

PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

GCSE OPTIONS



Inspiring Learning

www.pinnerhighschool.org

Pinner High School GCSE Options

Choosing GCSE subjects is exciting and a little nerve wracking. It is probably the first time a student will have to make long lasting decisions about their own future. Therefore, it is important to give it careful consideration. This is the first step on a journey that in many years time, through A level choices and university courses can lead to career decisions. It could be the first step to being a brain surgeon, a pilot or setting up your own business! Whilst this is very exciting, the GCSE curriculum is designed to maintain the breadth of learning from Years 7 and 8. All students study the core curriculum, and this keeps options open until the next decisions are made in Year 11 about Sixth form options. So you don't have to decide what you want to do with the rest of your life, just some of the subjects that you're going to study for the next few years. Exciting times!



Chris Wooff

Headteacher



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What do I need to know before I start?

At Pinner High School, we want you to be in the best possible position to prepare you for your future. You may have a very clear idea of what you want that future to look like, but most students in Year 8 aren't completely sure what direction they want to take yet. This is usual at this stage, so it's important to keep your options open to give you the widest range of opportunities later on.

You will know which subjects you achieve well in, and those you enjoy - these should be the main factors when choosing your options. You should also be aware that most universities require three or more good A-Level grades. In order to get onto most A-Level courses (or equivalent), you will need five or more good GCSE grades (Grade 9-5), including English, Maths and Science.

You should also take into account that studying a language is highly valued, as are History and Geography. These subjects demonstrate that you are a student with broad interests, and the skills you develop are considered to help your overall learning. They are well-respected qualifications which can open doors and opportunities in the future. These subjects appeal to universities and colleges, and many more students are taking them now.

KEY INFORMATION

All students will study English, Maths, and Science (more information in this booklet)

All students will have one core PE lesson, and one Sports activity during lesson 7

All students will have one Religious Education lesson a week

What is the EBacc?

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself; it is a group of qualifications in 'facilitating' subjects - these are subjects which develop good learning skills, and which universities consider to be useful for higher education.

Taking the EBacc is about having a wide range of these subjects and keeping your options open for studies at Key Stage 5. Although it is important to be aware that the EBacc is not needed to go to university, the EBacc Pathway is available to all students in Year 9.

In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, you will need a good GCSE grade (9-5) in English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, and Humanities subject.

How do I make my options choices?

What should you consider when choosing options subjects?

- Which subjects are you successful in?
- Which subjects do you enjoy (as you'll be studying them for the next three years)?
- What skills do you want to learn?
- What might you want to study afterwards? Do you need a GCSE in a subject if you want to take it at A-Level?
- What do you study in the subject, and is it right for you? Can you find out more from the teacher(s)?
- Are there any entry requirements for the subjects you want to study?

What are common mistakes made when choosing options subjects?

- Choosing an option because all your friends are doing it
- Choosing based on the teacher(s)
- Choosing because you've never done the subject before, so it must be good
- Deciding without reading this booklet, asking questions, and speaking to teachers
- Deciding without discussing it with your family
- Deciding against a subject because you don't want a career in it

English Language

GCSE Edexcel 1EN0 E-Bacc

Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills have already played an important role in your academic career. In order to succeed in all subjects, as well as in the world of work, you will need high-level, practical language skills. Studying English Language will prepare you for life after high school, no matter where it leads you.

What will I study?

GCSE English Language comprises two main components: Reading: fiction and non-fiction; and Writing: fiction and non-fiction. There will also be a Speaking and Listening element, which will appear on your certificate but will not be part of the main qualification. Throughout the course, you will study a range of themed units and get to grips with an interesting variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. These will include:

- Newspaper and magazine articles;
- Biographical and autobiographical writing;
- 19th Century fiction;
- Analytical essays;
- Persuasive texts (adverts, flyers, articles, etc.)

What would I enjoy about English Language?

GCSE English Language has something for everyone. Do you enjoy reading? You will engage with a range of different texts. Do you love creative writing? Narrative writing is a compulsory part of the examination. Would you love to run your own business? We will learn to write letters and advertisements to help you attract customers.

What careers is it useful for?

Success on the GCSE English Language course will provide you with essential life skills which you will find transferable in any walk of life that you choose to follow. The study of English can be applied to almost any career, but particularly: writer, teacher, journalist, translator, copywriter. It is also an essential GCSE for Key Stage 5 and college entry. A level and degree level English courses are also rich in opportunities to develop your knowledge of our complex and ever-changing language.

How is it examined?

As part of the raised expectation of the GCSE, there are no tiered papers nor are there internal or controlled assessments. Every student will sit the same two examinations at the end of year 11:

Paper One: Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Paper Two: Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing

We will monitor progress with a series of internal assessments and practice papers, and provide opportunities for mock exams, so that all students will be well prepared for final exams.

English Literature

GCSE Edexcel 1ET0 E-Bacc

Throughout years 7 and 8, you have read, discussed and analysed a huge range of literature, from Shakespeare to modern novels and poetry from around the world. GCSE English Literature draws upon all of these experiences to help you become a critical, thoughtful and lifelong reader.

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature comprises of four main components: Shakespeare; Post-1914 literature; 19th Century novel; Poetry since 1789. The texts you study will encompass a range of novels, plays and poems from across the history of British Literature. We will choose texts that will be both challenging and accessible to our students. Popular choices in other schools include:

- Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet; Macbeth
- Post-1914 literature: An Inspector Calls; Blood Brothers; Journey's End
- 19th Century Fiction: A Christmas Carol; Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
- Poetry: all students will study a collection of 15 poems provided by the exam board. The poems will be thematically linked and written between 1789 and the present day

What would I enjoy about English Literature?

If you love reading, you will find the range of texts we study in this GCSE inspiring and challenging. Literature also lends itself to debate and discussion. If you have strong opinions, you will have the chance to share them. Finally, those with an analytical mind-set will embrace the opportunity to examine how and why a writer has made particular decisions in crafting a text.

What careers is it useful for?

Success on the GCSE English Literature course will provide you with a deep understanding and love of reading and literature. It will equip you with the ability to learn, analyse and discover more about the world of books, poem and plays. The study of English Literature can be applied to almost any career, but particularly: writer, teacher, journalist, theatre practitioner, media careers, etc. It is also an essential GCSE for KS5 and college entry.

A level and degree level English courses are also rich in opportunities to develop your knowledge of British and world literature and its varied history.

How is it examined?

As part of the raised expectation of the GCSE, there are no tiered papers nor are there internal or controlled assessments. Every student will sit the same two examinations at the end of Year 11:

Paper One: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature

Paper Two: 19th Century Novels and Poetry since 1789

We will monitor your progress with a series of internal assessments and practice papers. We will also provide opportunities for mock exams, so that you will be well prepared for your final exams.

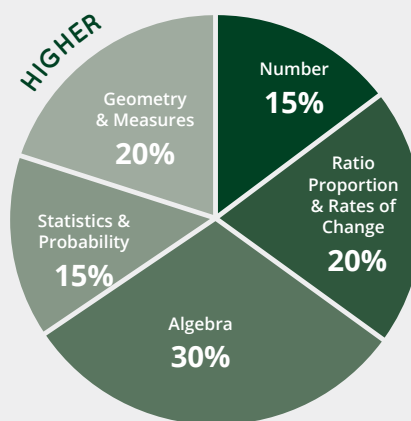
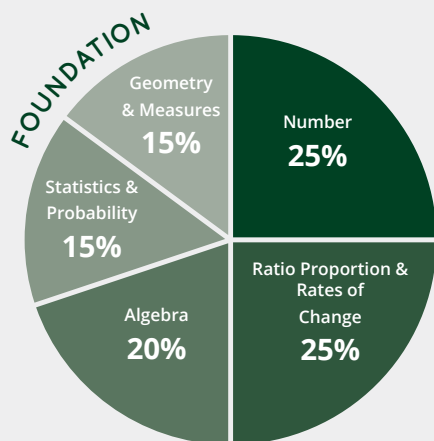
Maths

GCSE Edexcel (1MA1) E-Bacc

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must achieve highly in GCSE. Every student will have to study Mathematics at GCSE level. The GCSE course will equip students with a higher understanding of mathematics with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

What will I study?

Students will be following the Edexcel GCSE curriculum in order to sit the GCSE examination GCSE Mathematics (1MA1).



A01 is about using and **applying standard techniques**, similar to the current A01.

50% foundation / 40% higher

A02 has a different focus. It's about **reasoning, interpreting and communicating** mathematically.

24% foundation / 30% higher

A03 is about solving problems with a much greater focus on **solving non-routine problems** in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

25% foundation / 30% higher

What would I enjoy about Maths?

The problem solving concept which allows students to build their own reasoning and understanding of the connection of mathematics in its logical form.

What careers is it useful for?

Employers recognise the potential of employees who have a strong base in disciplinary subjects. Even if you already have the maths skills you feel you need, but you don't have a qualification to prove it, your skills could be easily overlooked when searching for jobs or trying for a promotion. Finally it's worth mentioning the importance of maths when applying for a job regardless of industry. The requirement 'Maths and English GCSEs or equivalent' features in almost all job applications.

How is it examined?

The total time of examination is 4 hours and 30 minutes.

Paper 1: Non calculator (1 hour 30 mins).

Paper 2: Calculator (1 hour 30 mins).

Paper 3: Calculator (1 hour 30 mins).

All 3 papers will include these topics.

Overview of content

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Science GCSE (A core subject)

AQA Combined Science: Trilogy 8464 E-Bacc

This course aims to develop students' skills and curiosity through investigative work and builds a scientific understanding of the world. Over the three years, students will study a variety of topics including how science is used in the workplace. Through field-work, practical work and theory based lessons, students will build on testing and evaluating scientific theories. Students will gain an understanding of the effects of science on society; knowledge of the material, physical and living worlds; observational, enquiry and problem-solving skills as well as skills in communication, maths and technology. We start teaching GCSE Science from the beginning of Year 9. When students get towards the end of Year 10 the decision will be made as to whether they will be sitting the separate sciences or combined science.

What will I study?

GCSE Biology: Cell biology; organisation; infection and response; bioenergetics; homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution; and ecology.

GCSE Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry, chemical changes; energy changes; the rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

GCSE Physics: Energy; electricity; particle model of matter; atomic structure; forces; waves; magnetism and electromagnetism; and space physics.

What would I enjoy about Science?

Science is essential to making sense of the world we live in and for developing our planet further. It helps us to answer important questions and build technologies to improve our lives. Studying science at GCSE will ensure you are equipped with the fundamental knowledge about the world in which we live. Science teaches methods of enquiry and investigation to stimulate creative thought.

What careers is it useful for?

Science will develop a wide range of skills such as communication, problem-solving, analysis, observational and critical thinking. If you want to go on to train as a doctor, vet, physiotherapist, nurse, pharmacist, architect, psychologist, engineer, sports trainer, beautician, food technologist, oceanographer, then a strong knowledge of at least one of the sciences will be required. But there are thousands of other careers for which it will be similarly essential.

How is it examined?

Six written exam papers of 1 hour 15 minutes each or 1 hour 45 minutes for the separate sciences.

Separate Sciences

GCSE Biology (8461), GCSE Chemistry (8462), GCSE Physics (8463) E-Bacc

This is an optional course in addition to the core Trilogy Combined Science course. This course aims to further encourage students in understanding themselves and the world around them. Students will study the same science topics as they would in combined science but in greater depth and breadth. For example: when studying cells in biology, Separate Sciences students will also study the culturing of microorganisms; when studying the nervous system, they will additionally study the brain and the eye.

To be eligible for this course, students need to show proficiency in Science throughout Years 9 and 10. Entry decisions will be made at the end of Year 10.

What will I study?

GCSE Biology: Cell biology; organisation; infection and response; bioenergetics; homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution; and ecology.

GCSE Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry, chemical changes; energy changes; the rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

GCSE Physics: Energy; electricity; particle model of matter; atomic structure; forces; waves; magnetism and electromagnetism; and space physics.

What would I enjoy about Separate Sciences?

If you love science, enjoy practical work, have an analytical brain and want to gain a deeper understanding of our world then Triple Science is for you.

What careers is it useful for?

Science will develop a wide range of skills such as communication, problem-solving, analysis, observational and critical thinking. If you want to go on to train as a doctor, vet, physiotherapist, nurse, pharmacist, architect, psychologist, engineer, food technologist or oceanographer, then a strong knowledge of the sciences will be required. But there are thousands of other careers for which it will be similarly essential.

How is it examined?

6 written exam papers, each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes. Learning from this course will be combined with the learning from the core science teaching and result in 3 separate science GCSEs.

Core Physical Education

(Non-examined)

Core physical education will offer the students a chance to continue to play a wide variety of sports that target many different physical skills. Lessons will be divided by gender. There will be a more games based approach to develop pupil abilities to independently structure and officiate sports competition. The aim is to develop the skills needed to encourage sports participation outside of school and a lifelong relationship with sport.

What will I study?

Year 9: Students will study traditional activities in single gender lessons. There will be larger focus on fitness and exercise as well handball, hockey, athletics, netball, gymnastics, dance, tag and union rugby, basketball and football.

Year 10 and 11: Students will complete a half termly rotation of activities. These will be team sports, individual sports and exercise, and alternative sports or sports which students may not have experienced like bowls, squash, darts, golf and more.

Students will also complete a nationally recognised UK sports leaders award.

What would I enjoy about Physical Education?

Students will enjoy playing sports that they may not have had access to before. Hopefully this will start a love of a sport that they may never have considered.

We will offer the opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with sports facilities in our community by using them in lessons.

Teaching groups are in houses and not classes, allowing more students of a similar ability to compete together making sports involvement more enjoyable.

There are still the opportunities to play the sports where skills have been refined throughout Key Stage 3, with students having more freedom to choose the sports they had enjoyed the most.

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Core Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

(Non-examined)

Core PRE will involve similar topics covered at GCSE, however the curriculum planning will be much more student led, with students being able to select topics of interest that are related to current affairs as well as studying the following:

- Origins of the World
- The Existence of God and Revelation
- Relationships and Families
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice
- The Importance of Being Human and Sanctity of Life

What will I study?

Year 9: Students will study the 'Origins of the World' module, discussing scientific, philosophical and religious theories. They will continue with their study of the 6 major world faiths by exploring Sikhism and Buddhism and will also explore the 'Religion, Crime and Punishment' module. Students will also vote on a unit to explore for the last half term of the year.

Year 10 and 11: Students will begin to look at and understand what it means to be human. They will explore ethical issues surrounding the sanctity of life such as euthanasia, abortion and religious responses to both. Students will also look at faith in action and reflect on the key philosophical beliefs about our moral behaviour through the 'Peace and Conflict,' and 'Human Rights and Social Justice' modules.

What would I enjoy about PRE?

Students will enjoy working with one another to explore current, engaging issues that have an impact on our society. Students will also have the opportunity to debate, create assembly presentations and house competitions based on the issues we study.

We will offer the opportunity for students to visit and explore different religious communities and places of worship, alongside inviting different religious and non-religious leaders in the community to speak to students about the key modules listed above.

Students will use the knowledge they have gained in Key Stage 3 to engage with challenging topics. The most important aim of this course is to build on students' communication skills in all forms, whilst also allowing them to develop their own opinions in a safe, respectful environment.

Art

GCSE AQA FINE ART 8202

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

Art will allow you to work on valuable skills which will be transferable across a range of subjects. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

What will I study?

Fine art explores ideas, conveys experiences or responds to a theme or issue of personal significance. The areas of study are very broad and cover drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and mixed media. Alongside improving your practical expertise, you'll learn how to:

- Use drawing skills for different needs and purposes.
- Improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques and processes including digital photography.
- Successfully use visual language and the formal elements eg colour, line, form, shape, tone, texture.

What would I enjoy about Art?

Fine Art is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. You might already be confident in your Art ability but having a keen interest is actually what is most important. You do not need to already be a brilliant Artist before you start the course but you definitely need to bring a lot of enthusiasm, effort and a willingness to learn through your practical experience.

What careers is it useful for?

Art can be great grounding for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. Art and design opens the door to lots of exciting careers e.g. Architecture • Art Therapist • Photography • Fashion design • Graphic design • Theatre design • Animator • Video game design • Illustrator • Museum curator • Product design • Textiles design • Ceramics • Advertising • Publishing • Interior design • Hair and make-up design • Exhibition design • Jewellery design • Freelance Artist • Visual media • Online Curator • Marketing • Furniture Design

How is it examined?

Component 1 Portfolio: This is worth 60% of your overall marks.

Component 2 Externally set assignment: The exam board provide an externally set task paper. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

Chinese Mandarin

GCSE AQA 8673 E-Bacc

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

This course aims to help students develop their Mandarin language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Mandarin is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

What will I study?

The four papers (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) cover the following themes and topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Topic 1: Me, my family and friends) (Topic 2: Technology in everyday life) (Topic 3: Free-time activities) (Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Chinese-speaking countries/communities)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region) (Topic 2: Social issues) (Topic 3: Global issues) (Topic 4: Travel and tourism)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Topic 1: My studies) (Topic 2: Life at school/college) (Topic 3: Education post-16) (Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions)

What would I enjoy about Chinese Mandarin?

Students who pick Mandarin enjoy learning about the Chinese language and exploring China's fascinating contemporary culture. The Chinese script is not alphabetical and the strokes and the pronunciation of characters need to be memorised individually. But characters are fun to learn, Chinese grammar is much simpler than grammar in European languages, and the sounds of Mandarin are not challenging to learn.

What careers is it useful for?

Proficiency in Chinese Mandarin is a highly regarded skill by employers in the UK and around the world in international trade, diplomacy, education, translating and interpreting, financial consultancy, the cultural industries, journalism, law, advertising. The civil service, policy making, event management, security, tourism, and many more areas. Studying Chinese will also help you develop good English language skills which will be useful for all career paths.

How is it examined?

Paper 1 Listening Exam - 45 minutes 25%
Paper 2 Speaking Exam - 10-12 minutes 25%
Paper 3 Reading Exam - 1 hour 25%
Paper 4 Writing Exam - 1 hour 15 minutes 25%

Computer Science

GCSE OCR J276 E-Bacc

The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. The course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

What will I study?

- Systems architecture, security and software
- Memory and storage
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns
- Algorithms and programming techniques
- Computational logic
- Data representation
- Translators and facilities of programming languages

What would I enjoy about Computer Science?

The course will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this, a large amount of the course will be spent learning computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects, especially mathematics and other sciences, and even applied in day-to-day life.

What careers is it useful for?

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

How is it examined?

Unit 1 - Computer Systems: Written Paper (1 ½ hours) - 50% of total GCSE

Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms & programming: Written Paper (1½ hours) - 50% of total GCSE

Unit 3 - Programming Project : Consolidates the learning across the specification through practical activity. 20 timetabled hours.

Three Dimensional Design Technology

GCSE 3D DESIGN

Three-dimensional design is the design, prototyping and making of functional and aesthetic products and objects. It will draw upon a student's intellectual, creative and practical skills.

What will I study?

In 3D Design you will be required to work in one or more areas from the list below:

- Architectural Design
- Product Design
- Designs for Theatre/Film and Television
- Jewellery & Body Adornment

You will learn to work creatively with processes and techniques such as: computer-aided design and manufacture, model making, prototyping, constructing, assembling and they will develop an understanding of the relationship between form and function.

You will also be required to investigate the work of historical and contemporary three-dimensional designers and the different purposes and intentions of three-dimensional design

What would I enjoy about Design and Technology?

You will love the diversity in this course. You will be given opportunities to explore, experiment and investigate a range of media and materials from wood, metal and plastic to found and recycled materials. Through practical problem solving and development of fine motor skills you will learn to take your ideas through from conception to execution and own the end result. You will be given the chance to work with new and innovative technology such as laser cutting and vector software. The qualities you will be required to bring to each lesson are curiosity, enthusiasm and the passion for discovering exciting new skills.

What careers is it useful for?

Three-Dimensional Design can be great grounding for any career that requires fine motor skills, practical skills, manufacturing skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. Three-Dimensional Design opens the door to lots of exciting careers e.g. Architecture • Graphic Design • Theatre Design • Product Design • Teaching • Interior Design • Exhibition Design • Jewellery Design & Manufacture • Furniture Design & Manufacture • Carpentry • Set/Prop Design & Manufacture • Manufacturing and Designing • Construction

How is it examined?

Component 1 Portfolio: This is worth 60% of your overall marks.

Component 2 Externally set assignment: The exam board provide an externally set task paper. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

The aims and objectives of the GCSE Drama course is to enable learners to:

- apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama
- explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- develop a range of theatrical skills and be able to apply them to create an effective performance
- work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice
- Adopt safe working practices

What will I study?

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40% of qualification)

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated. Learners will create, develop and perform a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus. Learners must produce; A realisation of their piece of devised theatre, A portfolio of supporting evidence, An evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text (20% of qualification)

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Learners study two extracts from a set text. Learners then work towards one performance using sections of the text from both extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40% of qualification)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Set Text. Students will answer a series of performance questions related to text set by (this will be a CONTRASTING text to the one studied and performed in Component 2).

Section B: Live Theatre Review. One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

What would I enjoy about Drama?

GCSE Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The course promotes involvement in and enjoyment of Drama, as performers and/or as designers. Learners will have the opportunity to collaborate and create devised work, as well as studying and performing scripts. Additionally, the course provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

What careers is it useful for?

Students should choose GCSE Drama if they are interested in pursuing a career in the Arts or anything to do with public speaking and problem solving. This could be as an Actor, Manager, Performer or Presenter, or even as a Writer, or a Director. There are also many exciting production and design careers as well, such as; Lighting and Sound design and operation, Set design, Costume design and Make up design. Drama can also lead onto careers in Theatre management, Event management or Arts administration.

Drama can help students develop valuable life skills, such as public speaking, communication, collaboration and self - confidence. The skills developed in Drama are transferrable and incredibly important to many professions, including; lawyers, social workers and teachers.

How is it examined?

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks

The Grades 9-1 are used.

Economics

GCSE OCR J205 E-Bacc

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

Economics is about people and their economic choices. This course will enable you to appreciate that we are all part of the economy and that economics relate to every aspect of our lives: from the decisions of individuals or families to the structures created by governments. It will develop your understanding of how economic issues affect choices about resources and markets. versa. This course will equip you with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally.

What will I study?

Introduction to economics, The role of markets and money, Economic objectives and the role of government, International trade and the global economy

What would I enjoy about Economics?

You will enjoy learning about how decisions made impact on your lives and develop an understanding of the wider world. You will be able to debate and explain economic problems and possible solutions, through a logical approach to thinking and reasoning.

You will look at economic data from a range of sources, such as tables, charts and graphs, and acquire the skills to make informed judgements. It also combines topics from subjects such as maths, politics and current affairs.

What careers is it useful for?

You can go into careers including stockbroking, investment banking, analyst, law, accountancy, economics research and many public sector roles. Economics develops a set of transferable skills needed for most careers such as critical understanding, numerical understanding, and data analysis.

How is it examined?

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 80 marks, Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 80 marks

Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Eduquas 601/8093/6

This new GCSE focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure that students develop greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

What will I study?

1 paper worth 50% of the final grade

Non-exam assessments worth 50%

Task 1: Food Investigation (a 1,500 to 2,000-word report)

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (plan, prepare, cook and present a three course menu)

What would I enjoy about Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This GCSE has a strong practical focus. Students will master a variety of technical skills and will become proficient in the kitchen. Students will also develop an in-depth knowledge of food science, food safety, food choice, nutrition and health.

Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide of cuisines and develop practical skills to meet the needs of specific groups.

Science based experiments will be used to support the understanding and delivery of food science topics within the specification.

Students will have the opportunity to prepare a 3 course meal which will then be served to an invited party.

What careers is it useful for?

Food preparation and nutrition promotes the development of a number of skills which can be transferable to many careers. These include; Product development, Marketing, Teaching, Health Promotion, Nursing, Dietetics, Restaurant Management, Corporate Management and a Chef.

How is it examined?

Paper 1 – 1 hour 45minutes 50%

NEA Tasks:

Food Investigation – 10 hours- 15%

Food Preparation Assessment- 20 hours- 35%

Geography

GCSE Edexcel 1GA0 E-Bacc

We live in extraordinary times. The world is changing at a more rapid pace than it has ever done before. The population continues to grow, the climate is changing, resources are under pressure and technology is advancing. Geography helps explain why, how and what we can do when faced with these challenges. Geography provides you with the ability to watch the news and understand many of the issues from 'Brexit' to climate change, from trade to megacities; it gives you the knowledge and confidence to understand the world and take your place within it.

What will I study?

Paper 1: The Physical Environment (the changing landscapes of the UK, weather hazards and climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and management).

Paper 2: The Human Environment (changing cities, global development and resource management).

Paper 3: Geographical Investigations (Fieldwork and UK challenges).

What would I enjoy about Geography?

Students who pick Geography are interested in the world and how it is changing. They have and will develop a wide variety of skills such as writing, numeracy, conducting investigations and exploring issues effecting the UK. They will have an enquiring mind and be keen to share ideas with others.

What careers is it useful for?

GCSE Geography provides a range of skills which underpin an academic curriculum. It supports the more obvious careers such as surveying, town planning, architecture, meteorology, geology and logistics and also the wider disciplines such as accountancy, law, management and business. Indeed, studies have found that Geography graduates are some of the most employable coming out of university due to the wider range of skills and aptitudes it fosters.

How is it examined?

Paper 1 Exam – 1 Hour 30 minutes 37.5%

Paper 2 Exam – 1 Hour 30 minutes 37.5%

Paper 3 Exam - 1 Hour 30 minutes 25%

History

GCSE Edexcel 1H10 E-Bacc

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

This course aims to encourage students' interest in and enthusiasm for history. Over the two years students will have the opportunity to study a range of historical periods. Through the interrogation of sources and analysis of interpretation students will be able to reach well-substantiated judgements and draw links and comparisons with historical events and current affairs.

What will I study?

Paper 1: Thematic Study Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000-present

Paper 2: British Depth Study Option B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

Paper 2 Period Study Option 26/27: Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91

Paper 3 Modern Depth Study Option 31: Weimar Germany and Nazi Germany

What would I enjoy about History?

Students who pick History enjoy learning about the causes and consequences of important historical events. Making sense of the past develops skills that are valuable to anyone who seeks the truth and wants to think clearly and intelligently about the world around us. This is also a subject where being able to debate and argue your points is very important – historians do not always agree on what the truth is! You will need to like reading and writing, as you will be required to do this a lot.

What careers is it useful for?

History develops a set of transferable skills needed for most careers such as curiosity, reading critically, digesting large amounts of information and being able to create coherent and persuasive arguments using that information. Careers include Civil Service, Law, Medicine, Teaching, and Management Consultancy.

How is it examined?

Paper 1 Exam - 1 Hour 15 minutes 30%

Paper 2 Exam - 1 Hour 45 minutes 40%

Paper 3 Exam - 1 Hour 20 minutes 30%

Music

GCSE Eduqas 601/8131/X

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

This course aims to encourage students' interest in and enthusiasm in music. Over the three years students will have the opportunity to engage actively in the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising four interrelated areas of study. These four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles.

What will I study?

Area of Study 1: The Western Classical Tradition

Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of Study 3: Film Music

Area of Study 4: Popular Music

What would I enjoy about Music?

Students who pick Music enjoy learning about performing, listening to all kinds of music and creatively composing music. Students will receive many opportunities to create and play music with others for example in a rock band, jazz band, vocal group and even through the use of music technology. As a musician, you should be prepared to show a willingness to work by yourself to meet coursework deadlines, understand the rudiments of theory, explore new concepts and ideas about composition and improve your performing skills – students should aim to be about Grade 3 standard or higher.

What careers is it useful for?

Music develops a set of transferable skills needed for careers that include session musician, composer, conductor, classroom Teaching, instrumental Teacher, Instrument product specialist, music service administrator, radio DJ, music producer, sound technician, music blogger, music journalist and more.

How is it examined?

Component 1 Coursework 4-6 minute performance 30%

Component 2 Coursework 3-6 minute composition 30%

Component 3 Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 40%

Physical Education

GCSE OCR J587

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

GCSE Physical Education aims to encourage students' with a passion, ability and knowledge within a wide range of sports to consider their own performance in greater detail. Students will acquire knowledge in different methods of training, the psychology of sport, anatomy and physiology and the socio-cultural issues surrounding sport.

What will I study?

Paper 1: Physical factors affecting sports performance

Paper 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology

Non-Exam Assessment: Performance in physical education

What would I enjoy about Physical Education?

Students will enjoy a step up in the level of their sports performance through physical development and tactical awareness. We will offer as wide a range of sports possible, including football, cricket, basketball, netball, fitness, handball, badminton, table tennis, gymnastics and more. Any sports that are not covered within our GCSE PE curriculum can be offered for assessment outside of school. Students need to have a wide range of sporting ability, as assessment will be in 3 sports: 1 team sport and 1 individual sport.

From a theoretical perspective, students will enjoy looking at: training methods and sports psychology and how they affect performance; how society can dictate the sports we participate in and the social benefits sports can deliver. We will also study anatomy and physiology; bones, joints and the cardio respiratory system. Finally, we will look at the importance of diet and nutrition and how this will be adapted to a sports person's individual requirements.

What careers is it useful for?

Professional Sports, Sports Scientist, Physiotherapist, Sports Coach, Dietician, Sports Club Management, Health Promotion, Personal Trainer and Teaching.

How is it examined?

Paper 1: 1 hour 60 marks - 30% of total GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 60 marks - 30% of total GCSE

Non-Exam Assessment: 3 sports performances - 30% of total GCSE

Non-Exam Assessment: Self Analysis - 10% of total GCSE

Religious Studies

GCSE AQA 8062

In order to study Philosophy and Ethics at A-Level you must take RS for GCSE.

This course aims to nurture students' curiosity about the world around them. Students will have the opportunity to study different world views in detail, both religious and non-religious. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own faith and world views through their study of religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues raised, and their impact and influence on the modern world.

What will I study?

There are two papers in Religious Studies. Component one is based on a detailed study of two world religions: Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism. Component two is based on the study of four out of six religious, philosophical and ethical themes: Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Existence of God and Revelation, Religion Peace and Conflict, Religion Crime and Punishment, Religion Human Rights and Social Justice.

What would I enjoy about Religious Studies?

Religious studies is a perfect choice for students who are curious about the world around them. Whilst we do study religion in historical detail, this study is relevant to modern life and personal experiences. You do not have to be religious to take this course, you simply have to enjoy learning about other cultures, beliefs and practises. Religious studies is a GCSE that encourages students to develop their communication skills through debate, their research skills through collaborative and cross-curricular projects, their ability to empathise with the perspectives of others all whilst developing their own world views.

What careers is it useful for?

Religious Studies is exceptional at developing students' communication skills in the written and verbal form. Extended writing in RS with a rigorous literacy focus means that this GCSE supports literacy in every subject. The subject lends itself well to a study of Theology, Philosophy, Law or Psychology at University level. In later life RS can lead to careers in Law, Education, Medicine, Research and the Public Services. Religious Studies can equip students with the knowledge they need to understand the multicultural world we live in, leading to excellent opportunities to work and travel abroad.

How is it examined?

Component 1: The study of religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practises: 50% of GCSE.

1 hour 45 minutes - 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))

Component 2: Thematic Studies: 50% of GCSE.

1 hour 45 minutes - 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))

Spanish

GCSE AQA 8698 E-Bacc

In order to study this subject at A-Level you must take it for GCSE.

GCSE Spanish helps students develop an insight into another culture and society and provides a basis for further study. Students will be familiar with some topics but some will be new. These topics will inspire students who are interested in the culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking communities and countries. Students will complete four units in the following skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

What will I study?

Theme 1: Identity and culture: Topic 1- Me, my family and friends. Topic 2-Technology in everyday life. Topic 3-Free-time activities. Topic 4-Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest: Topic 1-Home, town, neighbourhood and region. Topic 2-Social issues, Topic 3-Global issue. Topic 4-Travel and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment: Topic 1: My studies. Topic 2-Life at school. Topic 3-Education post-16. Topic 4-Jobs, career choices.

What would I enjoy about Spanish?

Students who pick Spanish enjoy learning new aspects of the language and developing their language skills to their full potential enabling them to communicate in variety of contexts with confidence. Students often enjoy creative writing and role plays. Lessons are fun and engaging to help learn verb tenses and other aspects of Spanish grammar. You will enjoy learning interesting topics about not only the culture but also the history of Spanish speaking countries.

What careers is it useful for?

Education: Teacher, Translator, Textbook author.

Travel and tourism: Tour guide, Travel agent, Flight attendant, Airport personnel.

Business: International law, Advertising, Sales, Public relations, International account manager, Bilingual customer support, International banking officer.

Communication: Journalism, foreign correspondent, Entertainment, foreign markets.

Government: Diplomat, UNESCO official, Court interpreter, immigration officer.

How is it examined?

Paper 1 Listening Exam: 45 minutes 25%

Paper 2 Speaking Exam: 10-12 minutes 25%

Paper 3 Reading Exam: 60 minutes 25%

Paper 4 Writing Exam: 75 minutes 25%



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