



**The  
Cumberland  
School**  
Determined, ambitious learners



# **GCSE STUDENT OPTIONS**

**2021-2022**

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# WELCOME



**Omar Deria** Head of School

We are hugely ambitious for our young people at The Cumberland School. We have instilled a rigorous approach to discipline, which has brought a calm and welcoming atmosphere to our classrooms. We continue to strive for academic excellence with exam results predicted to improve significantly next year and beyond. Through our prestigious colleges programme we offer students uniquely life changing opportunities to join the country's top independent schools including Eton. We look forward to welcoming you on this exciting journey.

*Omar Deria*

# KEY STAGE 4 OPTION COURSES

## At The Cumberland School

### COMPULSORY AND OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

In Year 9, students will start their KS4 courses.

All of our students will take GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE RE, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Statistics. Additionally, all of our students will be doing GCSEs in either single or combined Sciences. They will also study a non GCSE course in PE.

Students must also choose up to three more courses which they study up to GCSE or an equivalent level.

At this stage not all students know what they want to do in their future careers and their ideas about this can change over time. Therefore, it is important that students choose a broad range of subjects which they enjoy and at which they can succeed.

We recommend and encourage students to follow one of the four routes: A, B, C or D (below) which are designed to provide the appropriate levels of support and challenge.

Please take the time to discuss the options process fully with your child and with teaching staff to enable an informed decision to be made.

We will be able to confirm which subjects your child will be studying by the end of May. Any concerns can then be addressed before the start of KS4.

Please be aware that once the courses start, no further changes can be made.

In some subjects students will be guided towards a BTEC qualification which will give them a greater chance of success in vocational areas. These courses are equal to GCSE grades 1 - 9 and can provide routes to vocational courses at college and university.



## OUR OPTIONS ROUTES

### ROUTE A AND ROUTE B (THE EBACC ROUTE)

Students who are considering an academic route to university in the future should consider taking either Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language. This will then meet the standards required for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in the future. In route A, students will most likely be on Single Sciences.

### ROUTE C (PROGRESS 8 ROUTE)

Students on this route must be studying at least 8 GCSEs where each bucket is filled. Students can choose to go on the EBacc route or on a vocational route.

### ROUTE D

Students will choose two GCSE courses. They will be given additional time to improve their literacy and/or numeracy skills as this will help them to access the full curriculum to prepare them for life once they leave school.

### THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

Students are eligible for the EBacc if they achieve GCSE passes with grades 5 or above in the following subjects:

- English Language or Literature
- Mathematics
- Any two Sciences (chosen from Core and Additional, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Computer Science)
- A Modern Foreign Language
- Either Geography or History

It is important to remember that the EBacc is not a qualification in its own right but simply a measure of whether students have successfully achieved a broad academic education. We recommend that all students considering studying academic subjects at university should choose the EBacc route. Further information about the English Baccalaureate is available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk).

### QUALIFICATIONS AND GRADES

A helpful qualification table is shown below to help you understand what each qualification means:

QUALIFICATION TYPE	LEVEL	GRADES AND EQUIVALENCES
GCSE	1 and 2	9-1
BTEC	1 and 2	Pass, Merit Distinction & Distinction
V Certifications	1 and 2	Pass, Merit Distinction & Distinction
ASDAN	Entry level	None
Language support	Not equivalent to GCSE	None
EAL support	Not equivalent to GCSE	None

## OPTIONS CHECKLIST

Please remember that the options submissions must be made by **Monday 1 March 2021**.

Use this checklist before you make your submissions:

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS	TICK
1. Make a first choice and a reserve choice from each of the option blocks you are eligible to choose from.	
2. Ensure that you have not selected the same subjects twice.	
3. If your child is choosing a language, ensure you have chosen only one language subject, such as French or Spanish.	
4. If your child wishes to study a language, please ensure that it's the same language they have studied in year 7 and 8.	
5. Discuss the route with your child and check your choices.	
6. Sign the options form.	

For more information, please ask either your child's form tutor, Mr Nicholas Penn (Head of Learning) or Mr E Rahman (Deputy Headteacher).

## THE FOUR ROUTES

### ROUTE A

BLOCK A (Choose One)	BLOCK B (Choose One)	BLOCK C (Choose One)
GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE French GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art & Design GCSE Business Studies GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE/BTEC Music GCSE Sociology BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport

### ROUTE B

BLOCK A (Choose One)	BLOCK B (Choose One)	BLOCK C (Choose One)
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Business Studies GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE/BTEC Music GCSE Sociology BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport	GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE French GCSE Spanish

### ROUTE C

BLOCK A (Choose One)	BLOCK B (Choose One)	BLOCK C (Choose One)
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Business Studies GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE French GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE/BTEC Music GCSE Spanish GCSE Sociology BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport	GCSE French GCSE Spanish GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE Business Studies GCSE Computer Science GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE French GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE/BTEC Music GCSE Spanish GCSE Sociology BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport

### ROUTE D

BLOCK A (Choose One)	BLOCK B (Choose One)	BLOCK C (Choose One)
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport GCSE/BTEC Music	Language Support English Language Numeracy	GCSE Art & Design GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Drama GCSE Digital Photography GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition BTEC Child Development BTEC Sport GCSE/BTEC Music



# THE CORE CURRICULUM

All students **must** undertake these courses.....

### WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY ENGLISH?

All students must study English, as this a mandatory part of the curriculum. Students who do not pass English must re-sit the exam after they leave secondary school until they are 18 years old.

English Language and Literature test a student's ability to read, write and speak effectively. To be successful, students will need to be able to read a range of texts, understand what a text means and how the writer has used different methods to communicate their message. Additionally, students will need to write clearly and creatively, using a range of punctuation. Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and their use of vocabulary.

There are many career pathways that English can take you. This ranges from advertising and marketing, education, law, art and design as well as publishing and media.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

You will sit two English GCSEs, each made up of two papers

- English Language Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing- 1hr 45 minute exam worth 50% of the total Language mark
- English Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives- 1hr 45 min exam worth 50% of the total Language mark
- English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel- 1hr 45min exam worth 40% of the total Literature mark (Macbeth and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde)
- English Literature Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry- 2hr 15min exam worth 60% of the total Literature mark (An Inspector Calls, Conflict and Power Poetry and unseen poetry)

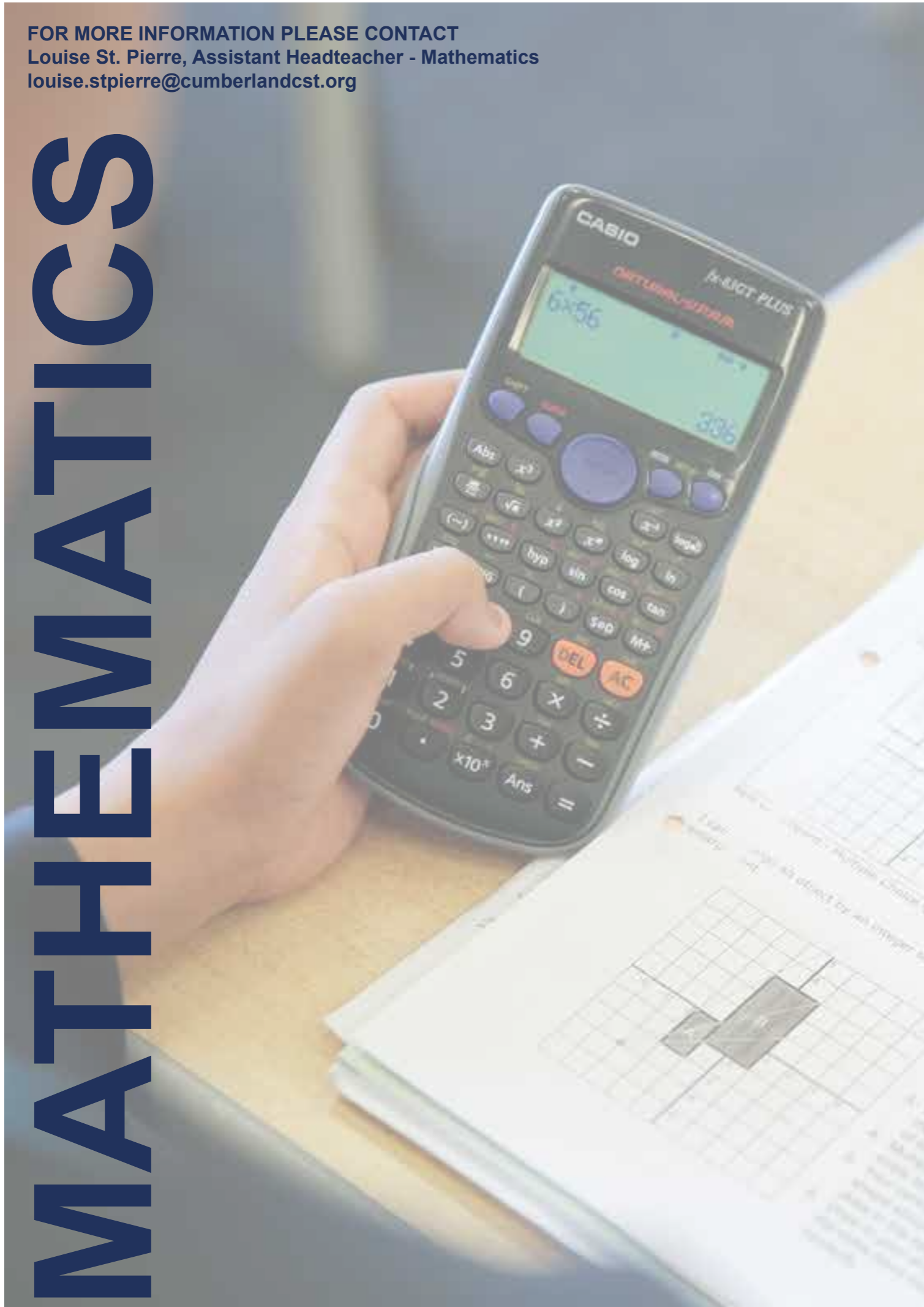
### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Conflict and Power Poetry
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
- An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley
- A selection of unseen poetry
- A selection of both fiction and non-fiction extracts



### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- FlipsCo Revision cards (available in the library)
- Mr Bruff Videos (available for free on YouTube)



## WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is a compulsory subject for all students in Key Stage 4. While studying mathematics you will:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Use logic and reason to solve problems
- Break down problems into small steps in order to solve them
- Use the skills you learn to solve real life problems

There are a wide range of career pathways pertaining to this. These range from accountancy, banking and finance, engineering, insurance and pensions, IT as well as many more.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 11 which are worth 100% of the total mark, there is no coursework.

- There will be one non-calculator and two calculator papers; each of the papers is worth 80 marks
- The questions on the exam paper will be arranged so that the easiest ones come first
- There will be a mixture of short and longer questions
- You might be asked to solve a problem about anything you have studied on either paper
- Each exam is 1hr 30min.
- The exams will be graded from 1-9, where 9 is the highest grade. Higher tier grades are from 4-9 and Foundation grades 1-5

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Mathematics covers a wide range of basic mathematical knowledge and skills, grouped into the following areas:

- Number
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Algebra
- Probability & Statistics
- Geometry & measures



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- |                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| • Hegarty Maths | • Maths4Everyone                                | • Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics Revision Guide    |
| • Corbett Maths | • DPR resource portal with additional resources | • Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics Revision Workbook |
| • MathsGenie    | • Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics Student Book   |  |
| • Dr Frost      |   |  |
| • Mathsbot      |   |  |
| • OnMaths       |   |  |



### WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY STATISTICS?

Statistics is a compulsory subject for all students in Key Stage 4. While studying Statistics you will:

- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Use logic and reason to solve problems
- Break down problems into small steps in order to solve them
- Use the skills you learn to solve real life problems

Statisticians are to be able to:

- Effectively conduct research. Without the use of statistics it would be very difficult to make decisions based on the data collected from a research project
- Read journals. Most technical journals contain statistics within their results section. An understanding of basic statistics will provide you with the fundamental skills necessary to read and evaluate these results sections
- Develop our critical and analytic thinking skills
- Be an informed consumer. Individuals can be misled with statistics, reporting erroneous statistical conclusions. If you know some of the basic statistical concepts, you will be in a better position to evaluate the information you have been given

GCSE Statistics incorporates numerous examples of real life data and contexts building skills that you will use in other subjects. The statistical enquiry cycle will allow you to interpret and apply statistical techniques to a number of scenarios. There is a large cross over with the content in mathematics and therefore success in one will support success in the other.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

The course is 100% exam based over 2 papers. Both papers cover collection of data, processing, representing and analysing data and probability.

- Paper 1 - 1hr 30min  
50% of the GCSE
- Paper 2 - 1hr 30mins  
50% of the GCSE

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Statistics covers a wide range of basic mathematical knowledge and skills, grouped into the following areas:

- Collection of data
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Probability

### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics Student Book
- Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics Revision Guide
- Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Statistics Revision Workbook



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
Jalira Kiyemba-Souter, Head of Religious Education  
jalira.kiyemba-souter@cumberlandcst.org

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

At KS4 all students follow a course in Religious Education and learn about different beliefs and practices as well as values and traditions from the perspective of Islam and Christianity.

The Religious Education GCSE provides an excellent opportunity for you to engage with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness. As a subject, it enables the development of critical thinking, communication competence, interpersonal awareness, and intercultural literacy necessary for success in a global society.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Component/Paper 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World  
Written examination: 2 hr - 50% of qualification
- Component 2/Paper 2: Study of Christianity  
Written examination: 1 hr - 25% of qualification
- Component 3/Paper 3: Study of a World Faith - Islam  
Written examination: 1 hr - 25% of qualification

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course consists of three components:

- Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World including the UK's ethical issues such as the problem with human rights, approaches to relationships and views on life and death
- Study of beliefs and practices of Christianity
- Study of beliefs and practices of Islam



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Students follow GCSE (9 - 1) Eduqas (formerly known as WJEC) Religious Studies Route A. Details of this specification can be found at: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/gcse/>
- Eduqas GCSE (9 – 1) WJEC Religious Studies Route A by Joy White, Chris Owens, Ed Pawson, Amanda Ridley

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
Mohammed Ibrar, Assistant Headteacher - Science  
mohammed.ibrar@cumberlandcst.org

# SCIENCE TRIPLE



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## WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY TRIPLE SCIENCE?

Studying science is vital to understanding the world we live in. The triple science course gives students in depth knowledge in each of the three sciences; biology, chemistry and physics. This means students will have the opportunity to explore careers such as medicine and veterinary science. There are a number of compulsory core practical's across the three sciences that will be delivered through the three year course. We use the AQA specifications. Triple science has 50% more content than combined science and is extremely challenging. Although it may appear to be similar in terms of chapters as combined science, the content goes into greater depth.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

Triple science is a linear course and you will be assessed at the end of the three year course by sitting a series of six papers each lasting 1hr 45mins, which will lead to separate qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. There is no longer any course work, however, you will be expected to recall information on the core practicals within the exams themselves.



## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

### 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
- Using resources

### Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics

## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- CGP revision books are an excellent resource; AQA GCSE combined science revision guide
- [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com)

# SCIENCE COMBINED

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## WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY COMBINED SCIENCE?

Studying science is vital to understanding the world we live in. The combined science course gives students two GCSEs in the science discipline. We study the three aspects of science; biology, chemistry and physics. There are a number of compulsory core practicals across the three sciences that will be delivered through the three year course. We use the AQA specifications.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

Combined science is a linear course and you will be assessed at the end of the three year course by sitting a series of six papers each lasting 1hr 15min which will lead to two science GCSEs. There is no longer any course work, however, you will be expected to recall information on the core practicals within the exams themselves.



## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

### 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
- Using resources

### Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- CGP revision books are an excellent resource; AQA GCSE combined science revision guide
- [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com)

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



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## WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

Physical Education (PE) plays a vital role in the development of young people. A healthy active lifestyle provides opportunities for students to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. As well as the obvious physical benefits, the subject promotes a range of social skills and encourages students to work together and develop leadership qualities. Physical Education allows students to compete in sport and other activities to build character and helps to embed values such as fairness and respect.

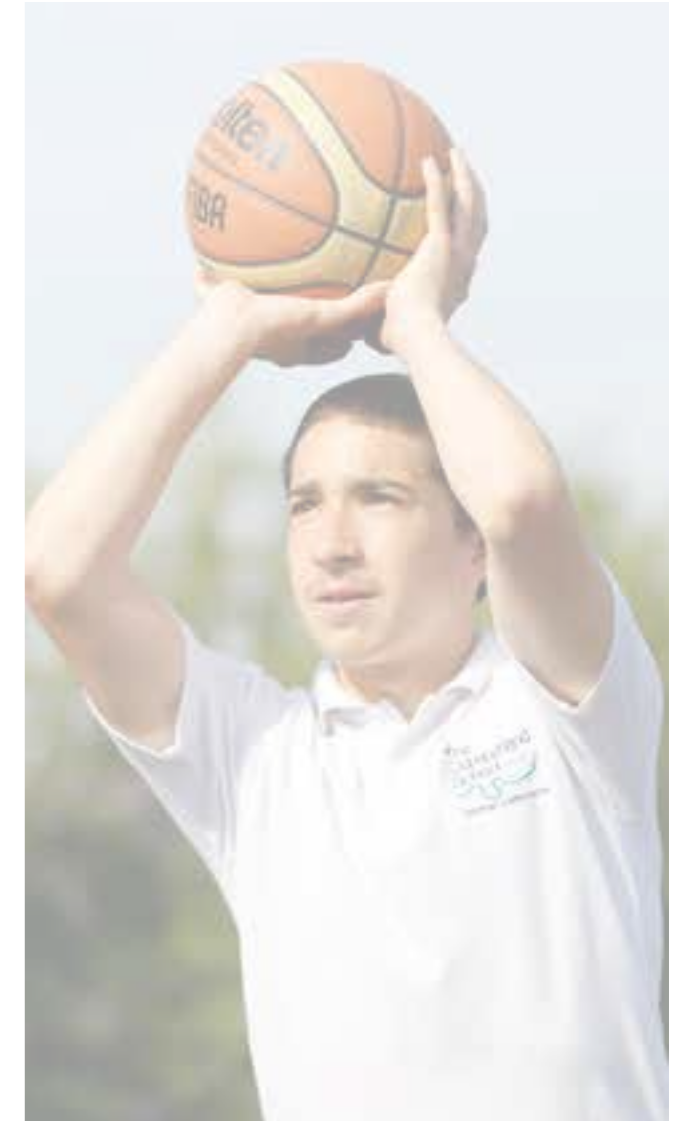
## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

There is no examination for Core PE.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Leadership and volunteering courses eg. Sports Leader Level 1.

Many different practical activities including football, basketball and badminton as well as St John's Ambulance First Aid and Fitness qualifications.



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- [bbc.sport.co.uk](http://bbc.sport.co.uk)
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport Specification First teaching September 2018: Issue 7
- BTEC First Award Sport (BTEC First Sport) Paperback: Mark Adams
- Physical Fitness and Athletic Performance: A Guide for Students, Athletes and Coaches (Longman, 1996) ISBN 9780582091108 - Watson A W S



# THE CHOICES

All students **must** choose from the following courses according to their pathways.....

# ART AND DESIGN

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## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ART AND DESIGN?

It is really important that you have a passion for the subject and a desire to know more about historical and contemporary art, as well as how to use art materials and processes to develop and express your own ideas. This course will give you the skills to enjoy, engage with and produce visual arts throughout your life.

GCSE Art and Design is a practical subject but you will critically analyse your work and the work of artists through written annotation. This, along with the practical skills you learn, will help you develop critical thinking skills.

Art can take you into media and publishing, manufacturing, art, fashion and beauty as well as into recruitment.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Component 1 - Personal Portfolio - 60% of your GCSE.  
You will produce a portfolio of work based on tasks agreed with your teacher
- Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (ESA) - 40% of your GCSE.  
You will produce preparatory studies and personal outcomes based on a theme set by Edexcel. This theme is set in January of Year 11. Students are given one term to complete their preparatory studies. The project culminates with a sustained piece of work, ten hours, produced under exam conditions

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Throughout the course, you will:

- Develop and explore ideas
- Select and experiment with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Record your ideas, observations and insights
- Present personal and meaningful responses.

The course allows you to develop many transferable skills including problem solving, communication and critical thinking, preparing you for further study or the world of work. If you wish to study Art and Design beyond GCSE, options include A Level 3 course, such as A/S or A level Art and Design or BTEC Nationals in Art and Design.

## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative by Austin Kleon
- The New Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards
- The Art Book published by Phaidon Press
- The 20th Century Art Book by Susannah Lawson
- [www.theartstory.org](http://www.theartstory.org)
- [www.pinterest.co.uk](http://www.pinterest.co.uk)
- [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)
- [www.artsy.net](http://www.artsy.net)

# BUSINESS STUDIES

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## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE BUSINESS STUDIES?

You will gain a great understanding of how organisations operate. This will be useful for any company you join or interact with and your knowledge of the ins and outs of the running of a business will make you a useful, adaptable and confident employee.

Good decision-making is an invaluable quality. Business Studies will allow you to develop the ability to quickly and efficiently make sensible, logical and informed decisions. This will save you time and will hopefully stay with you throughout your entire life.

You will also develop your numeracy skills in Business Studies as you study investment, funding and how to use and interpret financial data. These mathematical abilities are widely useful and will demonstrate to your future employers that you have a logical, analytical mind. Business Studies also forces you to be organised and to plan ahead. Learning how to generate marketable ideas, access resources and develop business plans all require a great deal of organisation. This, of course, is a crucial skill that will definitely serve you well no matter what career you decide to pursue.

If you are confident in your English and Maths subjects you will definitely like and enjoy Business Studies.

Business Studies can lead to a career in IT, engineering, banking, finance and accountancy.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Component 1: Investigating small business.  
Written examination, 1hr 30min, 50% of the qualification  
The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions
- Component 2: Building a business.  
Written examination, 1hr 30min, 50% of the qualification  
The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Component 1  
Enterprise and entrepreneurship  
Spotting a business opportunity  
Putting a business idea into practice  
Making the business effective  
Understanding external influences on business
- Component 2  
Growing the business  
Making marketing decisions  
Making operational decisions  
Making financial decisions  
Making human resource decisions

## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business Revision Guide
- Edexcel GCSE (9 1) Business, Second Edition Student Book
- Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business Student Book

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT BTEC

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## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT BTEC?

If you are interested in a career working with babies and young children, then Child Development is for you. In this course you will learn about how children grow and develop, how they learn through play and factors that can impact on their growth and development. This is perfect if you are considering becoming a nursery or primary school teacher, social worker, paediatrician or early years practitioner. Even if you don't know what you want to do but are fascinated by how babies and young children learn, grow and develop, then study Child Development.

Child Development is a BTEC qualification which means you are assessed by a combination of coursework and exams. In your coursework you will be given a number of lessons over several weeks to complete your assignment. This will really suit those who feel they could benefit from this style of learning.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

The BTEC Child Development is divided into 3 components:

- Component 1: 30% internally assessed coursework. This consists of writing a booklet that explains how children grow and develop between the ages of 0-5 and explaining the factors that can affect growth and development
- Component 2: 30% internally assessed coursework. This consists of writing a booklet that assesses different ways children learn through play and how adults can promote learning through different activities
- Component 3: 40% externally assessed exam. The exam is 2 hours and covers circumstances that affect children's development, creating safe environments and how to adapt play for learning and development

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Component 1  
This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of children's growth and development across five areas—physical, intellectual, communication and language, social, and emotional.
- Component 2  
Play is important in helping children to learn new skills and gain knowledge. Between birth and five years old, children play in different ways so it is essential that they are given play opportunities that challenge them and engage them in learning new skills
- Component 3  
This component will develop your knowledge and understanding of the individual circumstances that can have an impact on a child's learning and development

## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Lindon, J. (2012) Understanding Child Development: 0-8 Years: Linking Theory and Practice. London: Hodder Education, 978-1444167184
- Meggitt, C. (2006) Child Development: An Illustrated Guide 2nd edition, Heinemann, 978-0435420482
- Moyles, J. (2012) A-Z of Play in Early Childhood. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 978-0335246380



# COMPUTER SCIENCE



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## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The Computer Science course focuses on computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. They will be able to apply the academic principles they learn in the classroom to real-world systems in an exciting and engaging way.

GCSE Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate, offering students an option that achieves maximum recognition. Careers in computing include web design, programming, computer games development and artificial intelligence.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

GCSE (9–1) Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations.

- Component 1: Computer systems  
Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes  
50% of total GCSE 80 marks.  
This is a non-calculator paper. All questions are mandatory. This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions
- Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming  
Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes  
50% of total GCSE 80 marks.  
This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

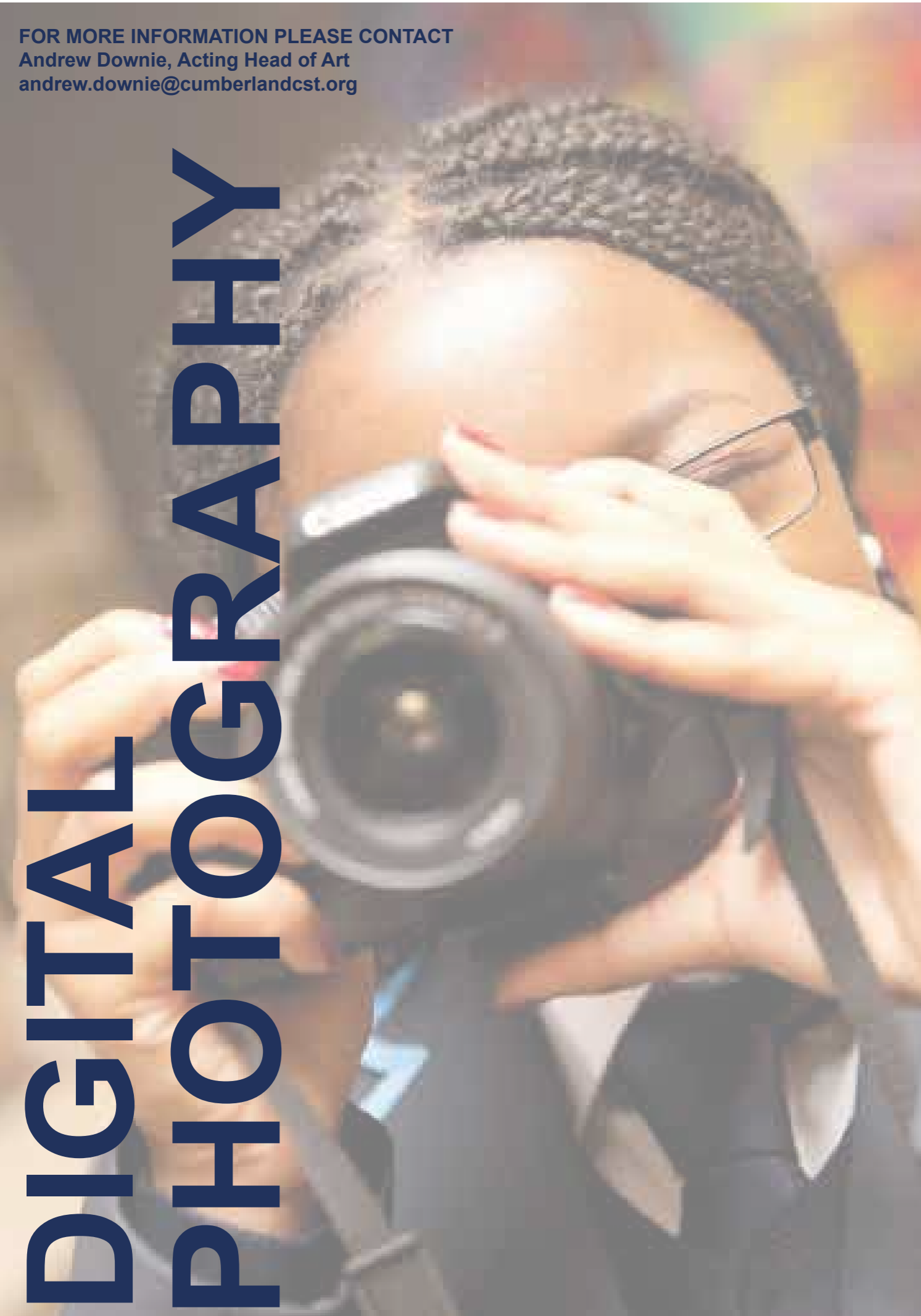
- Component 1: Computer systems  
Systems architecture  
Memory and storage  
Computer networks, connections and protocols  
Network security  
Systems software  
Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology
- Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming  
Algorithms  
Programming fundamentals  
Producing robust programs  
Boolean logic  
Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science, Textbook by P. M. Heathcote and S. Robson
- Revise OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science Revision Workbook: For the 9-1 Exams, by David Waller
- Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software, by Charles Petzold

# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



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## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY?

This is a single option course called 'Photography - Lens and light-based media' and is aimed at students who have an interest in digital and photographic art. The course allows an understanding of the professional world of photography in art and design. It aims to develop creative and imaginative ability with the practical skills of expressing original ideas, feelings and meanings in lens and light based media, art and design.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

AQA GCSE Photography has two main units to the course which are weighted differently:

- Unit 1 Portfolio of work 60%  
You will produce a portfolio of work based on tasks agreed with your teacher
- Unit 2 Externally set task 40%.  
AQA will set a question paper in January of Year 11. Students are given one term to complete their preparatory studies in response to their chosen question. The project culminates with a sustained piece of work, ten hours, produced under exam conditions

Within each unit there are four assessment objectives (AOs) that are used to determine your grade:

- AO1 Develop
- AO2 Refine
- AO3 Record
- AO4 Present

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Portraiture
- Landscape Photography
- Photo-Journalism
- New Media Practice
- Digital Manipulation and Photo Editing
- Location Shoots
- Video and Film
- Photographic Theory
- History of Photography



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- The Photo Book published by Phaidon Press
- The Photographer's Eye by Michael Freeman
- Portraits by Steve McCurry
- The Decisive Moment by Henri Cartier Bresson
- [www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)
- [www.autograph.org.uk](http://www.autograph.org.uk)

# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Determined, ambitious learners

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY?

As a STEM subject, Design and Technology will help you to design and make quality products with creativity and originality, using mathematical skills, scientific analysis combined with creativity and flair. The course covers a wide range of topic areas through years 9 and 10 and the set projects will allow you to develop your skills for comprehensive analysis, focused research and the making of a prototype. You will also be asked to produce clear and specific design criteria reflecting analysis and target market. Design and Technology combines elements of highly academic study and consolidates knowledge in subjects such as Maths and Science.

Design and Technology can lead to a career in construction, research, designing, manufacturing and engineering.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Written exam: 2hrs 50% of the marks
- Non Exam assessment: 50% of the marks (evidence based design task)

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The specification is based on a selected list of projects that require students to develop their skills and technical knowledge and consider sustainability and environmental impact on their designing. It also provides the candidate with the opportunity to design and make a product using new technologies and smart materials.

- Technology in manufacturing
- Production systems CAD/CAM
- Product sustainability and social issues
- Products in society
- Powering systems
- Scales of production
- Properties of materials
- Electronic systems
- Mechanical systems
- Wood, metals and polymers



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- GCSE AQA Design & Technology (Complete Revision & Practice)
- GCSE AQA Design & Technology (Exam Practice Workbook)
- AQA GCSE Design and Technology (Practice Test Papers)

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE DRAMA?

GCSE Drama is designed to allow students to explore the world of the theatre through acquiring the skills and techniques needed to become a performer and director. You will learn how to explore material that has dramatic purpose and potential. This will be through devised work or through script. Your ability to interpret play text through practical exploration, performance and through the written exam is fundamental to being successful in the subject. We will provide multiple opportunities to watch professional performances at local and West End theatres and throughout the course you will develop and build on skills that will last a lifetime.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

You will be assessed over the three years through practical performance, written portfolio/essay and, in your final year, you will work towards completing a written exam based on a set play that we will explore over the three year GCSE.

In Year 10 and 11 you will study 3 components

- Component 1: Devising; 40% of your GCSE (includes practical performance and written portfolio)
- Component 2: Performance from Text; 20% of your GCSE (includes practical performance of two key extracts)
- Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice; 40% of your GCSE (Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes)

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Introduction to GCSE Drama
- Non verbal communication
- Devising through the Barbican Box project
- A Midsummer Night's Dream (Scripted exploration)
- Written exam set text study (Practical and written content)
- Practitioner workshops (Brecht, Stanislavski, Berkoff, Frantic assembly)
- Component 1 (Devising)
- Component 2 (Performance from Text)
- Component 3 (Theatre Makers in Practice)



### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- GCSE Drama - DNA (the play guide) CGP
- GCSE Drama - The revision guide CGP
- DNA By Dennis Kelly ( Component 3 play text study)
- Blood Brothers By Willy Russell ( Component 2)
- Bouncers/Shakers by John Godber ( Component 2)
- 5 Kinds of Silence by Shelagh Stephenson ( Component 2)
- Hard to Swallow and Too Much Punch for Judy by Mark Wheeler ( Component 2)

# FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION



Determined, ambitious learners

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION?

The course equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. The specification provides a solid foundation for the study of WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition and other food related courses at either AS or A level. You will need to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of cooking skills and techniques, be creative and organised and enjoy working independently.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition: 1 hr 45mins exam - 50% of qualification
- Component 2: Non examination assessment internally assessed, externally moderated
- Assessment 1: Food Investigation Assessment: 8 hrs - 15% of qualification
- Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment: 12 hrs - 35% of qualification

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study principles of food preparation and nutrition, healthy eating and making wise food choices. This will encompass food science and include experiments. You will develop knowledge, understanding and application of cooking skills and techniques to include planning, preparing, cooking, presentation and evaluation of dishes. You will study the following topics:

- Core knowledge
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of cooking food
- Food spoilage
- Food provenance and food waste
- Cultures and cuisines
- Technological developments
- Factors affecting food choice
- Commodities
- Cereals
- Fruit and vegetables
- Milk, cheese and yoghurt
- Meat, poultry, fish and eggs
- Beans, nuts, and seeds, soya tofu and mycoprotein
- Butter, oil, margarine, sugar and syrup



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (Alison -Clough Halstead)
- Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (Helen Buckland & Jacqui Keepin)
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (WJEC Eduqas grade 9-1) Exam practice Workbook.
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (WJEC Eduqas grade 9-1) The revision guide

# GEOGRAPHY



Determined, ambitious learners

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Throughout the GCSE Geography course students have the opportunity to consider a variety of geographical issues and, in doing so, become knowledgeable and critical geographers. There is a strong emphasis on the understanding of physical processes in the environment, as well as the management and mismanagement of resources by people. Students also have the opportunity during this course to develop their fieldwork skills. Geographical skills make up an important component of the GCSE course and will be assessed within all three of the exam papers. Ordnance survey (OS) maps or other maps may be used in any of the three exams.

The career opportunities for this subject include agriculture, consultancy, the public sector, energy and utilities.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

AQA Specification is an exam only course you will sit 3 exams.

- Paper 1  
Living with the physical environment  
Written exam – 1hr 30mins (35%)
- Paper 2  
Challenges in the human environment  
Written exam – 1hr 30mins (35%)
- Paper 3  
Geographical applications  
Written exam – 1hr 15mins (30%)
- Pre-release resource booklet available  
12 weeks before paper 3 exam

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Paper 1  
Living with the physical environment  
The challenge of natural hazards  
The living world  
Physical landscapes in the UK
- Paper 2  
Challenges in the human environment  
Urban issues and challenges  
The changing economic world  
The challenge of resource management
- Paper 3  
Geographical applications  
Issue evaluation



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- BBC Bitesize Geography
- CGP Revision Guide
- Wideworld Magazine, available in the school library
- PiXL Geo App - Your son/daughter have been given login details to access this



## Determined, ambitious learners

### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE HISTORY?

You should choose History if you are interested in the world around you. GCSE History is an exciting subject that will help you develop valuable skills and useful facts. History is a subject valued by universities and employers due to the wide range of skills it helps you learn, including; Independent thinking, problem solving, personal discipline, analytical skills, excellent communication and investigative skills.

History is a fascinating subject which gives students an insight into how people used to live and why things have changed over time. Anyone with an interest in the world around them and how we have got where we are today should consider taking History, particularly if you have a good memory and enjoy writing.

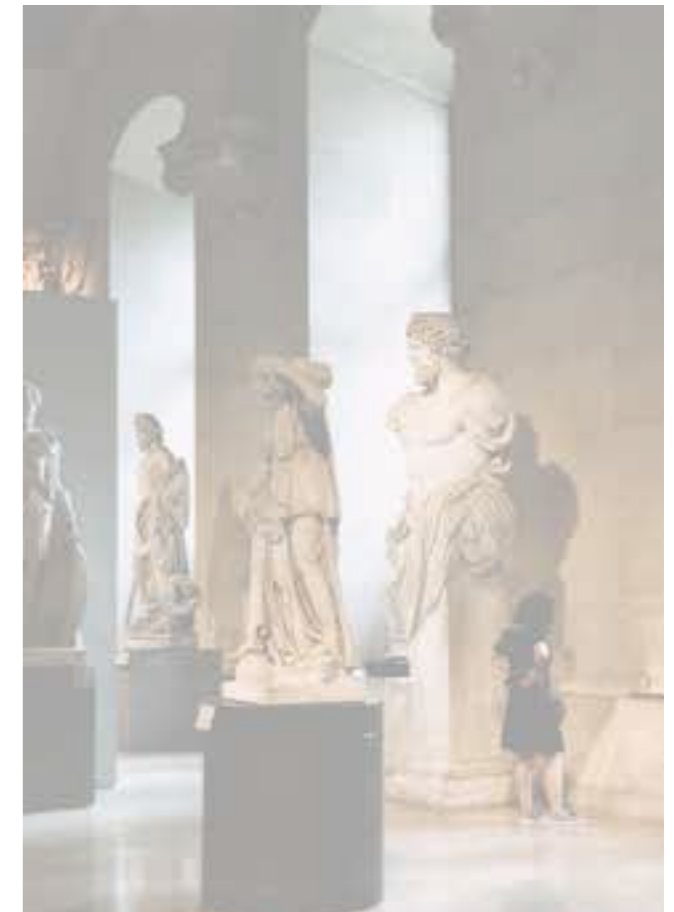
The career opportunities for this subject include agriculture, consultancy, the public sector, energy and utilities.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- You will have 3 exams at the end of year 11, which together will cover all four of the units you have studied
- These 3 exams will be assessing you on your knowledge and understanding analytical ability, source skills and interpretations understanding
- Two of the exams will be worth 30% and the exam that combines two units will be worth 40%

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Crime and Punishment through the ages (including an investigation of Whitechapel 1870-1900)
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1938
- The Cold War, 1914-1991



### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- History textbooks and revision guides
- Website with key information about the topics
- Film documentaries including:
  - Rise of Evil
  - Thirteen Days
  - Unmasking Jack the Ripper
  - Crime and Punishment with Tony Robinson
  - Henry VIII

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Determined, ambitious learners

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES?

Not only does a Modern Foreign Language GCSE encourage the disciplined study of the target language, but it also promotes the development of oral, written, research, and editing skills. One of the main attractions of a modern foreign language degree is the opportunity to study or work abroad. Learning a modern foreign language also gives an insight into different cultures and provides an opportunity to work in international affairs or a global company.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Paper 1 - Listening exam
- Paper 2 - Speaking
- Paper 3 - Reading
- Paper 4 - Writing

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Theme 1: Identity and culture  
Who am I?  
Daily life  
Cultural life
- Theme 2: Local, national, holiday and travel  
Holidays  
Travel and tourist transactions  
Town, region and country
- Theme 3: School  
What school is like  
School activities
- Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work  
Using languages beyond the classroom  
Ambitions  
Work
- Theme 5: International and global dimension  
Bringing the world together  
Environmental issues



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Viva! Edexcel GCSE Spanish Foundation student book , Authors: Rachel Hawkes, Christopher Lillington, Publisher: Pearson
- Viva! Edexcel GCSE Spanish Higher student book , Authors: Rachel Hawkes, Christopher Lillington, Publisher: Pearson
- Edexcel GCSE French Higher, Authors: Clive Bell, Gill Beckett, Anneli Mclachlan
- Edexcel GCSE French Foundation, Authors: Clive Bell, Gill Beckett, Anneli Mclachlan



### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MUSIC?

You should take music if you enjoy listening to music, playing music, writing your own music, are interested in different kinds of music including pop, film and world music and interested in developing your skills as a performer, composer and producer.

You will need to be able to work independently and take responsibility for completing your work by the given deadlines, work as part of a group and take on leadership roles when necessary and participate in extra-curricular musical activities including instrumental lessons and performances in school shows.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Unit 1  
Exploring Music, Products and Styles  
Coursework 30%
- Unit 2  
Music Skills Development  
Coursework 30%
- Unit 3  
Responding to commercial music brief  
External Assessment 40%

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Unit 1 - Exploring music, products and styles  
Looking at key artists, technologies of music from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and present day
- Unit 2 - Music skills development  
Choose two skills from performing, composing and producing and develop them over time keeping a log of your progress
- Unit 3 - Responding to a commercial music brief.  
Under exam conditions take an existing piece of music and transform it into another genre either through performance or production



### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Music Cole, B (1996). The Composer's Handbook: A Do-it Yourself Approach. 2nd ed. London: Schott Music. ISBN 0946535809
- Cole, B (2006). The Pop Composer's Handbook - A Step-by-step Guide to the Composition of Melody, Harmony, Rhythm and Structure. London: Schott Music ISBN

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
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# SPORT BTEC



Determined, ambitious learners

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SPORT BTEC?

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport is as a well-established, enduringly effective qualification. The course have a proven track record in improving motivation and achievement among young learners. Additionally, BTECs provide progression routes to the next stage of education or into employment. It also includes the science of training and application of training principles and psychology in sports and sports performance.

## HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

- Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise (external exam 25%)
- Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport (25%)
- Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Personal Training (25%)
- Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities (25%)

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course has mandatory and optional specialist units (must pass all of the mandatory units to pass the course).

These units include three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise practical and vocational skills
- Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport synoptic knowledge, understanding and practical vocational skills
- Unit 3: Applying the Principles of Personal Training

One optional specialist unit:

- Unit 4: The Mind and Sports Performance, learners look at the concepts that influence the mind in sporting situations and explore the effects on sports performance
- Unit 5: The Sports Performer in Action, learners develop their knowledge and understanding of the short-term responses and long-term adaptations
- Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities, learners develop sports leadership skills through delivering components of sports sessions and whole activity sessions.



## RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport Specification First teaching September 2018: Issue 7
- BTEC First Award Sport (BTEC First Sport) Paperback: Mark Adams
- Physical Fitness and Athletic Performance: A Guide for Students, Athletes and Coaches (Longman, 1996) ISBN 9780582091108 - Watson A W S



### WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?

Studying Sociology will help you to understand and think critically about the social world we live in. It will help students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. Sociology enables us to understand the behaviour of people in terms of their age, gender, social class, ethnicity and other groups they belong to. Different types of sociologists see society in different ways, and these differing interpretations have an impact on how we view the social world around us.

As well as learning about these topics, students are encouraged to form their own opinions on societal issues, and this is explored through debate. This is an opportunity for students to share and question each other's ideas, which will develop their understanding of the subject in a controlled environment.

By choosing to study Sociology not only will students learn about a very interesting and significant topic affecting every human being, they will develop transferable skills including report writing, the ability to debate, and developing analytical skills.

### HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

GCSE sociology uses the WJEC exam board.

- Component 1: Understanding Social Processes. 50% of qualification written examination: 1hour 45
- Component 2: Understanding Social Structures. 50% of qualification written examination: 1hour 45



### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study a wide range of different topics such as family, crime and deviance and education, social stratification, as well as how social research is conducted. Each topic covers an in depth view into key aspects of the way society works and you will use factual sources as well as theoretical perspectives to develop your thinking, knowledge and understanding.

- Component 1 (Paper 1)  
Key Concepts  
Family  
Education  
Research Methods
- Component 2 (Paper 2)  
Social Differentiation And Stratification  
Crime And Deviance  
Applying Sociological Methods Of Research

### RECOMMENDED TEXT BOOKS, ONLINE RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

- WJEC Eduqas GCSE Sociology: Student Book & Revision guide
- Feminist Perspectives P. Abbott and C. Wallace (1997)
- Think Sociology P.Stephens, A.Leach, L.Taggart andH.Jones (1998)
- Sociology (4th Edition) A. Giddens (2001)

Determined, ambitious learners

The  
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