced arguments. Pupils study a range of key modern historical events in addition to a medieval and early modern British depth study. They develop their skills of enquiry, evaluation and analysis whilst adding to their body of knowledge.

The key themes and content areas covered are:

- The rise of the Nazis and life inside the Nazi State;
- Weimar Germany from 1919 to 1933
- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present *and* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- The clash of ideologies during the Cold War; and
- The Norman Conquest 1060-1088.

## Examination Overview

### Paper 1

This exam focuses on Medicine Through Time c1250 to present, and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatments and the trenches. It is 1hr and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the final grade.

### Paper 2

This exam focuses on Super Power relations and the Cold War 1941-91; and Anglo Saxon and Norman England c1060-1088. It is 1hr and 45 minutes and is worth 40% of the final grade.

### Paper 3

This exam is based on Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-39. It is 1 hour 20 minutes and is worth 30% of the final grade.

## **BUSINESS STUDIES GCSE**

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Examination Board</b>	<b>Specification Code</b>
GCSE	AQA	8132
Examination element	100% Examination 2 papers	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

GCSE Business Studies explores what makes an effective business in our society, including setting up a business, growing a business and investigating real-life businesses.

This course will encourage pupils to:

- actively engage in the study of business and economics
- become critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements
- develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts.

### Examination Overview

#### Paper 1

This exam includes Business in the real world, Influences on business, Business operations and Human resources. The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 50% of the GCSE.

#### Paper 2

This exam assesses Business in the real world, Influences on business, Marketing and Finance. The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 50% of the GCSE.

## DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – BTEC

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
BTEC Tech Award	Pearson Edexcel	N/A
Examination element	Internal Assessment Synoptic External Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This qualification gives learners a real insight into the modern fundamentals of IT. Students will learn a strong mix of creative design, technical knowledge and the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

### Examination Overview

#### Component 1

This assignment is focused on 'User Interface design and project planning'. This is internally assessed and worth 30% of the final grade.

#### Component 2

This assignment is focused on "collecting, presenting and interpreting data". This is internally assessed and worth 30% of the final grade.

#### Component 3

This exam is focused on 'effective digital working practices' with IT topics such as hacking, legal and ethical issues and how IT is used in business. It is worth 40% of the final grade.

## MEDIA STUDIES GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J200
Examination element	70% Examination 30% Non-Exam Assessment	One tier of entry

### Course Overview

This course enables candidates to develop an understanding of the role of mass media in society. Pupils investigate four areas of media theory: media language, industries, audiences and representation. They will analyse a wide range of media products, such as film, film trailers, TV shows, music videos, gaming, the internet, radio, advertising, magazines, newspapers; all linking to media theory. Pupils will explore how and why media products are created, before having a chance to create their own product, worth 30% of their GCSE grade.

### Examination Overview

#### Paper 1

This exam focuses on TV and Promoting Media. It is 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth 35% of the final grade.

#### Paper 2

This exam focuses on Music and Newspapers. It is 1 hour and 15 minutes and is worth 35% of the final grade.

### Non Exam Assessment

This part of the assessment is worth 30% of the final grade. Students create a media product, set by the examining board.

# PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE

Qualification	Examination Board	Specification Code
GCSE	OCR	J173
Examination element	40% External Examination 60% Coursework Portfolio	One tier of entry

## Course Overview

This course is designed to develop pupils' skills in digital photography through the application of digital and more traditional techniques and processes specific to the chosen area of study of Photography. Pupils will be expected to develop their knowledge and understanding of the following aspects of this subject:

- Developing ideas through investigations and critical research.
- Refining ideas by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with relevant digital techniques.
- Recording ideas and observations appropriate to the project title.
- Realising intentions in Photography by selecting, editing and presenting work to create a Final Piece.

## Examination Overview

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Photography (60%)

Exam Theme: Set by exam board from a choice of five questions (40%)