

GCSE Options Guide 2020-2021





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Foreword by the Head

The start of the process to choose your GCSEs is an exciting time in your educational journey. It marks the first time you start to narrow the number of subjects you study, as well as increasing the depth in the level of understanding required in each of these subjects. The choices you make this year will influence those you may wish to take in the future at A-level and beyond.

The process should have already begun in your minds in terms of where you feel your strengths are, and you should check with your form tutor and subject teachers that your opinions on these are closely matched.

Your parents and siblings may also be able to give you advice, as could any friends or other family members who may have already chosen the university or career path you wish to follow.

Soon, you will be asked to make some choices on your option subjects, and at this stage, you should be weighing up all the advice given with your own opinions to come up with a preferred plan for Years 10 and 11.

We hope that this booklet will guide you through some of those early questions regarding the course content in each course and the nature of the assessment procedures.

Please make the most of the next few weeks to gather as much information as possible, and utilise the expertise in school from your teachers.



Mrs K Mackenzie
Head

Introduction

This is an important time in your academic career as you now have the opportunity to take direct responsibility for deciding which subjects you will be studying for the next two years. Although the wide variety of choices may at first seem daunting, some subjects are compulsory to ensure that you follow a balanced programme of study and that you have the necessary basic qualifications for higher education. This booklet is designed to help you make your choices, providing you with information on all of the GCSE and IGCSE courses that we offer.

Which subjects are usually taken by all students?

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics

Science - Dual Award (The opportunity to study all three sciences is available through an option choice)

PHSE and PE are also part of the timetable, but are not examined.

We are determined to ensure that all of our learners achieve everything they can. A major part of our guidance process is to ensure that students choose subjects which will maximise their success. We encourage a broad and balanced curriculum but we know that some students might have areas of specialism and we encourage these where appropriate. We will consult with teachers and subject leaders and submit recommendations for Language and Separate Science subject choices. These are based on pupil performance at KS3 and staff experience of GCSE and IGCSE requirements.

Revised Options process due to lockdown

Once the upcoming Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual) has taken place, we will be sending out an options link, allowing you to make a choice of your preferred subject in each block as well as a reserve choice. If there is a problem with the blocking structure, we will talk to you and try to resolve this to everyone's satisfaction, however, please note, if there are very low numbers in a particular subject, we cannot guarantee that it will be available.

If for any reason you are unable to make an appointment for a subject at the Parents' Evening, I would be grateful if you could contact the teacher directly, this will allow them to organise another time to speak to you through a Google Meet.

What can I choose from? One subject per block.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art and Design (includes Photography strand)	Classics	Separate Science (Appears as Biology on choice list)	Business Studies
3D Design	German	Business Studies	Computing
French	History	Drama	French
Geography	Music	Geography	Food Technology
Latin	Sports Studies		History
Religious Studies			

Timetable for GCSE Choices:

- Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January Year 9 Parents' and Options 'Evenings'
- Friday 29 January Options link sent to parents
- Friday 12 February Final choices to be submitted.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I decide on my choices?

You should take advice from the various sources available to you:

- Look at the blocks the subjects fall into. Remember you can only make one firm choice and one reserve choice in each block.
- Talk to the staff who currently teach you
- Talk to your Form Tutor and to myself
- Talk to your parents
- Talk to pupils who are studying the subjects in which you are interested.

Ask yourself some questions:

1. Which subjects do I enjoy and find particularly interesting?

Lessons, homework and revision are always easier if it involves topics which you are interested in and genuinely enjoy.

2. Which subjects am I good at?

It is always a good idea to play to your strengths.

3. Do I have any ideas about courses at university or possible careers?

Literature and resources which may help to guide you are available in the Library and Sixth Form. Miss Stephens and Miss Bird are always happy to have a conversation with you.

4. Are some subjects easier than others?

All studies lead to a GCSE or IGCSE qualification however, some subjects are perceived to be easier whilst others are perceived to be more academically demanding. You should consider how universities and employers will value the GCSE or IGCSE subjects that you choose to study. Speak to your tutor and careers advisor about this.

5. Will my choice of options give me a really balanced programme?

It is always a good idea to take a broad range of subjects. Whilst you may envisage one particular career path today, that may change significantly in four years' time.

6. Do I enjoy coursework and independent study?

Some subjects require more coursework and research than others.

7. Do I need specific skills?

Some subjects require students to have a specific skill set and, if you are able to demonstrate that you have those skills, it will be easier for you to access the higher grades. Speak to your teachers and ask for their advice on where your core skills lie.

Do I really need to pick a reserve subject?

Yes! You need to put as much thought into these subjects as you do your initial choices. If there is a conflict in subjects or a course does not run, you will need a reserve choice.

Will I be able to drop a subject in the future if I am not doing well in it?

No. You cannot drop a GCSE course; therefore it is critical that you think carefully about the choices you make.

Can I change my mind regarding the subjects I have chosen?

Yes, within reason. You can change your choices at any point before the summer holidays, but only if the new combination works, there is space on the course and if staff feel it fits your strengths and skillset.

Mr S Finn
Deputy Head, Assessment and Curriculum

Careers Advice

The options selected in Year 9 represent one of the first major decisions you will make in your life. Your choice of subjects may well influence your long term plans but it is also important to consider the transferable skills you will derive from them, e.g. problem solving, creative thinking, use of technology, communication skills and the ability to deliver effective presentations. You may also like to consider methods of assessment, e.g. coursework vs end of course examination; which offers you the best opportunity to increase your chances of success?

The Library contains a range of information in books, leaflets and computer programmes. In the Sixth Form, there is also a range of prospectuses and information on applying to higher education and for apprenticeships. The UCAS website is a good source of information about university courses and requirements and the internet is a valuable source of general information alongside your Morrisby careers support. During Years 10 and 11 there will be a variety of additional opportunities for you to gather information on further educational study and potential career choices. Some of those include the following:

- Visits to different universities
- Visiting speakers in school
- Workshops in school.

Wherever possible, we strongly urge you to take up these opportunities as they represent a very valuable experience and can help enormously with future decisions.

The Morrisby Careers profiling you have already registered with will then be developed in Year 11 and Sixth Form with more detailed analysis of your strengths and interests to allow more focussed, in depth guidance for next steps from GCSEs and further education. In Sixth Form, tailored one to one interviews in preparation for UCAS or employment will be available to all.

At this stage, the most important thing is to play to your strengths and select subjects which you enjoy and in which you feel you can do best. This particularly applies to the Sciences, where we urge you to follow the advice of the teaching staff. If you are equally good at all subjects, then of course you must find out which careers you are ruling out when you decide to discontinue a subject. Please ensure that you explore this through your Morrisby advisor, myself, Miss Bird, Mrs Conroy, your Form Tutor and the teachers concerned.

Miss N Stephens

Deputy Head, Pastoral and Head of Careers

English Language, AQA 8700 GCSE

Why should I study English Language?

English Language is a core subject studied by all students in Years 10 and 11. The AQA course aims to provide you with a well-rounded curriculum, focusing on the development of spoken communication skills, reading for understanding both of content and the way meaning is conveyed, as well as writing for a number of audiences and purposes.

Which topics will I study?

- Explorations in creative reading and writing
- Writers' viewpoints and perspectives
- Non-exam assessment

How will I be assessed?

The AQA English Language course consists of two external written examinations:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1hr 45 mins worth 50%)

- Reading questions based on one literature fiction text
- Writing extended descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (1hr 45 mins worth 50%)

- Reading questions one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction texts
- Writing extended writing to present a viewpoint

Students also receive a certificate of speaking and listening competence in addition to their English Language GCSE qualification.

Where could a GCSE in English Language take me?

This qualification is a minimum requirement of most, if not all, further and higher education institutions and employers.

English is vital for any job that involves communication, writing and literary knowledge. Such careers include: advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, business, teaching, the performing arts, academia, politics and the media. Careers in the sciences, medicine, engineering, technology and mathematics also require high levels of English competence.

English Literature, AQA 8702 GCSE

Why should I study English Literature?

The majority of our students study English Literature and the course is designed to foster enjoyment and appreciation of all literary genres, so that you are able to respond sensitively and imaginatively as an independent reader. Studying literature develops analytical skills demonstrating an ability to understand complex material, identify patterns and interpret challenging information and ideas.

Which topics will I study?

The study of English Literature focuses mainly on analysis, debate and critical theorising about a large number of published works, be they novels, poems, plays or other literary works. Texts studied in recent years include *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol* and *An Inspector Calls*, as well as poetry from the AQA Anthology.

How will I be assessed?

There are two external examinations which you will sit in the summer term of Year 11. Those papers are:

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
- Paper 2: Modern Text and Poetry.

Where could a GCSE in English Literature take me?

English Literature is one of the oldest academic subjects taught in the curriculum. It is a subject well respected by potential employers owing to the numerous transferable skills it demonstrates. A qualification in this subject can lead to a career in advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, publishing, law, business, medicine, teaching, the performing arts, academia, politics and the media.

Mathematics, Edexcel IGCSE

Why should I study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a core subject studied by all students in Years 10 and 11. This qualification is a minimum requirement of most, if not all, further and higher education institutions and employers.

Which topics will I study?

To succeed in this subject you will need to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills across a number of topics. Specific details are outlined as follows:

Numbers and algebra:

- Numbers and the numbering system
- Calculations
- Solving numerical problems
- Equations, formulae and identities
- Sequences, functions and graphs.

Shape, space and measures:

- Geometry and trigonometry
- Vectors and transformation geometry.

Handling data:

- Statistics
- Probability.

How will I be assessed?

- For each tier (Higher and Foundation) there are two written examinations
- Each paper is 50% of the total IGCSE raw marks
- The total number of marks for each paper is 100
- A calculator may be used in the examinations.

Where could a GCSE in Mathematics take me?

The IGCSE ensures the needs of today's learners to support their progression to universities and employment worldwide. Highly valued transferable skills are embedded throughout the course which can be used and applied in almost any chosen career.

Science, Edexcel IGCSE

Why should I study Science?

All pupils study a balanced Science course with an emphasis on learning the traditional principles of Science and applying them to the real world. As you progress through the course you will develop skills in planning and conducting investigations, gathering information and evaluating your findings and in working collaboratively as part of a team.

Which topics will I study?

All students will study the same topics as both courses have a common foundation, although the Separate Sciences have a little more content in some of the topics as well as a small number of extra topics.

❖ Science Double Award

This route leads to two IGCSE grades being awarded upon the successful completion of three examinations at the end of Year 11.

❖ Separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

This is the recommended option for the most able and diligent students due to the increased content, pace and demands in the classroom. This route leads to three IGCSEs being awarded on the successful completion of six examinations at the end of Year 11.

Whichever route you choose, you will study the following topics:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nature and variety of living organisms• Structures and functions in living organisms• Reproduction and inheritance• Ecology and the environment• Use of biological resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles of chemistry• Inorganic chemistry• Physical chemistry• Organic chemistry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces and motion• Electricity• Waves• Energy resources and energy transfer• Solids, liquids and gases• Magnetism and electromagnetism• Radioactivity• Astrophysics.

How will I be assessed?

There is no controlled assessment or coursework element to this course, however you will be expected to carry out a number of practical experiments throughout the two years and some of these will be incorporated into questions in the final examination papers. You will sit your final examinations in the summer of Year 11 and the format will be as follows:

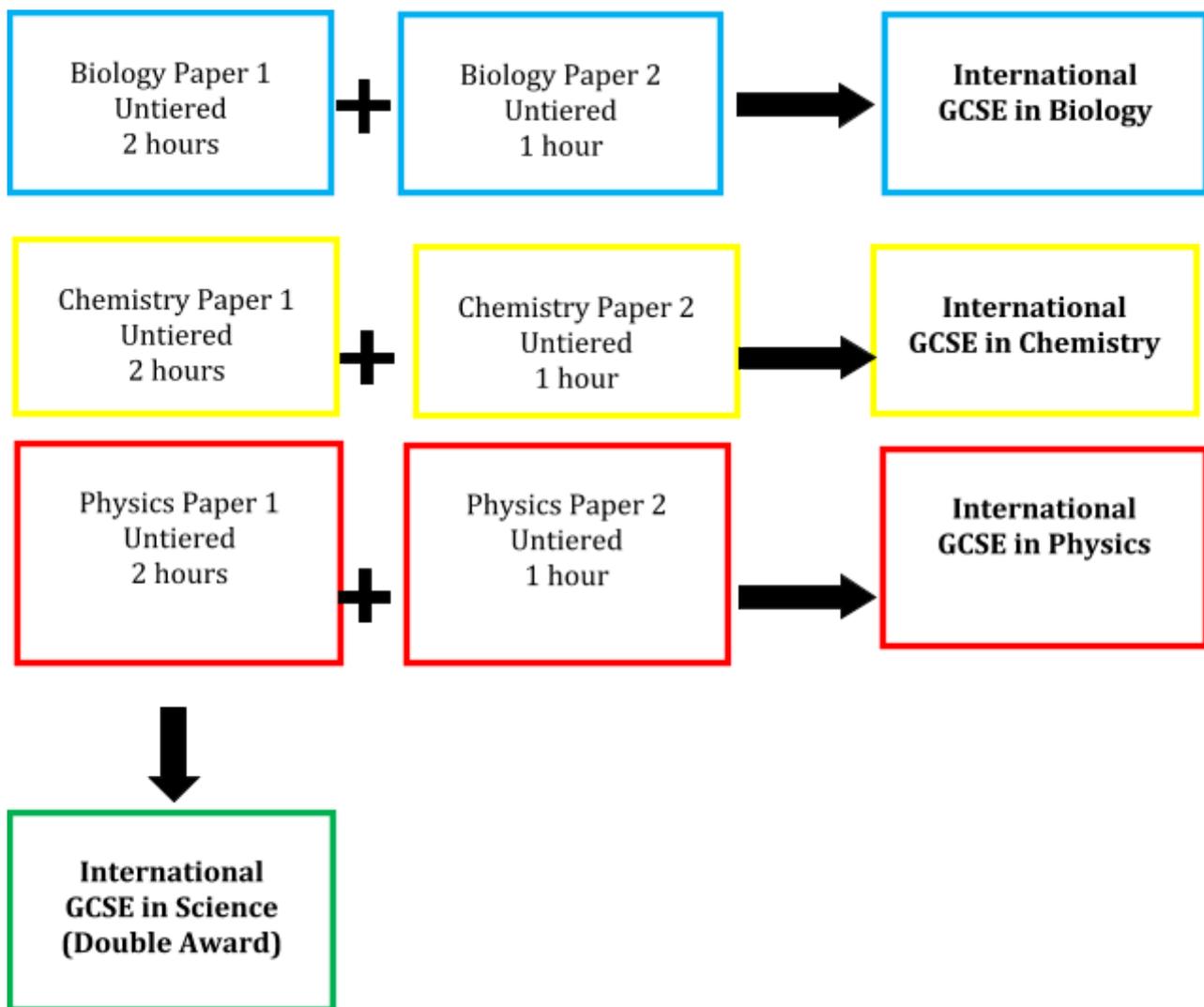
❖ Double Award Science students will sit:

- Biology: Paper 1
- Chemistry: Paper 1
- Physics: Paper 1

❖ Separate Science students will sit:

- Biology: Papers 1 and 2
- Chemistry: Papers 1 and 2
- Physics: Papers 1 and 2.

Examination papers contain a mixture of question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.



Where could a GCSE in Science take me?

There is an increasing global demand for scientists and a vast number of careers require a firm grounding in Science. The traditional professions that demand a strong knowledge of one or more Sciences include medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, architecture and engineering though, as we progress through the 21st century, GCSEs in any science could open many more doors for you in the future.

Art, Craft and Design/Photography, AQA GCSE

Why should I study Art and Design?

Having a wide skill set, which includes qualifications in a creative subject, will make you more appealing to employers and universities. It will show that you are versatile and capable of excelling in a wide range of areas. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter which career path you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. Developing your portfolio and examination preparation will give you focus, organisation and time management skills. Your overall mark will not be dependent on your performance within one or two examinations but assessed across the whole of the two years and, whilst you will have to be prepared to work consistently, you will not have the added pressure of revision and a final examination.

Which topics will I study?

Students can choose an Art, Craft and Design course strand or a Photography course strand.

In the autumn and spring term of Year 10, you will complete a series of skills-based modules as part of your portfolio:

- ❖ Developing knowledge of photographic processes and experimental photography
- ❖ Pattern and printmaking/creative Photoshop
- ❖ Extending knowledge of artists, including photographers, from the past and present and from other cultures
- ❖ Improving and extending the ability to analyse and utilise the work of others
- ❖ Developing and realising ideas, discussing and considering possible innovative solutions and modifying work appropriately
- ❖ Developing a piece of work through fine art, textiles or photography.

Later in the spring term you will embark on an extended project intended to utilise your own specific skills and abilities. Students following the Art, Craft and Design strand should adopt a mixed media approach while students following the Photography strand will only use photography.

In Year 11 you will continue with the extended project you started in Year 10. You will be expected to work more independently, progressing on your own creative journey and developing work using your own unique skill set.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit a ten hour practical internal mock examination in the November of Year 11. Your final GCSE award will be assessed via the following methods:

- ❖ A portfolio of work over the two year course which will be worth 60% of your final GCSE grade.
- ❖ An externally set assignment which will be started in the January of Year 11 and will culminate in a ten hour examination in May of Year 11 where you will produce your final piece of work. This will make up 40% of your final GCSE grade.

Where could a GCSE in Art and Design take me?

Creative industries provide around two million jobs both in the creative sector itself and in creative roles in other sectors. In recent years, employment in the arts has grown at double the rate of the economy as a whole. The creative industries include advertising, animation, architecture, computer games, craft, cultural heritage, design, designer fashion, interactive media, photo-imaging, publishing, software and television.

Business, Edexcel IGCSE

Why should I study Business?

Could you sell snow to an Eskimo? Are you a budding Dragon? Business is a subject that will empower the entrepreneur in you and enable you to turn ideas into reality. A GCSE in Business will engage your interest in current affairs and help you to apply what you are learning in the classroom to what you see happening in businesses every day. It requires you to develop your skills in literacy, numeracy and critical thinking - skills much sought after by universities and employers.

Which topics will I study?

There are five areas of study:

- Business Activity and Influences on Business

The study of business objectives, the changing environment and the criteria for judging success. The focus is on the importance of having clear business objectives and how the business environment provides opportunities for, and imposes constraints on, the pursuit of these objectives.

- People in Business

The study of people in organisations focusing on their roles, relationships and management in business.

- Business Finance

The study of the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision making.

- Marketing

The study of identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive international environment.

- Business Operations

The study of the way in which organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services.

How will I be assessed?

The IGCSE is assessed by two 90 minute written examinations which are set and marked externally. Paper 1 covers small businesses and Paper 2 is concerned with large businesses. Each paper accounts for 50% of the IGCSE. There is no coursework. Lessons will follow a variety of formats and include student-led learning, investigations, research and presentations.

Where could a GCSE in Business take me?

A GCSE in Business will prepare you well to study the subject further, although it is not necessary to take Business GCSE to study the subject at A-level. It will provide you with the knowledge and skills to pursue a variety of career options in the future including running your own small business or working for larger international businesses as a specialist in Finance, Operations, Marketing or Human Resources.

Classical Civilisation, OCR GCSE

Why should I study Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is one of the humanities and is an essay based subject like RE or English. If you enjoy English, or are interested in History or the Roman background to your Latin lessons, you can certainly do well in Classics.

Which topics will I study?

In Year 10 you will read some literature and study some historical artefacts that summon up the myths and stories of ancient Greece and Rome. Original texts of plays and epic stories are read, which leads to discussion of characters such as Hercules, heroes such as Odysseus and gods such as Apollo. In Year 11 we focus on heroes of war and both can be studied in history or literature, depending on the interests of the group.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11, students sit two, 1 hour 30 minute examinations, each one has short-answer questions on the books and topics studied and a longer essay question. Essay questions in the past have been based on a number of the following topics:

- ❖ The way in which the gods help the heroes
- ❖ The different kinds of monsters
- ❖ The role of magic in the epic adventure
- ❖ The character of the Emperor Augustus or the King Xerxes.

Where could a GCSE in Classical Civilisation take me?

Classical Civilisation is an unusual choice of subject to study at GCSE which, as well as enabling you to understand the foundation of Western European culture, could also ensure that your university application stands out from the crowd.

Computer Science, OCR GCSE

Why should I study Computing?

Studying Computer Science will allow you to explore and investigate the digital world around us while developing an understanding of how computers impact on almost every aspect of our daily lives. You are most likely to enjoy the subject if you have a real interest in computers and are a logical thinker who enjoys problem solving. The course is best suited to students who can demonstrate a high level of competence in writing, as well as robust mathematical skills.

The course is designed to:

- ❖ Inspire and enthuse you to become more technology savvy; you will become a producer of technology products rather than just a consumer of them.
- ❖ Give you the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of Computing, with an emphasis on programming and problem solving skills.
- ❖ Encourage your personal development, motivation and confidence, through practical participation and by allowing you to take responsibility for their own projects.

Which topics will I study?

Across two years you will study a wide range of topics including:

Systems architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies • System security • System software • Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns • Algorithms • Programming techniques • Computational logic • Data representation

How will I be assessed?

The course is formally assessed at the end of the Year 11 when there are two written exams and a programming-based project. Regular internal assessments will take place throughout the two years, usually at the end of a specific topic of work.

Assessment Overview	
Computer systems (01) 1 hour and 30 minutes, Written paper (no calculators allowed)	50% of total GCSE
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02) 1 hour and 30 minutes, Written paper (no calculators allowed)	50% of total GCSE

Where could a GCSE in Computing take me?

Computing is a subject which is becoming more and more central to every type of business. A good foundation in Computing will enable you to follow one of a wide variety of career paths. Well-qualified and skilled programmers are in great demand as shown in numerous surveys. The course is also excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on solving technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

3D Design, AQA GCSE

Why should I study 3D Design?

Are you inspired by the contemporary, deconstructed shapes of modernist buildings? Or wonder how the industrial revolution has impacted the current industrial trend in furniture? This course is your opportunity to delve into the ideas behind 3D Design and bring your ideas to life.

Studying design can develop conceptual understanding, experimentation skills, problem solving and critical thinking which are all transferable skills into a vast array of careers. This can be important when considering future pathways whether this is within the design field or elsewhere. Design also allows you to build communication skills, independence, creativity and innovation when producing your project work. It is related to the real world, historical and contemporary contexts will be used to underpin your projects allowing research to be collated into relevant fields, meaning this is your chance to create a concept relevant and developed for future use.

Which topics will I study?

The 3D Design course is a large ongoing portfolio built up of minor projects and two large projects (detailed below). It enables students to explore a wide range of materials and processes to create 3-dimensional outcomes. The outcomes can be conceptual or functional pieces and students are encouraged to experiment and problem solve. You will work towards four assessment objectives covering the research, development/refining, communication of your work along with the quality of your final response (final piece). You will be encouraged to use a wide variety of materials and media such as paints, pastels, pencils and CAD work to communicate ideas.

Along with developing skills such as isometric projection, orthographic drawing, perspective drawing and CAD work, you will use machinery and hand processes to develop and produce your ideas. Projects will enable you to develop skills in different 3D areas such as jewellery and accessories, architecture, product design or furniture.

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course students will be marked under four assessment objects – development, experimentation, recording ideas and presenting a final piece.

Component 1 – Portfolio of work – 60%

Students will develop a portfolio of work which includes:

- A large, sustained project in response to a starting point or project brief – this must include evidence of research, the development of ideas and meaningful links with critical / contextual sources.
- A small selection of small projects which will cover aspects such as jewellery, architecture and product design.

Component 2 – Externally set task – 40%

- Externally set assignment including 10 hours of supervised time. This unit follows the same process as the coursework units; research, studies of designers, design movements, craftspeople and artists, observational studies, initial ideas, development of ideas, samples and maquettes, continual reflection through annotation and then the 10 hours is used to create a final piece of three dimensional work.

Where could a GCSE in 3D Design take me?

This course could be useful for anyone wanting to pursue a career in architecture, engineering, product development, industrial design, product design, media and teaching, games design, furniture design and interior design, set and prop design, to name but a few.

Drama, Eduqas GCSE

Why should I study Drama?

Did you enjoy Drama in Years 7, 8 and 9? Do you thrive when performing in front of an audience? Are you interested in how plays can be interpreted and performed? Do you have a passion for theatre design skills such as make-up and lighting? Studying Drama at GCSE is mainly practical and you will devise your own dramas as well as studying and performing published plays. We have previously offered the opportunity to take part in workshops with visiting practitioners where you will be able to further develop your skills in Drama.

Which topics will I study and how will I be assessed?

There are three key component parts to the GCSE Drama course and each is assessed in a specific way. Each of those parts are outlined as follows:

Component One - The presentation of a devised performance – 40%

- ❖ You will devise a performance based on a stimulus that you choose for yourself such as an image, a piece of music, a poem or a piece of text.
- ❖ OR you may choose to present a design brief, instead of performing, for this component such as providing the costume, lighting, set or sound design for the performance.
- ❖ You will be required to produce a portfolio of work which evaluates your contribution to the creating and developing of the performance or the design element that you have chosen.
- ❖ You will be required to evaluate your performance or design.
- ❖ This component is assessed by the teacher and standardised by the examination board.

Component Two - The presentation of a performance from a published text – 20%

- ❖ You will study a range of play texts, some of which you may suggest yourself, and then perform two key extracts from the play.
- ❖ You may choose to present a design brief for this component also in costume, lighting, set or sound. This component is usually assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component Three - A written examination based on the study of a play text set by the examination board - 40%

- ❖ You will study a set play (*DNA* by Dennis Kelly) and have a clean copy of it with you in the exam.
- ❖ You will answer questions on acting, designing and directing the text.
- ❖ You will have to answer questions on the plays and performances that you have seen, as live (or recorded live) theatre, throughout the course.

Where could a GCSE in Drama take me?

The course is good preparation for any further study of the arts. You will grow in confidence and learn how to present yourself in a range of situations; this is an invaluable skill in any future career. The collaboration and team building required will help to widen your experience of working with other people and develop your decision-making abilities. Many careers, including law and medicine, are looking for people who have these skills. The World Economic Forum's *The Future of Jobs Report (2020)* stresses the importance of skills such as those developed through Drama; active learning, resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility.

Food Preparation and Nutrition, AQA GCSE

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on developing practical cooking skills and ensuring that students have a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Over the next three years, the food and drink sector will need 137,000 new recruits in managerial or professional roles. Food preparation is not only a life skill which can assist you in your independent life at university, but it is also crucial to living a happy and healthy lifestyle. Food preparation has a strong emphasis on catering for those with special dietary requirements and looks at the function of ingredients in products and nutrients in the body. It has very strong links with Chemistry, Biology and ethics. If you want to pursue a medical, food science or nutrition-based career, you should consider studying this course.

Which topics will I study?

Food preparation skills are integrated into the following five core topics:

- ❖ **Food, nutrition and health:** Macronutrients, micro nutrients, nutritional needs and health.
- ❖ **Food science:** Cooking of food, heat transfer and the functional and chemical properties of food.
- ❖ **Food safety:** Food spoilage, contamination and the principles of food safety.
- ❖ **Food choice:** Factors affecting food choice, British and International cuisines, sensory evaluation, food labelling and marketing.
- ❖ **Food provenance:** Environmental impact and sustainability of food, food processing and production.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed in the following three ways:

- ❖ A formal written examination
- ❖ One practical piece of coursework
- ❖ One practical experiment.

Where could a GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition take me?

Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid careers. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course could lead you into roles such as a chef, food product developer, buyer (with scope to travel the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), food safety inspectors, nutritionists, dieticians, quality managers, teacher, food engineer, food scientist, food technologist, food photographer, home economist, hotel and restaurant manager, microbiologist and a wide range of careers working in food magazines, radio and television.

Geography, AQA GCSE

Why should I study Geography?

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. Geography plays a valuable part in educating young people about the world in which they live. This subject therefore links well with many other subject disciplines such as Business, History and Religious Studies, as well as complementing the core Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It also plays a significant role in developing essential skills and knowledge of other areas of life, for example, economic awareness, citizenship, literacy and ICT are all actively included in schemes of work. These work alongside the geographical skills of map reading, data interpretation and analysis.

Which topics will I study?

Over the two year course you will study the following three main topic areas:

- ❖ **Living with the Physical Environment;** studying a range of physical topics covering the natural hazards we face, the interactions between humans and the natural environment in a range tropical rainforests and hot deserts and the study of rivers and coastal landscapes.
- ❖ **Challenges in the Human Environment;** studying how humans live in an increasingly urban world and the opportunities and challenges this presents, how the world is increasingly interconnected and the challenges of increased globalisation, addressing different strategies to reduce the development gap and the challenges of managing the resources we have available.
- ❖ **Geographical Skills;** through studying the above topics, students will gain key geographical skills e.g. graphical and statistical skills through working with both qualitative and quantitative data. Pupils will then be provided with the opportunity to use these skills in geographical field studies and evaluating an issue using their geographical knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

You will undertake the following formal assessments:

- ❖ **Paper 1 - Living with the Physical Environment:** 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 35% of overall GCSE grade.
- ❖ **Paper 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment:** 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 35% of overall GCSE grade.
- ❖ **Paper 3 Geographical Applications:** An evaluation based on a pre-release booklet issued 12 weeks prior to the actual exam, fieldwork and geographical skills; 1 hour 15 minutes and worth 30% of overall GCSE grade.

Where could a GCSE in Geography take me?

Through studying Geography you have the potential to embark on careers in almost all employment sectors. These include medicine, creative and social services, engineering and surveying as well as business and marketing.

History, Cambridge IGCSE

Why should I study History?

History develops your skills of analysis, argument and interpretation. These are essential skills for a tremendous variety of careers. You may choose not to take History beyond GCSE; in that case, you will still have acquired a level of knowledge and understanding which will assist you in whatever Sixth Form and higher education path you choose. You will be studying the events of the 20th Century and trying to make sense of the recent past. Only by understanding the past can we explain the present or hope to build a better future. If we do not attempt to learn from the mistakes of the past, then are we destined to repeat them? In lessons we shall be studying the past through the eyes of those who have made History, both the powerful and the weak. You will learn to judge this evidence carefully to evaluate it and sift the truth from the propaganda.

Which topics will I study?

You will be studying the new Cambridge IGCSE History specification which covers the following units of study:

- ❖ The 20th Century: International Relations since 1919
 - Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-1923 fair?
 - To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
 - Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
 - Who was to blame for the Cold War?
 - How effectively did the USA contain the spread of communism?
 - How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948-c.1989?
 - Why did events in the Gulf Matter, c.1970-2000?
- ❖ Germany Depth Study
 - Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
 - Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?
 - How effectively did the Nazis control Germany?
 - What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

How will I be assessed?

There will be three examinations: Paper 1 (worth 40% of the final grade) and Paper 2 (worth 33% of the final grade) are both two hour papers, Paper 3 (worth 27% of the final grade) is a one hour paper. The examinations will be testing skills that you acquired in your KS3 studies and have subsequently developed in Years 10 and 11.

Where could a GCSE in History take me?

You may eventually decide to take the subject further, to A-level or at degree level. A qualification in History opens up for you an enormous range of business and professional opportunities. Above all, it does not mean that *'all you can do is teach'*!

Latin, OCR GCSE

Why should I study Latin?

Latin is a subject that ensures you stand out from the crowd. It is great fun for people who enjoy a challenging language and it gives you the same cultural background as all other educated Europeans of the last two thousand years.

Which topics will I study?

The language course will develop your ability to understand and translate Latin into English and will build on the foundation of the grammar and vocabulary you learned in Years 7-9. Stories to translate are from Greek and Roman myths, legends and history. The literature course is the study of two set texts, one prose and one verse. We study about 135 lines of each, taken from original Latin texts written by famous Roman authors and poets such as Julius Caesar and Virgil. We translate it together in class and study it in depth.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three formal examinations at the end of Year 11. Paper one is a language paper. The paper will include some comprehension questions, a small amount of Latin to translate and some questions about English words which are derived from Latin. Paper two and three are both literature papers. In these examinations you will be asked to answer some comprehension questions and to translate a short extract. You will also be asked to comment on the style and content of the Latin in the same way that you would analyse a piece of writing in English.

Where could a GCSE in Latin take me?

A GCSE in Latin will support you in any academic pathway and will allow you to access careers in medicine, law or the further study of languages. Latin is included in the EBacc subjects which some universities are keen to consider when looking at your GCSE results. All universities will take a GCSE in Latin as a sign of an academic high-flyer.

Modern Languages, AQA French (8658) AQA German (8668)

Why should I study a Modern Foreign Language?

Studying a language at GCSE is something which could help you in almost any career; opening up opportunities both at home and abroad. It also gives you a wider knowledge of your own world, which will enable you to take your place in our global society. Transferable skills are a watchword among employers, who highly value key skills, such as communication, problem-solving, logical thinking and working with others; all of these are covered in a language curriculum. One study found that close to seven out of ten teenagers say they would like to work abroad at some point in their lives, are you one of them?

While we would encourage all students to take at least one language, it is also possible for the most able linguists to study both French and German at GCSE.

Which topics will I study?

You will already be familiar with some of the subject content from the work we have done at KS3, but you will now cover all topics in greater depth:

Theme 1 Identity and culture	Theme 2 Local, national, international and global areas of interest	Theme 3 Current and future study and employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Me, my family and friends• Technology in everyday life• Free-time activities• Customs and festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home, neighbourhood and region• Social issues• Global issues• Travel and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My studies• Life at school/college• Education post-16• Career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed?

Examinations take place at the end of Year 11. The results of your Year 10 examination and Year 11 January mock examination will determine whether you will be entered for the Foundation or Higher Tier paper. You will be examined in each of the four core skill areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The four papers have equal weighting (i.e. 25% each).

Where could a GCSE in a Modern Language take me?

The traditional view of careers using a language focuses on roles as translators or teachers. However, the 21st century global economy in which we now live means that as a linguist, the world is literally your oyster.

Sectors increasingly demanding linguists include the following:

- ❖ Finance and banking
- ❖ Pharmaceutical and engineering
- ❖ Accountancy and law
- ❖ Fashion and design
- ❖ Medicine and dentistry
- ❖ Broadcasting and journalism.

Modern Languages form part of the Ebacc, which many universities look at when considering applications.

Music, Edexcel GCSE

Why should I study Music?

During your studies you will learn about and listen to a rich and diverse selection of musical styles and genres from all corners of the globe. They will inspire you, surprise you and whilst they may not all be to your taste, they will provide you with a fascinating insight into the world of music and how much it means to people from all walks of life.

Which topics will I study?

Area of Study	Set Works
Instrumental Music 1700-1820	J.S. Bach: 3 rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no.5 in D Major L van Beethoven: 1 st movement from Piano Sonata no.8 in C minor <i>Pathetique</i>
Vocal Music	H Purcell: <i>Music for a While</i> Queen: <i>Killer Queen</i> (from the album <i>Sheer Heart Attack</i>)
Music for Stage and Screen	S Schwartz: <i>Defying Gravity</i> J Williams: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope – Main Title/Rebel blockade runner
Fusions	Afro Celt Sound System: <i>Release</i> (from the album <i>Volume 2: R Release</i>) Esperanza Spalding: <i>Samba Em Preludio</i> (from the album <i>Esperanza</i>)

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed via the following three units:

Unit 1: Performing Music. This is internally marked and externally moderated and is worth 30%.

You will need to offer at least two pieces (solo and ensemble), with a combined duration of at least four minutes. These are recorded in Year 11.

Unit 2: Composing Music. This is internally marked and externally moderated and is worth 30%. You will compose (or arrange) two pieces of music, one in response to a set brief linked to one of the four areas of study, and one free composition. We compose one piece in Year 10 and the piece to a set brief is done in Year 11.

Unit 3: Music - Listening and Appraising. This is a written examination paper worth 40% of the final grade. The paper is based largely on the set works below with some additional unfamiliar extracts. The paper will include multiple choice, short open and extended writing questions.

Where could a GCSE in Music take me?

Studying Music can take you around the world! Music study is recognised by employers as a key demonstration of commitment, dedication and resilience – all qualities vital in today's workplace.

Employability skills such as self-discipline and concentration, performing under pressure, creativity, communication and critical reflection are all developed through studying Music. You could continue to A-level and pursue a university degree course or if you are an exceptional performer, audition for a place at a Music conservatoire, or really diversify and go into Music Therapy or Sound Production – there are so many possibilities!

Physical Education, AQA GCSE

Why should I study Physical Education?

GCSE PE is both an academic and a practical subject. If you are regularly involved and have a genuine interest in a range of sports, if you are enthusiastic and well-motivated, if you are prepared to attend regular co-curricular activities and feel that you will be able to balance academic and practical work, this could be the course for you.

Which topics will I study?

You will undertake a combination of practical and theory based lessons. Practical lessons are predominantly completed in Year 10. Theory based lessons will focus on the following topics:

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

How will I be assessed?

The final GCSE is assessed by two written examinations, three practical assessments and a written analysis of performance. The details of these elements are as follows:

- ❖ **Paper one:** The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. This is a written examination worth 30% of the final grade.
- ❖ **Paper two:** Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport. This is a written examination worth 30% of the final grade.
- ❖ **Practical performance in physical activity and sport.** This element is worth 40% of the qualification. Students are assessed on their practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). Some practical performances which we are unable to assess in school may need to be submitted as video evidence for example, skiing, gymnastics, dance, equestrian and rock climbing etc.
If you are playing above school level in certain activities / sports we would require full video evidence of this for you to access the highest marks available, this would be your responsibility to collate.
- ❖ **Controlled Assessment.** Students will also undertake a Controlled Assessment which involves the analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Where could a GCSE in PE take me?

You may choose to continue your studies in this subject at A-level which may in turn lead to you studying for a degree in Sport, Physical Education or Sports Science. This will then lead to careers in coaching, teaching, sports psychology, sports therapy, sports nutrition, sports injury, medical services, media, governing bodies (e.g. the FA), management, leisure and recreation.

Religious Studies, AQA GCSE

Why should I study Religious Studies

GCSE Religious Studies is perhaps a subject you had never previously considered when thinking about your future. Religious Studies provides students with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of two religions, and explore philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world. We are striving to inspire learners to engage in relevant topical issues and acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to learners in the twenty-first century. Religious Studies can open up the possibility of in-depth debate, which leads to critical evaluation and analysis.

Which topics will I study?

There will be two core elements to your studies in Religious Education. Firstly you will study the 'Beliefs and Teachings' and 'Practices' of two religions. Secondly you will study the following four themes based on Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World:

- Relationships and families.
- Religion and life.
- Religion, crime and punishment.
- Religion, human rights and social justice.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two examinations at the end of Year 11. The examinations will be testing skills that you acquired in your KS3 studies and which you will have subsequently developed in Years 10 and 11. There is no Controlled Assessment for this GCSE.

Where could a GCSE in Religious Studies take me?

Religious Studies is a useful complementary course if you are interested in furthering your studies in either the arts or Science subjects as Religious Studies is an academic qualification fully recognised and valued by all universities and employers. This course will develop your analytical and evaluative skills; skills that are in high demand across all industry and professional sectors. Former students who have taken GCSE Religious Studies have gone on to study Theology, Classics, Law, Physics and Politics at a range of universities, including Oxford and Durham. These, and others, have then successfully established themselves in a wide range of careers.

Please note that all information in this booklet is correct at the time of going to print.

Notes

Use these pages to note any comments or advice your teachers may give you.

