

Key Stage 4 Course Guide 2023



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A message from your Principal

Hello and welcome to the next step on your academic journey

This is the first time in your school career that you have had the opportunity to choose the subjects that you study so I urge you to make the most of this and make wise choices.

The decisions that you take now will significantly shape your future, whether that is in employment, training or further education. There are many reasons to choose a subject: you are good at it, you enjoy it, you want to take it further or you need it to pursue your chosen career. There are also reasons not to choose a subject: your friends are taking it (your friendship group might change) or you like the teacher (you might not have that teacher next year). It is essential, therefore, that you make an informed choice. You should seek advice and guidance from your Form Tutor, Subject Teachers, Raising Standards Leader and, of course, your family.

This booklet contains all the information you will need to help you make your choices. All GCSE qualifications will be graded on a scale of 1 to 9 (where 9 is the highest grade). Details of how vocational qualifications are graded can be found on the subject pages.

This is a very exciting time for all of you and I wish you the best of luck in the next steps you take. Please make sure you ask as many questions as you need to and listen carefully to the advice you are given.



Principal

SUBJECT

Business GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Vocational

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel



You need to have a keen interest in developing your knowledge and understanding of Business. As part of the core aspects, you will be required to show a high level of dedication as well as being able to work as part of a group and independently. You should also be prepared to use role play and give presentations as part of your assessment so it is advised that you have good communication and language skills.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through 2 90 min exams taken in year 11 - Each exam is 90 marks and is worth 50% of the overall grade.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

The course is made up of two themes which are listed below:

- **Theme 1: Investigating Small Businesses** - Key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business are explored.
- **Theme 2: Building a Business** - Examines how businesses develop beyond the start-up phase. Focusing on key business concepts, used to grow a business.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

On successful completion of this course, you will have developed key skills, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving.

What can students use the course for?

This course is an excellent introduction for students wishing to move onto the A Level Business course. It will also provide students with skills that they could use across a range of subjects.

As well as further study, the knowledge and skills are transferable across a range of jobs as well as enabling students to set up their own business. Communication and teamwork skills as well as knowledge of finance and marketing are key skills employers are looking for. Specific careers linked to this subject include: advertising, economics, public relations, marketing, human resources, procurement, property management and business development.

SUBJECT

Computer Science GCSE

DEPARTMENT

IT

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

OCR



How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed by two externally assessed, written exam papers covering components 1 and 2.

Component 1: Computer systems

1 hour 30 minutes written paper.
80 marks, 50% of the qualification.

Component 2: Computational thinking, Algorithms and Programming

1 hour 30 minutes written paper.
80 marks, 50% of the qualification.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Component 1:

This component introduces students to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It is expected that students will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Component 2:

Students will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation. Students will become familiar with computing related mathematics.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

- Acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.
- Develop computer programs to solve problems.
- Develop the skills to work collaboratively.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society.

What can students use the course for?

Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone. This qualification will enable students to progress either directly to employment in the IT sector or to proceed to further qualifications e.g. Level 3 qualifications such as A-Level Computing and Level 3 C-Tech ICT.

SUBJECT

Design Engineering GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Design and Technology

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA



Design Engineering (Product Design) is a practical subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning and making products and evaluating them. You will be required to show enthusiasm and a high level of dedication, as well as be able to work creatively, methodically and independently.

How is the course assessed?

Written exam:

50% of GCSE, 2 hours.

Non-exam assessment (NEA):

50% of GCSE, 30 - 35 hours.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

- Drawing skills
- Designing skills
- Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture
- Making Skills
- Materials and Components
- Design and Market Influences
- Processes and Manufacture

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

This course encourages candidates to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Students gain an insight into related sectors such as manufacturing and engineering. It prepares candidates to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

What can students use the course for?

This course prepares candidates for taking higher level courses or for entering the world of work. Students may choose to further their skills and go on to study:

- Product Design
- Industrial Design/Engineering
- Furniture Design/Packaging Design
- Interior Design
- Architecture
- Landscape Design
- Set Design
- Automotive Design
- Eco Design
- Design Marketing and Advertising

Please note - a £10 annual contribution will provide for materials and technical drawing equipment so that students can bring their products home.

SUBJECT

English Language GCSE

DEPARTMENT

English

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA



The GCSE course is a compulsory course. The set you are placed in is dependent on your prior attainment in English, as well as your potential in the subject.

How is the course assessed?

The course is linear and assessed by 100% examination. There is no coursework.

You will sit two exams in Year 11 and you will be assessed for your reading and writing skills.

NEA Spoken Language Assessment:

Students will also be assessed on their ability to communicate effectively for the NEA Spoken Language Assessment. Students will present a topic and then respond to questions and feedback. They will receive a Grade Pass, Merit or Distinction.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

The specification will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st Century time periods.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Students will develop their understanding of: the writer's craft, reading for meaning, the writer's choice of linguistics, analysis of structure, form and content. Students will also have the appropriate literacy and oracy skills to be able to further their education or to pursue other career opportunities.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course, students can continue to study English at A Level and then at university. The ability to communicate effectively both written and orally is very useful in the world of work as well as life in general. Specific career routes may include teaching, journalism, politics, law, media, advertising and PR.

SUBJECT

English Literature GCSE

DEPARTMENT

English

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA



The GCSE course is a compulsory course. The set you are placed in is dependent on your prior attainment in English, as well as your potential in the subject.

How is the course assessed?

The course is linear and assessed by 100% examination; you will sit two exams in Year 11. There is no coursework.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Shakespeare plays, 19th Century novels, modern texts and a poetry anthology.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Students will develop their understanding of the writer's craft, reading for meaning, the writer's choice of language, structure, form and content. Students will also learn to apply social and historical context to the texts they study. This will build up their knowledge and understanding of the world. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from a play and prose and then to write about the text as a whole.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course students can continue to study English Literature at A Level and then at university. The ability to communicate effectively both written and orally is very useful in the world of work as well as life in general. Specific career routes may include: teaching, journalism, politics, law, media, advertising and PR as well as human resources, library management, civil service, copywriting, web editing and freelance writing.

SUBJECT

Film Studies GCSE

DEPARTMENT

English

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas

You will need to have an interest in all genres of film.

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course so all exams and coursework will be submitted in Year 11.

Component 1: This exam paper will question students on the key developments in US films. The exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 35% of the course.

Component 2: The exam will ask students about global films and focuses on narrative, representation and film style. This exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 35% of the course.

Both exams will assess students on texts studied in class. Questions will be both stepped questions and extended responses.

Non exam assessment: Production

This coursework unit allows students to apply their knowledge and understanding of film to a piece of production work which is then evaluated.

Students produce:

- A genre based film extract (either a screenplay or a film).
- An evaluation where they evaluate their text to comparable professional produced films/screenplays.

This is worth 30% of the course.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

GCSE Film Studies engages students in the in-depth study of a range of films. They will study three US films such as: *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *ET*, *King Solomon's Mines* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* as well as more contemporary films such as *Ladybird*.

Students are also required to study a global English Language film such as *Slumdog Millionaire*. A non English Language film such as *Girlhood* or *The Wave* will also be studied. Additionally a contemporary UK film is also studied. Choices range from *Attack the Block*, *Blinded by the Light* and *Skyfall*.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Students will become critical thinkers and develop their daily appreciation and understanding of film and its role in their daily lives. They will also understand how meaning is generated through film and how technology has changed. They will also understand how film reflects the world we live in and they will learn to appreciate the cinematography. Additionally, students will gain practical and creative skills —writing screenplays and/or filming and editing their own film creations.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course students can continue to study at A Level and then at university. The analytical and evaluative skills are also useful in many career sectors. Specific career routes may include teaching, journalism, media and advertising as well as film production.



SUBJECT

Fine Art GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Expressive Arts

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA



You will need to be creative with good artistic skills. You should have a high level of drawing skills and have lots of imaginative ideas as a large proportion of your planning and research will be completed as homework. You will also need to produce written projects based on contextual research.

How is the course assessed?

60% Portfolio

A portfolio that must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial ideas to a range of outcomes. It should also include a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

40% Externally Set Assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Fine Art practice is defined here as the need to explore an idea, convey an experience or respond to a theme or issue of personal significance. Specific topics include still life, food, seaside and identity.

- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Mixed media

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

You could pursue a career in some of the following areas: animator, antique dealer, architect, art gallery curator, costume designer, fashion designer, fine artist, florist, furniture designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, museum curator, photographer, product designer, set designer, tattooist, textile designer and web designer.

What can students use the course for?

Students can go on to study NVQs, Diplomas or A Levels in a whole range of creative subject areas including graphics, hairdressing, beauty, photography and retail.

SUBJECT

French GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Modern Foreign Languages

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA



Students complete a two year course in GCSE French, although you will have covered many of the topics in Years 7, 8 and 9. Good prior attainment, behaviour and attendance are important, as is completion of homework and independent study.

How is the course assessed?

GCSE French is based on the assessment of four skills in a final examination at the end of Year 11.

Each of the four exam components (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) is worth 25% of the final exam mark.

There is no coursework element.

The speaking examination will consist of a role play, a short conversation about a photograph and a wider discussion on two contemporary themes.

The writing examination will consist of several short written tasks and a translation from English to French. Higher tier candidates would also be expected to respond to an open-ended written task.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Over the two year course three main themes are covered. These consist of:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

You will have a good understanding of the topics covered. You will have built up the confidence to listen, speak, read and write in French which should help you with communication skills in general.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course, students can continue to study French at A Level. At university level as well as French specific degrees, there are a wide number of subjects that you can study that combine French with another subject. The ability to speak a second language is very useful in the world of work and may give you the opportunity to live and work in another country. Specific jobs can include international relations, law, interpreter/translator, jobs in tourism, teaching and marketing.

SUBJECT

Geography GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Humanities

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

OCR

You will need to have a keen interest in Geography and should show an interest in different countries and current affairs. This course is aimed at providing geography for enquiring minds. You will need to be able to work both independently and as part of a group.

How is the course assessed?

Written Exams

- Unit 1: Our Natural World; 35%.
- Unit 2: People & Society; 35%.
- Unit 3: Geographical Exploration & decision making; 30%.

Please note: There will be a minimum of 2 days of compulsory out-of-school fieldwork trips

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Geography helps to make sense of our continually changing planet. You will learn about the natural world: global hazards, a changing climate, sustaining ecosystems and distinctive landscapes. Additionally you will learn about how people have adapted and manage the environment. You will discover why some places are richer than others and learn why some faraway places are equally important to you and your local area.



What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Lesson styles in Geography vary enormously. As a result you will develop a range of skills that future colleges or employers are looking for. You will become an excellent written, oral and visual communicator, as well as develop your numeracy, map, problem solving, graph and team working skills.

Importantly, you will get to think through real-life issues, problems and situations, such as earthquake disaster relief and housing shortages in the UK. These exceptional learning opportunities will improve your ability to analyse choices and make sound judgements; a critical skill for all managers and leaders.

What can students use the course for?

Geography students are well prepared to continue to study Geography, or indeed similar subjects such as Environmental Science or Geology, at A Level. Geography is a rigorous academic subject at any university and is valued by a range of both public and private sector employers.

SUBJECT

Health & Social Care

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

DEPARTMENT

Vocational

QUALIFICATION

Pearson BTEC Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

This is a practical course and you will be expected to participate fully in all the work and complete all coursework according to the deadline dates.

How is the course assessed?

You will study three units over 2 years. Component 1 and component 2 are Pearson Set Assignments (PSA), these are 4 controlled assessments set over approx 6 hours.

The third component is the examined unit which is taken in Year 11.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

You will study:

Component 1

Human Lifespan Development

- Understanding what growth and development is and the life stages that we go through.
- The different influences and factors that can affect our growth and development.
- Investigate how we deal with different life events and how we cope with them.

Component 2

Health and Social Care Services and Values

You will explore the different types of health and social care services and why they are necessary.

Learners will practise applying the different care values, skills and attributes that are key to the delivery of effective health and social care services.

Consider the obstacles that individual's may face when trying to access these services and the impact of this on the individual

Unit 3 - External Unit - Health and Wellbeing

Learners will study the different factors that affect health and wellbeing.

You will learn about physiological and lifestyle indicators and how they are there to measure health.



Learners will explore the use of the person centred approach to improve health and wellbeing, and the recommended action to improve their health and wellbeing.

The exam is a synoptic paper which will use the information learned through components 1 and 2.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

By the end of the course students will have an understanding of the importance of communication skills, factors that affect individuals and the values that uphold Health & Social Care (H&SC), all of which are paramount when applying for H&SC careers.

What can students use the course for?

The course will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for, especially in the social sectors, child care, health care and education. The course also provides a good foundation for higher levels of study such as the Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care and progression to university.

SUBJECT

History GCSE

DEPARTMENT

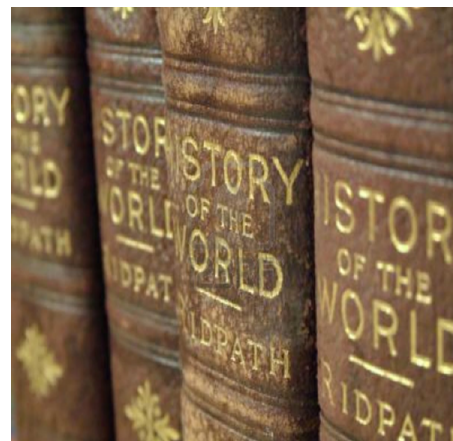
Humanities

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel



The History GCSE is a good choice for students who are keen to think, discuss and question big ideas, events and processes. You will be encouraged to think critically about the information presented to you and must be prepared to work both independently and as part of a group. As an academic course, which is assessed by written exams, we would expect all students studying the course to have a good use of English (especially literacy) and be prepared to read large extracts and produce extended essay answers.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed via three written exams (the duration of which are 1 hour 15 minutes, 1 hour 45 minutes and 1 hour 20 minutes). There is no coursework.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

This is a linear course with all formal assessments taking place at the end of Year 11.

Topics covered are:

- Crime and Punishment
- Elizabeth I's early reign
- American West
- America 1954 - 1975

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Successful students will achieve a GCSE. Studying the past brightens your future because a History GCSE demonstrates that you have the ability to:

- Take an interest in the world around you and the past which has shaped it.
- Research and present your ideas effectively.
- Analyse information to find changes, similarities, differences and causes.
- Think critically about the information presented to you.

What can students use the course for?

History students are well prepared for further study at college because they have developed their communication, judgement and critical thinking skills. In addition, many History students go on to study the course at A Level. Students who continue to study History at college and university are well prepared for a broad range of careers, particularly law, media and politics.

SUBJECT

Hospitality and Catering

WJEC Level 1/2 Award

DEPARTMENT

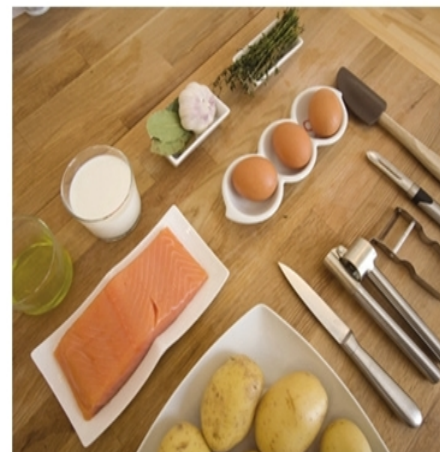
Design and Technology

QUALIFICATION

WJEC Award Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

EXAM BOARD

WJEC



To access this course you need to have a keen interest in both cooking and the nutrition behind food. You should also have brought ingredients in on a consistent basis. Generally, you should have good literacy skills because a large part of the course entails reading, comprehension and writing. You will be required to learn factual information and also complete projects which involve research and planning. For the practical work you will need to demonstrate high levels of skill and manual dexterity. High levels of organisation are needed to follow a recipe to make high quality food products. A clear understanding of hygiene will also be needed.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry is studied over 2 years with a 80 minute written exam paper at the end of Year 11 (40% of the course).

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is a practical unit studied in the first year in which students learn practical cookery skills. Students then complete an extensive NEA that covers eight different elements of nutrition and food planning, and then a 3 ½ -hour practical exam in the last term of Year 10 on an exam board set brief (60% of the course).

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Unit 1:

The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Students will acquire knowledge of all aspects of the industry and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. They will be able to use their learning of different types of establishment and job roles to determine the best option. They will then apply their learning in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to determine how the proposed hospitality and catering provision will operate efficiently and legally and be financially viable whilst meeting the needs of their potential market.

Unit 2:

Hospitality and Catering in Action

Students will apply their learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. They will draw on their learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1 as well as personal safety in their preparations. There is the opportunity to learn about diet, nutrition and menu planning and students will also develop their knowledge of food safety, food preparation and cooking skills within practical lessons. They will acquire the transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, event planning and communication.

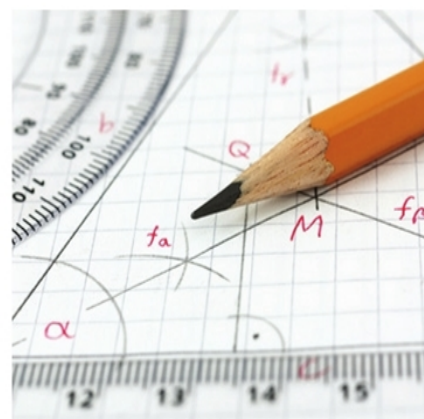
What are the expected outcomes from the course?

The skills and knowledge gained in the course will ensure you are able to undertake a Level 3 course if wanted in any area of the hospitality and catering industry. If you choose not to, then you will be a very skilled and able cook.

What can students use the course for?

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Awards enable learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a specific vocational sector. In addition to development sector specific knowledge and understanding, these qualifications also support learners to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education. The list of relevant employment that the course can lead you to is endless: chef, food developer, buyer, dietician, food technologist, hotel/restaurant management.

Please note - students will be cooking on a bi-weekly basis and are expected to bring in ingredients. The cost will vary depending upon the dishes made. There will also be a variety of trips to enhance the learning experience.

SUBJECT**Mathematics GCSE****DEPARTMENT****Mathematics****QUALIFICATION****GCSE Grades 9-1****EXAM BOARD****AQA**

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject and is therefore compulsory for all students. The set you are placed in is dependent on your prior attainment in the subject, as well as your potential.

How is the course assessed?

For both tiers, Foundation and Higher, students will follow the linear syllabus with AQA. There are three exams at the end of the course, one non-calculator and two calculator. All exams are 1 hour 30 minutes long. A final grade is then awarded based on the combined marks of all papers.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Core topics include: number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

This qualification in Mathematics encourages students to develop the confidence to make informed decisions about the use of technology and the management of money. It will also provide an extensive range of future career choices.

What can students use the course for?

Mathematics teaches patience, discipline and step-by-step problem solving skills. For those with a substantial background in Mathematics, an unlimited number of career opportunities are available. Careers that require a very strong background in Mathematics are:

- Software Engineer
- Actuary
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Computer Programmer
- Mathematician
- Engineer
- Scientist
- Accountant
- Statistician

Almost all of the top fifty jobs in the 'best' jobs list involve mathematical reasoning and knowledge.

SUBJECT

Media Studies GCSE

DEPARTMENT

English

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

EDUQAS



You will need to have an interest in various forms of media

How is the course assessed?

This is a linear course so all exams and coursework will be submitted in Year 11.

Component 1: This exam paper: Exploring the Media questions students on Media Language, Representation, Audience and Industry. The exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 40% of the course.

Component 2: The exam will ask students about Media Forms and Products and will focus on Television and Music Products. This exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 30% of the course.

Both exams will assess students primarily on texts studied in class but Component 1 also has one unseen question. Questions will be both stepped questions and extended responses.

Non exam assessment: Creating Media Products. Students create a media product aimed at an intended audience. The product is based on one of the briefs set by the exam board. This is submitted in Year 11 and is worth 30% of the course.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

GCSE Media Studies engages students in the study of a range of media texts and forms. They study: newspapers, television, music video and online, social and participatory media, advertising and marketing, film, video games, radio and magazines. Students examine these texts for: media language, representation, media industries and audiences and they study texts from different eras too such as 1950s advert for Quality Street, a 1980's music video for Duran Duran and the 1970's crime show The Sweeney and Bond film Man with the Golden Gun.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Students will become critical thinkers and develop their daily appreciation and understanding of the media and its role in their daily lives. They will also understand how meaning is generated through media conventions and how technology has changed and impacted on audiences. They will also understand how the media reflects the world we live in and they will learn to appreciate media production. Additionally, students will gain practical and creative skills — planning and creating their own magazine pages for an intended audience.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course students can continue to study at A Level and then at university. It is also useful in the world of work as well as life in general. Specific career routes may include teaching, journalism, media and advertising, web design and content editing as well as film production

SUBJECT

Music Level 1 / 2 Certificate

RSL Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners

DEPARTMENT

Expressive Arts

QUALIFICATION

RSL Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction

EXAM BOARD

RSL

Any students wishing to study music must have the desire to perform in front of an audience at concerts and other events throughout the year. You will be required to work as part of a team and to attend rehearsals at lunchtime and after school. If you are unable to dedicate additional time to the subject then this is not the course for you.

How is the course assessed?

One core (mandatory) unit is marked externally
One core unit (mandatory) is marked internally
Optional unit is marked internally

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

There are two pathways:
Performance and Technology
Both Pathways **will**:

Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical and contextual issues relating to music style, audience and the music industry

PERFORMANCE Pathway will:

- Perform effectively on their instrument/voice
- To rehearse and display musicianship skills in a number of professional scenarios
- To initiate and develop repertoire

TECHNOLOGY & COMPOSITION Pathway will:

- Understand relevant aspects of music technology.
- To compose and produce music in a number of professional scenarios
- To develop a deeper understanding of the technology used



What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Learners will develop an appreciation of styles and genres of music and be able to explore techniques used to create and perform music products. They will be able to explore professional and commercial skills and develop individual skills and techniques. They will know how to present music in response to a given brief.

What can students use the course for?

On successful completion of the course students can progress to RSL Level 3 in Music. Specific careers linked to this course include: radio broadcaster, DJ, music production, audio engineer, music therapist, music promotions as well as careers in performing and teaching

SUBJECT

Performing Arts (Dance and Drama)

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award

DEPARTMENT

Expressive Arts

QUALIFICATION

Pearson BTEC Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

Any students interested in studying Dance / Drama must have a desire to perform and be able to work cooperatively with other students. It is important that they are willing to perform in front of others, enjoy observing and evaluating performances and are willing to accept constructive criticism in order to improve. Students will also be involved in rehearsals after school, particularly prior to assessments and other performances. They must understand that this course also has a theoretical component and this must be completed satisfactorily to achieve the grading criteria.

How is the course assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed internally by the course tutor, allowing students to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they complete assignments. Evidence for assessment may be through a range of media, such as audio-visual recordings of performance, performance logs, presentations or projects. One of the compulsory units will be assessed externally via an exam.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Students will complete three compulsory units:

- Exploring the performing arts; 30%
- Developing skills in performing arts; 30%
- Performing to a brief; 40%

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Students are expected to bring their Performing Arts uniform for practical lessons. They will work individually and in groups to develop their own skills and techniques in rehearsal and are required to participate in performances.

They will gain knowledge and an understanding of different cultures through professional dance / drama works, exploring dance repertoire / drama techniques in rehearsals and performing in front of an audience.

What can students use the course for?

On successful completion of a BTEC Tech Award qualification learners can progress to BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts or A Level Dance / Drama. The skills learnt on this course are transferable to many aspects of life i.e. confidence, social skills, and teamwork. Specific careers linked to this course include: youth work, choreographer, health and fitness instructor, stunt work, broadcasting, theatre production, studio management, dance therapist as well as performing and teaching



SUBJECT

Combined Science - Trilogy GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Science

QUALIFICATION

Two Linked GCSEs Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel



The GCSE course is a compulsory course. The set you are placed in is dependent on your prior attainment in Science, as well as your potential in the subject.

How is the course assessed?

This double Edexcel award is equivalent to two GCSEs. There is no coursework.

Exams

Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics.

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 10 minutes.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 60 marks.

Question types: multiple choice, Short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions

Engaging practicals

We know that practicals are not only one of the most engaging parts of a science education but are also essential for students' understanding of scientific theory. There are 18 compulsory practicals.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Summary of content

Biology

- Key concepts in biology
- Cell and control
- Genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Plant structures and their functions
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycles

Chemistry

- Key concepts in chemistry
- States of matter and mixtures
- Chemical changes
- Extracting metals and equilibria
- Groups in the periodic table
- Rates of reaction and energy change
- Fuels and Earth science

Physics

- Key concepts of physics
- Motion and forces
- Conservation of Energy
- Waves
- Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
- Radioactivity
- Energy - Forces doing work
- Forces and their effects
- Electricity and circuits
- Magnetism and the motor effect
- Electromagnetic induction
- Particle model
- Forces and matter

What can students use the course for?

Students can progress to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or Applied Science. Progression linked to this could be from a wide range of science based careers including: marine biology, ecology, environmental health, food science, radiography, sound technology and teaching

SUBJECT

Separate Sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs

DEPARTMENT

Science

QUALIFICATION

Three GCSEs Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

This course is aimed at students wishing to gain 3 GCSEs for Science. The course enables students to further develop their interest in science and is most suited to students wishing to take science further than GCSE. It is a more academically challenging course than Combined Science and so may not be appropriate for all students.

How is the course assessed?

There will be two exam papers for each subject - Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. Question types are: multiple choice, calculations, structured, closed short answer and open response. There is no coursework but there are 24 compulsory practicals.

Biology

Two papers: Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Chemistry

Two papers: Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Physics

Two papers: Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Biology

- Key concepts in biology
- Cell and control biology
- Genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Plant structures and their functions
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycles

Chemistry

- Key concepts in chemistry
- States of matter and mixtures
- Chemical changes (acids and electrolytic processes)
- Extracting metals and equilibria
- Separate chemistry 1
- Groups in the periodic table
- Rates of reaction and energy changes
- Fuels and Earth science
- Separate chemistry 2



Physics

- Key concepts of physics
- Motion and forces
- Conservation of Energy
- Waves
- Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
- Radioactivity
- Astronomy
- Energy - Forces doing work
- Forces and their effects
- Static electricity
- Electricity and circuits
- Magnetism and the motor effect
- Electromagnetic induction
- Particle model
- Forces and matter

What can students use the course for?

Students can progress to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or other Level 3 qualifications in Science which will enable them to read Science degrees in STEM subjects. Careers linked to this option include: medicine, biochemistry, environmental science, research and development, pharmaceuticals, forensic science, nanotechnology, electronics and geophysics

SUBJECT

Spanish GCSE

DEPARTMENT

Modern Foreign Languages

QUALIFICATION

GCSEs Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD

AQA

Students complete a two year course in GCSE Spanish, although you will have covered many of the topics in Years 7, 8 and 9. Good prior attainment, behaviour and attendance are important, as is completion of homework and independent study.

How is the course assessed?

GCSE Spanish is based on the assessment of four skills in a final examination at the end of Year 11.

Each of the four exam components (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing) is worth 25% of the final exam mark.

There is no coursework element.

The speaking examination will consist of a role play, a short conversation about a photograph and a wider discussion on two contemporary themes.

The writing examination will consist of several short written tasks and a translation from English to Spanish. Higher tier candidates would also be expected to respond to an open-ended written task.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Over the two year course three main themes are covered. These consist of:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment



What are the expected outcomes from the course?

You will have a good understanding of the topics covered. You will have built up the confidence to listen, speak, read and write in Spanish which should help you with communication skills in general.

What can students use the course for?

Upon successful completion of the course, students can continue to study Spanish at A Level. At university level as well as Spanish specific degrees, there are a wide number of subjects that you can study that combine Spanish with another subject. The ability to speak a second language is very useful in the world of work and may give you the opportunity to live and work in another country. Specific jobs can include international relations, law, interpreter/translator, jobs in tourism, teaching and marketing.

SUBJECT

Sport Science

Cambridge National Certificate Level 2

DEPARTMENT

Expressive Arts

QUALIFICATION

OCR National Grades Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

EXAM BOARD

OCR



Potential students should have a keen interest in physical activity. Although some of the course units are practical, students should understand that the course has a high theory content. Excellent participation and behaviour are essential if students are to meet and complete the assessment criteria for this qualification. The course provides a suitable foundation for further vocational study within the Sport and Leisure industry or continuing to study Physical Education at Advanced Level within the College.

How is the course assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed internally by the course tutor, allowing students to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they complete assignments. Evidence for assessment may be through a range of media, such as presentations, video evidence, vocational projects or written work. One of the compulsory units will be assessed externally.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

Students complete two mandatory units and a further one optional unit. One mandatory unit is assessed through an exam paper. The others are centre-assessed tasks.

Sport Science

Mandatory unit (exam) -

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

Mandatory unit (centre-assessed) -
Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance

Optional units (centre-assessed) -
One from the following:

- The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this
- Nutrition and sports performance

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

A qualification that broadens the knowledge on how the body can affect your sports performance. Develop practical skills in fitness, healthy living and first aid as well as planning and evaluating training programmes. An excellent introduction for a number of Sixth Form courses and apprenticeships.

What can students use the course for?

On successful completion of a Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate, learners can progress to NVQs, A Level, BTECs, coaching or instructing. The qualification will enable learners to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills to enable progression within specific areas of employment such as personal training, coaching as well as careers in healthcare such as physiology, physiotherapy and nutrition.

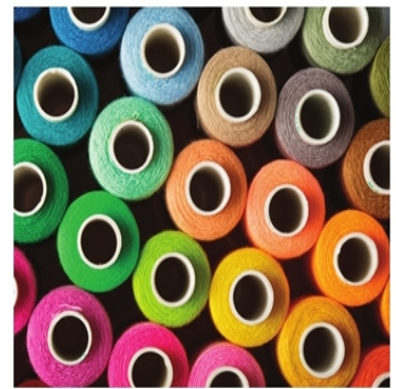
SUBJECT

Textile Art GCSE

DEPARTMENT Expressive Arts

QUALIFICATION GCSE Grades 9-1

EXAM BOARD AQA



Art & Design: Textiles requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, creating outcomes and evaluating work. You will be required to show a high level of dedication and independent learning. Due to the requirements of the course, you must also have good communication and language skills and be able to evaluate and analyse in detail.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 (worth 60%) 96 marks: Portfolio - no time limit

Component 2 (worth 40%) 96 marks: Externally set assignment - preparatory period and 10 hours of supervised time

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

The course develops skills which encourage students to explore, create and communicate their own ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, recording and realisation of their ideas through a portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.

Students will learn how to use sources of inspiration for the development of their ideas. They will develop an understanding of colour, line, shape, texture and the characteristics of different media, materials, techniques and processes.

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Portfolio: Each student must present a portfolio of work which includes a sustained project (in response to a subject/theme) and a selection of further work (resulting from trials and experiments, responses to other artists, gallery/museum/site visits and independent study).

Note: Students are expected to undertake independent investigation outside of the classroom - this includes primary research (e.g. visiting galleries/museums, photography of subjects relevant to the theme of their project, direct observational drawings, etc.).

Externally set assignment: Each student will undertake preparatory studies, followed by 10 hours of supervised, unaided work - in which students will create a final exam piece.

Within the context of textiles design, students must demonstrate the ability to:

- select and critically analyse both primary and secondary sources
- use drawing skills and refine their ideas, through experimenting with a range of art and textiles media, materials, techniques and processes
- record their ideas and observations through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary

What can students use the course for?

The specification allows for progression from Key Stage 3, whilst providing a strong foundation for further study.

Students could go on to study NVQs, Diplomas or A-Levels in a whole range of creative subject areas - including fashion, textiles, graphics, hairdressing, beauty, photography and retail.

Careers using fashion and textiles are wide-ranging, including tailoring/fashion/costume design and production, fashion retailing, interior design and production, textiles alterations, craft work, textiles/garment technology, fashion marketing, visual merchandising, etc.

SUBJECT

ASDAN Award

(only available to those students offered the ASDAN pathway)

QUALIFICATION

ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Level 2

EXAM BOARD

External moderation is carried out by ASDAN's External Moderators who look at the quality to ensure that national standards are being met, and monitor assessment practice.



ASDAN has a successful history of valuing and celebrating a wide diversity of learners' achievements, equipping them to develop their identities. We value their contributions to learning, work and society, supporting them to create the roles they want to achieve in the world.

Structure of the qualification

The qualification is credit-based and candidates choose a combination of units. All units are optional. Candidates must complete 8 credits worth of units to achieve the qualification.

Requirements

Students must complete eight credits (80 hours) at Level 2. They also need to develop and demonstrate personal effectiveness skills through the curriculum in the chosen student book. Students will use the ASDAN recording documents to show that they have met the criteria for sufficient assessment units to achieve the required number of credits.

What subject specific topics are covered during the course?

The course is made up of the 7 units listed below:

- Team working
- Planning and reviewing learning
- Dealing with problems in daily life
- Planning and carrying out research
- Group discussion
- Preparing for and giving a presentation
- Developing self awareness

What are the expected outcomes from the course?

Completion of the qualification involves three main strands:

- Taking responsibility for planning, organising and carrying out a number of activities, or challenges.
- Evidencing this work in a portfolio
- Developing and evidencing the skills used.

What can students use the course for?

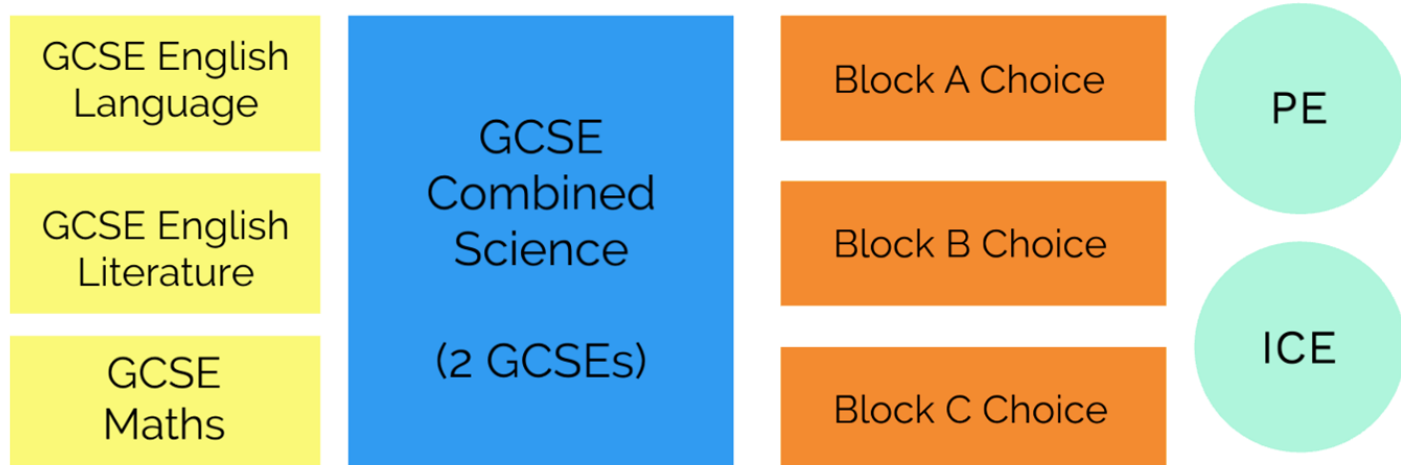
The ASDAN Level 2 Award of Personal Effectiveness (AoPE) is a substantial and wide-ranging qualification which enables candidates to develop and demonstrate a range of personal, key and employability skills, leading to personal effectiveness.

The purpose is to develop generic personal, learning and thinking skills through a broad range of enrichment activities provided by ASDAN challenges.

The ASDAN assessment units encourage the development of the skills required for progression to further education, training or employment, such as independence, resilience, team-work, research, self-awareness, problem solving, and organising and running an event.

These skills will help students for any future courses or career.

The Year 10 Curriculum



Pathways

We will be recommending to students a particular pathway to help them with their Options

Key principles are:

- The pathway is a recommendation and students would be able to select a different pathway if it was right for them
- There is no hierarchy of pathways - one pathway is no better than another - it is about the right pathway for the right student

| Triple Science | EBACC | Open | ASDAN |
|---|---|--|---|
| Students would study English, Maths and separate Sciences | Students would study English, Maths and Science | Students would study English, Maths and Science | Students would study English, Maths and Science |
| They would continue their language | They would continue their language | | They would study ASDAN |
| They would pick Geog/History | They would pick Geog/History | They could then pick three subjects from all of the option subjects we offer | They would study at least one other subject |
| | They would have one other choice of subject | | They would receive additional support |

Notes:



Contact

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