



Hans Price

A c a d e m y

YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET

READY TO LEARN • READY TO LEAD • READY TO TEACH



Introduction

To Students

You will soon be ending your time in Key Stage 3 and moving into Key Stage 4. In Year 10 and Year 11 you will continue to study English, Mathematics and Combined Science but you have more ownership over your other subjects. You will choose 4 subjects to study alongside the core subjects. We encourage you to think carefully about the choices that you make, as they can help you when you progress onto further education (college/university) and future employment.

This booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible about the choices you are about to make. When making your option choices it is vital to take a lot of things into consideration including what you are good at, what you enjoy and what you want to do when you finish Key Stage 4. Do not make your choices because your friends have chosen them or because you like a particular teacher. What may be right for your friend, may not be right for you. Remember that your teachers and tutors can always help if you have any worries or concerns about your Options.

To Parent/Carers

Your child will soon be choosing the option subjects they will be taking in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). It is important they make informed decisions through consultation with the academy and with you. This booklet is designed to contain as much information about the options process as possible. However, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

All Key Stage 4 students are required to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Core PE. Students then can select 4 guided choices. One of these choices must be an English Baccalaureate (EBACC) subject (History, Geography, French, Spanish or Computer Science).

At the end of Term 4 and start of term 5, Year 9 students will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss and select their options to ensure they have considered the correct choices for them

Year 9 Guided Options Timeline

Term 3

- Raising Aspirations Careers Day
- Student Voice
- DOOYA assessments complete

Term 4

- Options Assembly
- Year 9 Subject/ Options Evening
- Taster session opportunities
- 1:1 Options Meetings commence

Term 5

- 1:1 Meetings finished

Term 6

- Confirmation letter of Option choices

Types of Course

There are a large range of optional subjects on offer at Hans Price Academy. Option subjects may be examined in different ways and awarded a different qualification.

GCSEs

Most students will study GCSEs in the core subjects and many of the option subjects are also examined by taking a GCSE. In some subjects, there are two different 'tiers' of examination offered, for example a higher or foundation tier in Mathematics, Science, French and Spanish.

Most GCSE subjects are examined by a mixture of timed exam papers, coursework and in-class controlled assessment.

- **GCSE History**
- **GCSE Geography**
- **GCSE French**
- **GCSE Spanish**
- **GCSE Computer Science**
- **GCSE RE**
- **GCSE Design Technology**
- **GCSE Drama**
- **GCSE Art**
- **GCSE Statistics**
- **GCSE Home language** qualifications (please ask your RSL if you would like to take a GCSE in another language because you speak it in the home)
- **GCSE Further Maths** can be studied as an additional subject (5th option) in Period 7.

Vocational Subjects

Weighted towards practical work or coursework rather than examinations. We offer the following BTEC/Vocational subjects:

- **BTEC Sport**
- **OCR Sport Science**
- **BTEC Creative Media**
- **BTEC Music**
- **BTEC Dance**
- **BTEC Health and social care**
- **WJEC Hospitality and Catering**

GCSE Grading System

This table shows how the new GCSE grades relate to the old ones:

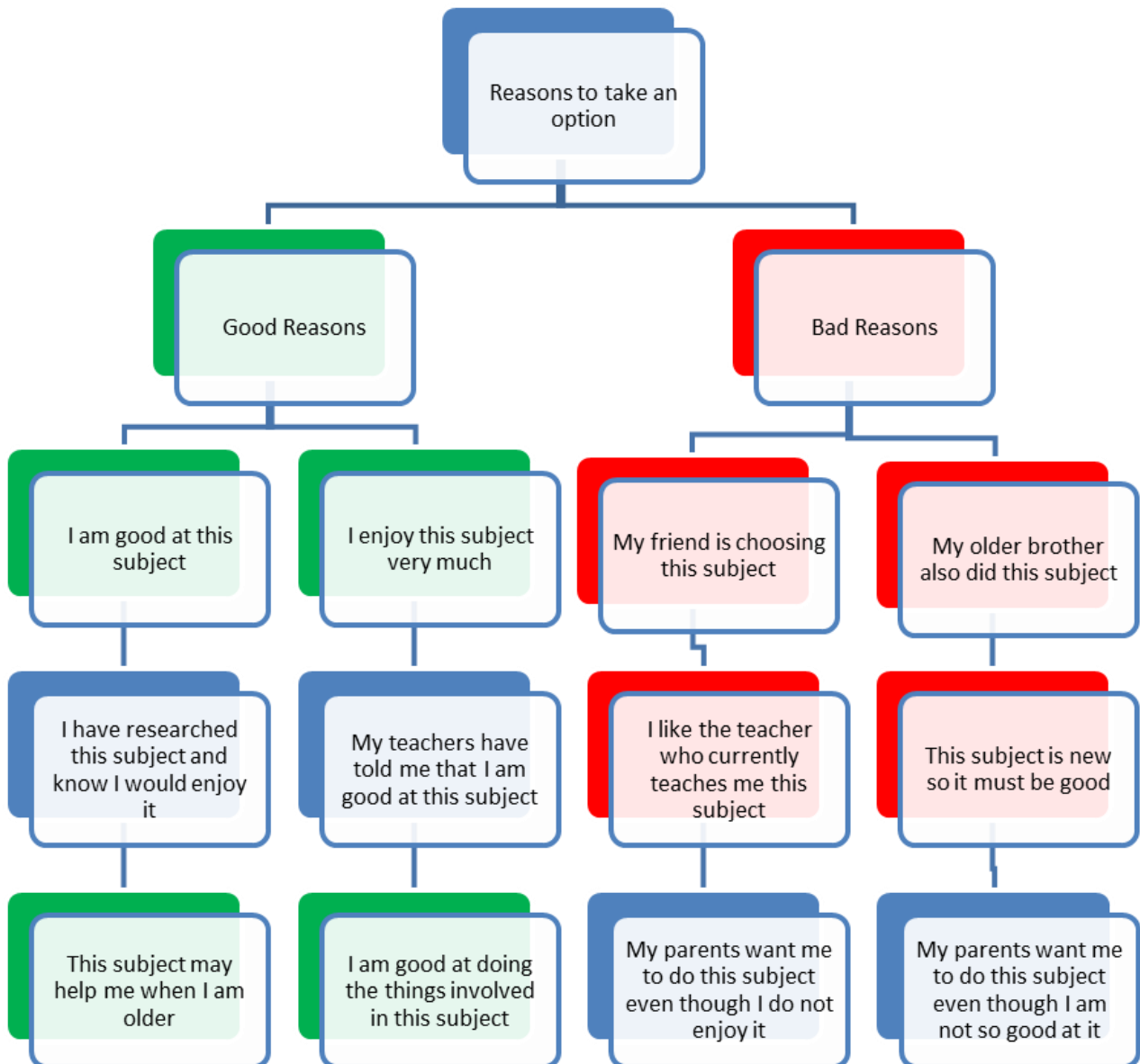
New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Making the 'right' choice

There are many reasons why you may choose a certain option and it is important that you choose an option for the right reasons. You will have to study this subject for 2 years; you should not base your choice on things that may change.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is meant by guided choices?

While we want you to make your own choices as far as possible, we may feel that there are other pathways better suited to you. In cases such as this we will meet with you to discuss your choices to ensure that they are right for you. In this way we will try to maximise your chances of attaining your full potential across a good range of qualifications recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

Will my choices affect my career?

No. Everyone in the country does a core curriculum which includes all the subjects you need to go on to higher education or employment. Universities, colleges and employers want to know what level you achieved in your GCSEs, rather than what GCSEs you did. English and Maths GCSEs are the exceptions to this. You need a minimum of a Grade 5 in both English and Maths in order to make progress in many careers and especially if you aim to go to university.

Apart from your core subjects (English, Maths, Science) you do not have to choose a subject in Year 10 in order to study it (or a related subject) at university. The exception might be Languages, where unless you are a native speaker of the language, it is advisable to continue studying the language otherwise you may forget what you have already learnt. If you intend studying Art in the future, it may also be advisable to choose that subject so that you can start to build your portfolio. Most other subjects you can start from scratch at A Level. To study music at A Level you would have to play two instruments at grade level; sometimes this can be as high as Grade 3 – 5.

Are any subjects more important than another?

As mentioned, English and Maths are the two subjects that employers and universities want to see. Your choices all have equal importance.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is a Government measure of achievement for a certain combination of GCSEs. The measure is made up of English, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), either History or Geography and one Language. Students have to at least study one Baccalaureate subject.

If I choose a vocational qualification, does this mean I will end up having to follow a career in this area?

No, not if you don't want to. Remember it counts as the equivalent to a GCSE. Employers, universities and colleges want to know the grades you achieve before knowing what courses you did.

How will you know if a particular choice of subjects is not appropriate for me?

All of your teachers have been asked to comment on how appropriate a particular subject would be for you based on your past performance in exams and on classwork. The Senior Team collect this information together and discuss each student individually, before agreeing whether the choices you have made are appropriate. This is based on your past performance and measured against what people with similar grades to you have achieved in the past, across the country.

What if I don't like the choices allocated for me?

It is our recommendation that you do so. The range of subjects we choose will maximise your chances in your GCSEs. If you wish to choose a different subject from one we recommend, we will have to warn your parents that, in our opinion, you may either not be pushing yourself enough,

or that you may find the choices you have chosen too difficult. Don't forget in most cases this does not become an issue.

How can I decide what subjects are best for me?

'What do you enjoy most?' is your first question. 'What am I best at?' is your next.

Who can help me decide what to choose?

Listen to advice from your parents/guardians, teachers, friends, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day make sure you make the final decision.

IMPORTANT

Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it; therefore, you may not get your first choice. This doesn't happen often.

We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run, but then we would limit your choice.

It may be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. Again, this doesn't happen often.

English Literature

Qualification: GCSE English Literature

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



Course information and Exam Board

English Literature (AQA 8702) - 2 Papers

Literature Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes – 64 marks total

Section A – Shakespeare – *Macbeth* – 30 marks for essay + 4 marks for SPAG

- Answer the question in essay form. Explore and analyse moments from the given extract **and** elsewhere in the play in your response!

Section B – 19th Century Novel – *A Christmas Carol* – 30 marks for essay

- Answer the question in essay form. Explore and analyse moments from the given extract **and** elsewhere in the novel in your response!

Literature Paper 2 – 2 hours 15 minutes – 96 marks total

Section A – *An Inspector Calls* - 30 marks + 4 marks for SPAG -

- Choose one of the questions on *An Inspector Calls* and write an essay to answer it.

Section B– Poetry Anthology - 30 marks

- Compare the given poem from your anthology to another poem from the anthology in an essay.

Section B – Unseen Poetry - 32 marks

Part 1 - Answer the first question in essay form on the first unseen poem only - **24 marks.**

Part 2 - Compare the second unseen poem's methods with the first unseen poem's methods - **8 marks.**

What revision can I do to help me achieve my potential?

[Revise Effectively] Retrieval practice, flashcards, spaced learning

[Memorise Quotes] Choose the right quotes, create flashcards that also use pictograms, narrow down to single words that you can link across poems by image or theme or message.

[Explode Quotes] analyse deeply to consider: language features (metaphor, simile), key words, structural features (foreshadowing, patterns), word class and links to theme/context, synonyms.

Practice using analytical verbs as you explode quotes

(critiques/exposes/highlights/reveals/amplifies/supports/challenges)

[Killer Quotes] Build up a bank of quotes that are memorable, powerful and versatile. Versatility means they can be used to response to a range of possible essay questions.

[Consider context]

- What do the poems/texts say about the human condition and how it has evolved (or hasn't evolved) over time?
- Make sure you have the right balance: avoid including too much or too little
- Improve your knowledge of time periods, and genre tropes, to avoid incorrect or vague statements
- Practice paragraphs to ensure your analysis blends smoothly with your context

[Practice planning and improve essays] Develop BIG IDEA plans which focus on the question, write topic sentences that link to your BIG IDEA, look at model essays in your exercise book and practice paragraphs.

English Language

Qualification: GCSE English Language

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



Course information and Exam Board

English Language (AQA 8700) - 2 Papers

Language Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks total

Section A - 40 marks total

Read **one** Unseen Fiction Extract from 20th Century and answer Questions 1-4

Q1 – List 4 things (4 marks)

Q2 – Analyse Language (8 marks)

Q3 – Analyse Structure (8 marks)

Q4 – Evaluate how far you agree with a statement about a section of the extract (20 marks)

Section B – 40 marks total

Q5 - write either a description or narrative as suggested by an image

- 24 marks for creativity, crafting and imagination
- 16 marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Language Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks total

Section A – 40 marks total

Read **two** Unseen Non-Fiction Extracts (one from 19th century and the other will be more modern!)
Answer Questions 1-4.

Q1 – Shade the 4 TRUE statements (4 marks)

Q2 – Summarise the similarities OR differences on something in the extracts (8 marks)

Q3 – Language Analysis (12 marks)

Q4 – Compare the writers' viewpoints through the methods used (16 marks)

Section B – 40 marks total

Q5 – write a specific type of non-fiction writing (Letter/Speech/Article/Essay/Leaflet) presenting your opinion
in reaction to a statement

- 24 marks for creativity, crafting and imagination
- 16 marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

What revision can I do to help me achieve my potential?

Practice:

Answering questions on texts from different dates and genres

Exploding quotes that contain interesting language

Looking at structure carefully within a chapter of a book: beginning, end, structural shift

Identifying the precise effect of both language and structure

Thinking about the writer's intention and whether they are successful

Exploring why writers have different viewpoints in articles or on news topics

Read the news!

Practice writing a short story with one of these titles: 'Lost' - 'The discovery' - 'The Journey' - 'The Search'

- Practice writing a description of an interesting image
- Practice writing an article/letter/speech – Remember - Headline, Strapline and Because, But, So structure!
- Create terminology flash cards

Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE Mathematics

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics that I will study for this qualification?

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change
- Geometry & Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

How will I be assessed in this subject?

You will sit 3 exam papers:

- Paper 1: Non-Calculator, 1hr 30mins, 80 marks.
- Paper 2: Calculator, 1hr 30mins, 80 marks.
- Paper 3: Calculator, 1hr 30mins, 80 marks.

There will be a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as you make your way through the paper.

Why do I have to study GCSE Mathematics?

Achieving a Grade 4 or above in Maths will open the door to your next phase without the need for retaking the subject. Maths is used in everyday life, so it is incredibly beneficial.

What students say?

“I really like working towards solving a problem, I feel a sense of achievement!”

“Dr Frost is a really useful website for homework. I can improve my understanding by completing lots of exam questions, to feel success in Maths”

Combined Science

Qualification: GCSE Combined Science

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 3 years



What are some of the topics that I will study?

- Health, Disease and Development of Medicine
- Natural Selection and Genetics
- Rates of Reaction
- Fuels, Earth and Atmospheric Science
- Conservation of Energy
- Electricity

How will I be assessed in this subject?

- Combined Science is a double award where you will study a range of topics across three disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).
- There are 16 core practical tasks across the course which you will carry out or observe.
- You will sit 6 examinations on either the foundation or higher tier:
 - Paper 1 Biology 1 (16.67%), Paper 2 Chemistry 1 (16.67%), Paper 3 Physics 1 (16.67%)
 - Paper 4 Biology 2 (16.67%), Paper 5 Chemistry 2 (16.67%), Paper 6 Physics 2 (16.67%)
- The use of a calculator is allowed in all examinations.
- Each exam paper contains 6 questions, is 70 minutes in duration and is marked out of 60.
- Students must:
 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures (40%)
 - Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, enquiry, techniques and procedures (40%)
 - Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate; make judgements; draw conclusions and develop and improve experimental procedures (20%)

Possible grades on each tier	
F	H
	99
	98
	88
	87
	77
	76
	66
	65
55	55
54	54
44	44
43	43
33	
32	
22	
21	
11	
U	

Why do I have to study GCSE Combined Science?

Science allows us to be **global citizens** who understand and shape the world around us. We make **educated, evidence-based judgements** which help us understand **ethical and moral implications** of scientific discoveries. These values **protect us from misinformation** and enable us to maintain a **curiosity** of the world we live in today.

What students say?

"I really enjoy Tassomai which allows me to self-quiz and increase my science knowledge."

"Practicals are my favourite part, we get to investigate stuff and then draw conclusions."

Art

Qualification: GCSE Art
Examination board: AQA
Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification? [OBJ]

Component 1 (Portfolio) work is worth 60% of the overall grade and you will work on this from the start of the course until January when you will be in Year 11.

For Art you will complete a journey through 2 main areas (projects planned by your teachers). You will have the opportunity to work with many different materials and processes that are available to the department, as well as developing the most fundamental skills of drawing and painting. You will receive a brief and a list of tasks to guide you through each project. It allows us to ensure as the facilitator that you develop enough work for each Assessment Objective, on which you will be marked.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Your final mark will come from two Components. Your portfolio (Component 1), which you work on from September in Year 10 to December in Year 11 and Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment), which you will work on from January until April in Year 11. This is the Art exam period and ends with a 10-hour Art practical exam.

Controlled assessment or Coursework: 60% Component 1

Examination: 40% Component 2

Am I suited to Art GCSE?

You will be suited to this course if you enjoy Art, are motivated and willing to try new things without worrying about making mistakes, as it is all part of the journey. Attendance to the lessons is important, there is a lot of work in this subject, and it is not an easy option.

Taking Art at GCSE will gain life skills such as discipline, self-expression, observational skills, problem solving, and it boosts self-esteem.

What do current students say about this course?

'Art is as time consuming as you make it. It is a good way to engage your mind and trigger the imagination'

'It's a subject that can help with any struggles you may have if you don't want to talk about it.'

'Choosing Art has been time consuming but it's been one of the best decisions I've made. If you love Art, you won't regret it!'

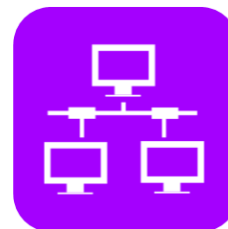
'I really love the lessons and being able to be creative and see my work developing'

Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE Computer Science

Examination board: OCR

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Do you enjoy programming and understanding how computer systems work? In this challenging and engaging qualification, you will be expected to learn and apply your knowledge of computer systems and programming to solve problems. GCSE Computer Science also digs deep into the technical side of computing, including how different hardware and software devices work together to create a computer system.

Computer Systems

This unit will introduce you to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. You will also become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming

This unit encourages you to apply your knowledge and understanding of computer systems using computational thinking. You will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques and how to produce robust programs. You will also become familiar with the mathematics related to Computer Science.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The Computer Science qualification currently consists of **2 written examinations (50% each)**

- Computer systems (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Computational thinking, algorithms, and programming (1 hour 30 minutes)

Am I suited to GCSE Computer Science?

If you enjoy programming, Mathematics, problem solving and learning how computer technology works, then GCSE Computer Science is the choice for you! You should also show a willingness to practise your programming skills regularly, as this forms a large part of the course.

Computer Science links well to careers such as becoming a programmer or an engineer, as well as a wide range of other technical roles in the digital and IT industry. It is also useful for students who wish to progress onto Computer Science/IT related courses in further education.

What do current students say about this course?

'If you like the logical side of computers and you can persevere, then you will enjoy Computer Science'

'A challenging but intriguing learning experience'

Creative Media Production



Qualification: BTEC Tech Award

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Component 1: Exploring Media Products (internally assessed)

Develop your understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences, as well as examining existing products and exploring media production techniques.

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills (internally assessed)

Develop and apply skills and techniques in media production processes by creating a media product from one of the following sectors: audio/moving image, print or interactive design.

Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief (externally marked)

Apply and develop your planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a brief.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This qualification takes a fully practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment, with no written exam. All components, including the externally assessed synoptic component, are assessed through engaging, open, and flexible set tasks, designed to stimulate creative ideas without restricting the type or direction of learner response. The internal Pearson Set Assignment for Component 1 can be adapted to better cater for your learners, the local area and/or areas of focus you have chosen within the qualification.

Controlled assessment or Coursework: All units are controlled assessments

Am I suited to Creative Media Production?

If you enjoy the creative aspects of the digital world, if you enjoy media and working to a client brief, Creative Media Production is the choice for you. You must enjoy extended writing as you will be writing long reports demonstrating your understanding of media production techniques.

What do current students say about this course?

'I enjoy how much you can do in the course, it's very flexible you don't stick to one thing for more than two days'

'It is a lot of written work, and you can't afford to slack off, but it is very rewarding in the end and the lessons are fun.'

'Mr Taylor explains it very well, it is easy to understand, and I find it truly fascinating how media is made and marketed'

Career prospects

Below are a few examples of the many jobs available within the creative and digital sector which need young people with relevant skills:

Marketing Executive

As a marketing executive, you would promote your employer's or your client's products, services or ideas. If you love using your communication skills in a creative way, this could be the ideal job for you.

Film Director

Directors have overall responsibility for the way films and television programmes are made. As a director, you would use your creativity, organisational skills and technical knowledge to manage the whole production process.

Graphic Designer

In this role you will work alongside your clients, creating websites and other promotional materials for them. This could include graphics for packaging, magazines, catalogues and flyers, etc.

More career ideas: Animator, Broadcast Engineer, Screenwriter, Photographer, Film Maker, Set Designer, Media Researcher, Audio-Visual Technician, Studio Sound, Engineering, Editor, Advertising Executive, Games Designer.

Dance

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award - Performing Arts Dance

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

You will study three units for this qualification. The first is a written unit called 'Exploring the Performing Arts' where you learn about the skills needed to be a dancer and study a variety of professional works. In the second unit 'Developing Skills and techniques in the Performing Arts' you recreate 3 pieces of professional repertoire, this is a practical unit. In your final unit 'Performing to a Brief' you have to prepare and perform a 15-minute group dance created from a stimulus.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Coursework:

You will complete a total of three units, out of these two are internally assessed and completed in Year 10. 'Exploring the Performing Arts' and 'Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts' are worth **30% each** of the final BTEC mark.

Examination:

The last unit 'Performing to a Brief' is completed in Year 11 in a 12-week timeframe. You will be continually assessed internally by your teacher as the course progresses.

Am I suited to Dance BTEC?

You must love to dance and be energetic and enthusiastic about the subject. You should be confident enough to dance in groups in front of the class and remember you will wear cat suits and other appropriate dance wear.

You should have excellent attendance as the dances are all in groups and it is difficult if students are missing. You should enjoy performing as you will be in at least 3 shows a year. You should be able to meet deadlines and be happy to attend extra lunch and after school rehearsals as and when required.

What do current students say about the course?

'It's the best lesson of the week, hard work but fun'.

'I've learnt loads – hip hop, jazz, street dance and contemporary. It's great to have such variety'.

'The first show was scary but as soon as I started dancing, I loved it; I didn't want it to finish'.

'I love being with our group on show day. We all get ready and put our costumes on, it's so exciting and I love the fact that our friends and family can see what we do'.

Design Technology

Qualification: GCSE Design Technology

Examination board: WJEC EDUQAS

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Technical Principles

- 1) The impact of new and emerging technologies
- 2) How the critical evaluation of new and emerging technologies informs design decisions
- 3) How energy is generated and stored in order to choose and use appropriate sources to make products and to power systems
- 4) Developments in modern and smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles
- 5) How electronic systems provide functionality to products and processes
- 6) The use of programmable components to embed functionality into products
- 7) The functions of mechanical devices to produce different sorts of movement

Materials:

- 1) Paper and Board
- 2) Natural and manufactured timber
- 3) Ferrous and non-ferrous metals
- 4) Thermoforming and thermosetting polymers
- 5) Natural, synthetic, blended and mixed fibres, and woven, non-woven and knitted textiles.

In depth knowledge and understanding of one of the above material groups

- 1) The sources, origins, physical and working properties of the material categories or the components and systems, and their ecological and social footprint
- 2) The way in which the selection of materials or components is influenced by a range of factors, such as functional, aesthetic, environmental, availability, cost, social, cultural and ethical
- 3) The impact of forces and stresses on materials and objects and the ways in which material can be reinforced and stiffened
- 4) Stock forms, types and sizes in order to calculate and determine the quantity of materials of components required
- 5) Alternative processes which can be used to manufacture products to different scales of production
- 6) Specialist techniques and processes which can be used to shape, fabricate, construct and assemble a high quality prototype, including techniques such as wastage, addition, deforming and reforming, as appropriate to the materials and/or components being used
- 7) Appropriate surface treatments and finishes that can be applied for functional and aesthetic purposes

Designing and Making Principles

- 1) Selecting and working with appropriate materials and components in order to produce a prototype.
- 2) Using appropriate and accurate marking out methods including: measuring and use of reference points, lines and surfaces; use templates, jigs and/or patterns; work within tolerances; understand efficient cutting and how to minimise waste.
- 3) Using specialist tools and equipment, appropriate to the materials or components used (including hand tools, machinery, digital design and manufacture), to create a specific outcome.

- 4) Using specialist techniques and processes to shape, fabricate, construct and assemble a high quality prototype, including techniques such as wastage, addition, deforming and reforming, as appropriate to the materials and/or components being used.
- 5) Using appropriate surface treatments and finishes for functional and aesthetic purposes.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Coursework: 50%

One piece of controlled assessment, roughly 35 hours work, to design and develop a prototype of a product using a material or mixture of materials of your choosing. Designing and making is worth 60% of the coursework marks.

Examination: 50%

You will be questioned on your ability to analyse and evaluate design outcomes and wider issues and technical knowledge. The exam will be taken in Year 11.

Am I suited to Design Technology?

You should be creative, enjoy exploring design, innovative and willing to produce high quality practical work.

What do current students say about the course?

'I really enjoy the practical work and the designing'.

'It has given me a large range of skills'

"I like the fact I have the freedom to be creative, in an environment where support is always available"

"Design and Technology is a great place to learn skills I could use in the future"

PERFORMING ARTS- ACTING



Qualification: BTEC Tech Award - Performing Arts Acting

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years

What is Performing Arts- Acting?

The BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts Acting is a practical, creative course for students who enjoy drama, performance, and collaborative work, alongside written coursework and evaluation.

What will I study?

Over the 2 year course, you will study 3 units. These are:

- **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts**

You will create a PowerPoint presentation analysing a professional performing arts work, including its style, features, purpose, and influences. You will also keep a logbook documenting your exploration of relevant techniques and processes, reflecting on your strengths and areas for improvement to support future development.

- **Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts**

For this component you will learn, practise and develop acting techniques through workshops, rehearsals and written work. You will work with your peers and perform a section of an incredible script, chosen specifically for you to celebrate you as an actor, alongside keeping a logbook of the completed work and your rehearsal process.

- **Component 3: Performing to a Brief**

You will work in a group to create and perform a devised workshop performance based on a given brief and stimulus. This involves exploring ideas together, developing and applying appropriate performance skills and practitioner influences for a target audience, and performing your final piece. You will then evaluate both the creative process and the final outcome, reflecting on your own contribution and teamwork.

Am I suited to Performing Arts- Acting?

If you enjoy working in groups, exploring different drama techniques, studying theatre, and performing to an audience, then this course is for you! Performing Arts Acting can lead to jobs such as acting, teaching, or working in media, and helps develop skills like confidence, communication, teamwork, and creativity, which are valuable in many future careers.

Hospitality & Catering

Qualification: Vocational Hospitality & Catering

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification 80 marks Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification 120 marks. An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.

Am I suited to Food Preparation and Nutrition?

You should be interested in learning about food, where it comes from and the science behind cooking. You should be prepared for lots of writing as well as practical work. You should be enthusiastic about cooking and wanting to produce food of a high standard with creative, high quality presentation. You should be willing to learn a variety of practical skills and cooking techniques. You should be willing to try making new things.

What do current students say about the course?

“It’s interesting, helpful and good if you want to work in the food or catering industry”

“It’s hard and not just about the cooking!”

“There’s a lot to remember and there is writing in the coursework and exam preparation”

“When you do cook its good fun and you learn lots of new skills”



French / Spanish

Qualification: GCSE French/ GCSE Spanish

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment.

Students learn the language in the following four skill areas, and the topics above are covered in each of these areas.

Listening: understand and respond to spoken language

Speaking: communicate and interact in speech

Reading: understand and respond to written language

Writing: communicate in writing

We are lucky to have Year 9 as a year that we build in the skills necessary to start working towards GCSE. However, we do start again, developing our knowledge of how the languages are structured and put together and build our skills through looking at interesting cultural topics.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Languages are assessed entirely by end of course examinations. There is equal weighting for Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing with 25% each.

Up to 40% of the questions are asked in the language and in the written papers all the questions are asked in the language being learned.

There will be continual assessment over the years to prepare students for the exams and nothing should be too stressful by the end of the course.

Am I suited to GCSE French/ Spanish?

Scientific research shows that learning languages opens pathways in the brain that help with learning other subjects too; it makes you more intelligent.

Languages make up four out of the five hardest GCSEs, which means that taking a language is seen by employers and universities as a sign that you are a person who can take up a challenge and are willing to work hard. However, languages are fun because they allow us to explore other cultures and in learning languages, we learn so much more about our own culture.

Most universities now require a language to GCSE level so it's really a 'no-brainer'.

What do current students say about this course?

'J'adore le français parce-que c'est facile et très intéressant', 'C'est formidable' On s'amuse bien.

'Les croissants sont très bons' 'Je suis très intelligent'.

'Me gusta estudiar el español porque es útil'

'Me encanta el español porque es divertido.'

'It's a really great challenge to learn another language, it says that I'm curious, brave and clever'

Geography

Qualification: GCSE Geography

Examination board: AQA

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)

- Natural hazards – tectonics, weather and climate change.
- The living world – ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts.
- Physical landscapes in the UK – rivers, coasts, flooding.

Paper 2: Challenges in the urban environment (35%)

- Urban issues and challenges – urbanisation, city studies, shanty towns, regeneration projects.
- The changing economic world – world development gap, north south divide in the UK.
- The challenge of resources management – renewable resources, food supplies, water supplies, energy.

Paper 3: Geographical applications (30%)

- Physical fieldwork – Rivers (The Quantocks)
- Human fieldwork – Impacts of redevelopment on the environment (Bristol/WSM)
- A pre-release issue
- Map skills
- Geographical skills

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Examination: 100%

Paper 1: You will answer questions on the PHYSICAL Geography topics. The paper is in three sections. You must answer questions on all three of the paper 1 topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt. These are real-life examples from the subjects you have studied, for example you will study and answer questions on Typhoon Haiyan, a hurricane which devastated the Philippines in 2013.

Paper 2: You will answer questions on the HUMAN Geography topics. The paper is in three sections. You must answer questions on all three of the paper 2 topics. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short 1-4 mark questions, and longer 6 or 9 mark questions which require an extended written response. You will also answer questions on the case studies you have learnt. These are real-life examples from the subjects you have studied, for example you will study and answer questions on the changing economy in Nigeria, which is a NEE (newly emerging economy).

Paper 3: This is primarily a skills paper. Section A sets questions on a pre-released booklet of information on an issue which we have studied in class. You receive this booklet approx. 8 weeks before the exam and answer a mixture of short 1-2 mark as well as longer 6-9 mark questions about the information presented. The second section of paper 3 is a set of questions related to your fieldwork investigations. The third section sets questions on an 'unseen fieldwork' investigation, where you are given data from an enquiry and must analyse, present and evaluate that data.

Am I suited to Geography?

You should have a good level of literacy and numeracy. You should also have an interest in the environment, both physical and human, around you.

Health and Social Care

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

- The course is split into 3 compulsory components which are designed to help students explore the Health and Social care setting and develop knowledge and understanding about how people grow and develop across their life. In all 3 components students will study real life case studies to help them understand and put into practice the knowledge they have learnt.
- Component 1 is all about people and how different factors such as lifestyle choices, relationships and income/wealth can impact on how they develop over the course of their life. We will also look at a variety of expected and unexpected life events and how they affect growth and development.
- Component 2 is all about the Health and Social Care profession. What services people may need to access in order to get medical or social help and how those services meet individual needs. The care values that underpin the Health and Social care setting such as confidentiality, respect, safeguarding and duty of care.
- Component 3 is the exam and combines knowledge learnt in Component 1 and 2 in a Health and Wellbeing 2 hour written exam. You will study a case study and answer questions about what factors have had an impact on their development, what their health indicators tell you about their current health and risks to future health and what targets you can put in place to help them improve their health.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Controlled assessment or Coursework: 60% of your grade will be from 4 written assignments that you will complete in lessons in component 1 and 2. Usually Component 1 is completed in year 10 and component 2 in Year 11.

Examination: 40% of your grade will be a written exam paper (2 hours). You will have 2 attempts to achieve your best grade. This exam will be taken in Year 11.

Am I suited to Health and Social Care GCSE?

You will need to have good levels of literacy and a level of maturity to grasp the concepts which will be introduced. You need to be a caring and empathetic type of person. You will need to have a good work ethic and able to complete individual research and type up your findings.

What do current students say about this course?

'It has been hard to understand some of the new concepts but the human growth and development unit is really interesting.'

*'I use my little sister for my case study so it's helping me understand her disabilities as well'.
'It has changed the way I think about other people and consider others less fortunate.'*

'It's my favourite option'

History

Qualification: GCSE History

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991
- USA and Civil Rights 1945 - 1974

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Examination: 100%. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city. 30% of the qualification
- Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 & Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. 40% of the qualification
- Paper 3: USA and Civil Rights. 30% of the qualification

Am I suited to History?

The skills you'll learn will be invaluable should you wish to take on History in the long-term. History is quite a challenging subject that requires a good memory for dates and issues, and an analytical mind. You will also need a high level of literacy and be prepared to write. You will learn to question the reliability of sources, which makes it good for developing critical thinking skills that will be essential at university and in the workplace.

What do current students say about this course?

'You learn loads of exciting things'

'It's challenging and fun'

'As challenging as it is, it's very interesting and life benefitting'

Music

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award in Music

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

You will study four units for this qualification:

- **Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles**
You will look at various genres, understanding what makes them all unique!
- **Component 2: Music Skills Development**
You will develop your musical skills on the instrument of your choice.
- **Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief**
You will respond to a given brief as a performer, composer or producer.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Coursework:

Each component is assessed in a window of time at certain points over the 2 years. It is assessed by your teacher. You will have certain criterion to pass for each component in order to pass the course.

Examination:

There is no written exam!

Am I suited to Music BTEC?

You must love music and be energetic and enthusiastic about the subject. You should be confident enough to perform in front of the class. You should have excellent attendance as the BTEC is continually assessed and some of the work is in groups and it is difficult if students are missing. You should enjoy performing as you will probably be in at least 2 shows a year and you could represent the school in Battle of the Bands in Bristol. You should be able to meet deadlines and be happy to attend extra lunch and after school rehearsals as and when required.

What do current students say about the course?

'I love the fact it is so practical. We do loads of performing'

'I wasn't very confident at the start but now I really enjoy the shows and I love performing'.

'It's great to work in groups and I have learnt loads from the others in the class'.

'If you love Music, it's a great course'.

Physical Education

Qualification: BTEC Sport

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Component 1- Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2- Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Component 3- Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Examination:

You will sit your exam in year 11 after you have completed 2 blocks of coursework. This exam will include some elements of components 1 & 2 but will also include content around components of fitness and how to develop a training programme effectively.

Coursework:

The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments. These assignments will be set in windows throughout the year with strict deadlines. Your marks will all be collated from the 3 components to give you your final grade.

Am I suited to BTEC Sport?

If you enjoy PE and fitness in general BTEC Sport. 60% of your overall grade is coursework based so therefore you can set yourself up to be really successful before you sit your exam in year 11. You get to study one individual and one team sport in real depth. If you like the idea of working studying about sports such as football, netball or rugby for an extended period of time you will love BTEC Sport. If you enjoy the fitness suite you will also love the course. The health benefits you gain by choosing this option are a further reason why it's suited to you.

What do current students say about this course?

'It gives me a good knowledge of sports and how to look after myself. Very enjoyable course'

'I think it's really good fun because you learn lots. It will help me get a job in sport when I leave school'

Physical Education

Qualification: Sport Science

Examination board: OCR

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

- Nutrition
- Sports Injury
- Principles of training
- The body's response to exercise.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Examination: The fitness for sport and exercise unit is assessed externally; you will have to complete a 1 hour exam of which you can have 2 attempts at set times.

Coursework: The other units are all assessed by your teacher where you will be set assignments. Each assignment will have an assessment criterion which you must fulfil to pass. The assignments will vary in what they ask you to do. They may include practical tasks, PowerPoint presentations, making videos, or simply written tasks. We try and make the course and the assessments as practical as possible however the criteria does require some written assignments.

Am I suited to Sport Science?

This qualification is for students who would like the opportunity to study a 5th option.

It is for students already studying BTEC sport who have good writing skills and a passion for sport.

What do current students say about this course?

“Sport science helps me understand my body and how to look after it to allow me to perform at a high level in my chosen sport”.

“Sport science further develops my knowledge from BTEC sport. Helping me understand about wider topics such as nutrition”

Religious Studies

Qualification: GCSE Religious Studies

Examination board: Eduqas

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

You will study the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. You will also study the four philosophical themes (below) from the perspective of Christianity and Islam

- Life and Death – environmental responsibility, euthanasia, evolution, abortion, quality of life, sanctity of life, soul
- Good and Evil - good/evil, forgiveness, free will, justice, morality, pacifism, conscience, suffering
- Relationships – adultery, divorce, cohabitation, commitment, contraception, gender equality, responsibilities, roles
- Issues of Human Rights – censorship, discrimination, extremism, human rights, personal conviction, prejudice, relative and absolute poverty, social justice

GCSE Religious Studies offers students the opportunity for the study of religious responses to fundamental questions of life. This specification is suitable for candidates of any religious persuasion or none. There is no necessity for prior learning to undertake study of this specification.

Students learn the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam. They then apply their knowledge to understand and explain the actions of believers in the 21st century.

Philosophy of Religion provides the opportunity for study of fundamental philosophical themes, including human experiences of evil and suffering and life after death. It will help you to acquire the ability to think logically, to analyse issues and to express ideas clearly. Applied Ethics allows the exploration of the significance and impact of religious teachings and attitudes when approaching issues such as medical ethics, human relationships and social injustice. Students will apply their understanding of key religious beliefs to explain a wide range of views.

You will have had your first experience of this subject in lessons this year so if you enjoy your lessons, you will enjoy the GCSE.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Examination: 100%. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

- Component 1 Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Studies (2 hours) 50%
- Component 2: Study of Christianity (1 hour) 25%
- Component 2: Study of Islam (1 hour) 25%

Am I suited to Religious Studies?

This subject will suit you if:

- You are willing to explore the views of others as well as examining your own opinions.
- You enjoy expressing your opinions verbally and in essays.
- You enjoy working and interacting with others.
- The course is suitable for both religious and non-religious students.

Statistics

Qualification: GCSE Statistics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 Years



What are the main topics that I will study for this qualification?

- Types of data.
- Processing, representing, analysing and summarising data.
- Scatter diagrams.
- Time series & moving averages.
- Probability & probability distributions.
- Index numbers.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

- 100% Assessment

You will sit 2 exam papers.

Both exam papers last for 90 minutes and are marked out of 80.

You are permitted to use a calculator for both exam papers.

The marks will be awarded based on 3 criteria:

- Knowledge and understanding of statistical techniques (55%)
- Interpret statistical information in context and draw conclusions (25%)
- Assess the appropriateness of statistical methods and the conclusions drawn through the application of the statistical enquiry cycle (20%)

Am I suited to Statistics GCSE?

You should be interested in maths in the real world, how it is collected, analysed and evaluated to help decision making.

As part of the course, you will use real life data sets and authentic contexts that will help broaden your understanding of how data can be used in the real world. This course will help you develop transferable skills in critical thinking, communication, problem solving and reasoning.

A little over half the marks in the paper are for your ability to perform calculations, and there is some crossover content that will support your work in your GCSE Maths course. However, you should be mindful that almost half the paper will be based on your written interpretation of the results that you have found.

For students wishing to study maths beyond GCSE this course will provide you with statistical techniques and applications that you will meet again in later studies.

What students say?

“Choosing stats has really helped with my Maths”

“Harder than I thought. I can read a pie chart now”

“More worded questions and answers than I expected. Lots of cross over with normal Maths”

“Helped with my maths, very wordy and lots of homework”

“You frequently see the crossover with GCSE maths. It’s really helped with GCSE Maths papers”