

The Quest Academy

Year 9



GCSE Options

Booklet

2023

GCSE Options Process 2023

This booklet is designed to help you through the exciting process that is choosing your GCSE options for the subjects you will be studying next year. In this booklet you will find information collated together by your subject teachers so that you will get brief overview of each subject you could be studying and how it will be assessed.

Next year, you are going to be following an English Baccalaureate (EBacc) pathway which means you will be studying the following subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Double Award Science
- Religious Studies
- Core Physical Education (Non-Examined)
- A Modern Foreign Language (the same one as you studied in KS3)
- History **or** Geography
- 2 GCSE **or** BTEC Option Subject (with the opportunity to study Triple Science or Computer Science)

*Please note, if you choose Geography as your English Baccalaureate subject, you can still choose History as your GCSE Option subject and vice versa.

The subjects are colour-coded. Those with the titles surrounded by yellow are the compulsory subjects, those surrounded by silver are the English Baccalaureate subjects (History, Geography and Languages) and those surrounded by turquoise are the ones from which you can choose your additional subject.

When making your decision, ensure you make **two reserve preference** for your free choices, just in case we are unable to offer that combination.

At the back of this booklet are some notes pages for any questions or thoughts you need to ask your teachers, as well as a pros and cons template which will allow you to weigh up the arguments for and against studying a subject if you are stuck for choice!

Remember, you will be studying these subjects for the next two years, so take the time to think about what subjects you like doing, as well as, what you are good at and where it will lead you: so that you put yourself in the best position going forward! If you have any further questions, please make sure you go and ask your teachers.

Below is a timeline for the Options process:

Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th February	Students complete a Google Form in tutor time to provide their current interests in subjects
Monday 20th- Wednesday 22nd February	Year 9 exams in Maths, English, Science and MFL
Tuesday 14th March	Year 9 Options Fair (15.20-16.20)
Wednesday 22nd March	Parents Evening (virtual)
Tuesday 28th March	Year 9 Options Appointments Evening with SLT

GCSE Options:

Below is a summary of the Options which are available

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects EBacc	Other options
All students to study (unless choosing Triple Science as an option they will do this instead of Combined Science)	Choose one Humanities subject and one language Either Geography or History and either French or Spanish (Unless you wish to do both Geography and History- one of the options will be taken from your 'other options')	Choose two

Compulsory core subjects:

- English Literature and Language
- Mathematics
- Science (most students will study combined Science, some students will choose Triple Science as an option)
- Religious Studies

Optional subjects- EBacc (either Geography or History and either French or Spanish):

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish

Other options (choose two from below)

- Art
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National Creative iMedia
- Music
- GCSE PE
- Product Design
- Sociology
- CNAT Sport Studies (formerly BTEC Sport)
- Triple Science
- GCSE Computer Science

Key Stage 4 Core

subjects



English Literature and English Language



Exam board:

AQA English Literature 8702

AQA English Language 8700



Introduction:

The skills you develop in both English Literature and English Language equip you for all other subjects and beyond. Not only will you develop a wider range of vocabulary and examine some of the greatest pieces of literature ever written, but you will also hone skills of logical and critical thinking skills that will help formulate coherent arguments in your work.



How will I be assessed?

The courses are 100% exam based; there is no coursework.

The papers are as follows:

English Literature

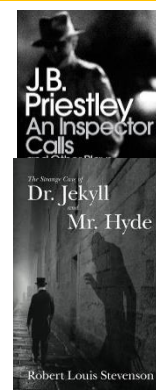
Paper 1 – Romeo and Juliet & The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Paper 2 – An Inspector Calls, Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict), Unseen Poetry

English Language

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives



What will I be learning?

Year 10 - This year sees students beginning to study texts that they will be examined on in Year 11. The Literature curriculum at GCSE requires students to consider the significance of Shakespeare and a pre-19th century novel as well as exploring poetry across time. Alongside this, students' English Language skills are developed to ensure they analyse the writers' use of language effectively whilst also being able to voice coherent, developed personal responses to texts. By the end of this year, students will also have completed the Speaking and Listening component of the course. This is a module where they will be asked to write and perform a two-minute speech about a topic of their choosing, and these topics can range from social media to mental health or the importance of sports.



Year 11 - Students continue to enhance their skills of analysis this year, firstly through the study of the final text in the GCSE Literature scheme, J.B. Priestley's masterpiece An Inspector Calls. They are given opportunities weekly attempt exam style questions and to familiarise themselves with skills and techniques needed for both the Literature and Language papers. Students will be encouraged to develop their own sophisticated reading of texts, informed by wider critical reading; the aim being to prepare students for A Level.

Why should I study English? What can I do with it after GCSE?

English enables you to enhance your skills and apply them to a wide variety of subjects: Humanities, Sciences and Creative Arts. Students are expected to achieve at least a Grade '4' in either GCSE. If they do not achieve this, they will re-sit it the following year at the college or sixth form of their choice.

How can I best prepare myself?

Students are advised to read as widely and frequently as possible with a minimum of 25 minutes reading per day. A reading list appropriate to supplement the core texts can be found on the school website.

Mathematics

Exam board:

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics

Introduction:

GCSE Mathematics will continue to build on the skills you have learnt in Key Stage 3, in order to prepare you to solve more complex problems.

How will I be assessed?

The course is solely assessed through external examinations consisting of three papers sat at the end of Year 11: Paper 1 is non-calculator and Papers 2 and 3 require a scientific calculator.

You will either be entered into the Higher tier or the Foundation tier, depending on your current Maths set and your Working At Grade (based on mock exams). The Foundation paper enables you to get up to a Grade 5 (a strong pass) and the Higher paper enables you to get up to a Grade 9 (the highest grade achievable at GCSE).

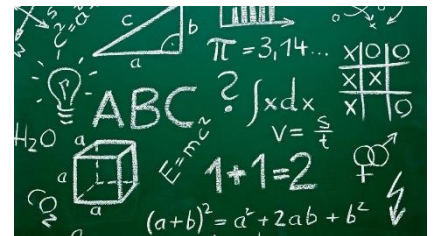
What will I be learning?

GCSE Mathematics is broken down into the following five strands: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, and Probability and Statistics. Both within and across the strands, you learn to use and apply standard techniques (Assessment Objective 1 or AO1), reason, interpret and communicate mathematically (AO2) and solve problems within Mathematics and other contexts (AO3).

What can I do with it after GCSE?

A Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics is a requirement for admission into colleges, sixth forms, universities and even most jobs. This is because Mathematics does not just teach you to deal with numbers or abstract theories: it trains your brain to solve problems logically. So regardless of the path you choose, it will help you out in the future.

If you get a Grade 7, you can study Mathematics A-Level, which is a requirement for Engineering, Computing, Medicine, Economics and even Law.



How can I best prepare myself?

Mathematics is an application of both skills and knowledge, therefore it is best to practise it. You should always do your homework and classwork to the best of your ability, followed by additional exam-style questions in your own time.

The exams will also require you to be proficient in the use of a calculator, therefore we recommend you purchase the CASIO fx-85GT+ early on (it can be bought from ParentPay at the discounted price of £6.50). You should also invest in your own mathematical equipment (especially a ruler and protractor) as this will support your work in Geometry. Finally, a revision book can also be purchased from ParentPay – this contains explanations and practice questions.

The more you practise your Maths, the better your grade will be and the more options you will have later on in life.

Combined Science

Exam board:

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

Introduction:

Many careers require GCSE Science and so studying Combined Science puts you in a great position to pursue these careers. You will gain a variety of skills that can be applied to many areas of work such as analysing and problem-solving. Science is a compulsory subject in school. Those who do not opt for Triple Science will study Combined Science. You can study Science at A-level with Combined Science, but, if you know you definitely want to study Science at A-level you should opt for Triple Science as it gives you a broader understanding.

How will I be assessed?

Six exam papers altogether: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics.

All of the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes for both Foundation and Higher tiers. Each paper has 70 marks and the papers are equally weighted. Exams will contain a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions. **All examinations will be sat in May/June of Year 11.** There is no coursework or controlled assessment. However, students will need to complete a number of required practical activities throughout the course, and details of these will be assessed in exams.

What will I be learning?

GCSE Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and Response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

GCSE Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
2. Bonding, structure and properties of matter
3. Quantitative Chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. Rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic Chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

GCSE Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

Why should I study Combined Science? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Whichever career path you decide is best for you, studying Science will provide opportunities by giving you an excellent foundation. Science provides you with the skills needed for all sorts of careers such as law, accountancy or business. Additionally, the skills you gain from studying Science will open up opportunities in areas that are not obviously Science related. There really are no limits to the type of jobs studying Science could lead to. You could get a well-paid and respected job in thousands of professions.

- Interested in people and how the mind works? You could become a Clinical Psychologist.
- Do you live for football? Then Sports Science could be the job for you.
- Like the idea of designing and building structures? Perhaps you are an Engineer?
- If you want to be involved in combating diseases and treating people who are ill, how about a career in medicine?
- Dentistry is a great choice if you want to put a smile on people's faces.

Other examples include careers and jobs in Finance, Teaching, Marketing, Photography, Art restoration, Media and Film Production, Food Technology, Architecture, Plumbing, Perfumery, Textile design, Fashion & Footwear Design.

How can I best prepare myself?

Ensure your knowledge of topics like cells, forces, electricity, magnetism, ecosystems and atoms is very secure. Buy a calculator as part of your standard equipment and a revision guide.

Religious Studies

Exam board:

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route A

Introduction:

Nearly 85% of the world's population have some sort of religious belief. Religious ideas and questions shape everyday life for billions of people. Whether we are religious or not, we are bound to come across religious belief in life. It has a huge effect on the decisions that people and governments make. This means that understanding religion helps us to understand the world around us.

Having a mature understanding of religion and belief is a powerful asset in our multi-cultural and multi-religious society. By the end of your GCSE course, you will have studied the key beliefs of more than 3.8 billion people and will be able to explain how these beliefs shape their actions in the world today.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through 3 exams which take place in the summer of year 11:

- Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World (50%)
- Study of Christianity (25%)
- Study of Islam (25%)

What will I be learning?

You will study the two largest world-religions (Christianity and Islam) in detail. You will be able to describe the key teachings and practices of both religions, as well as the wide diversity that exists within them.

You will explore how religious and non-religious beliefs are applied to the following themes:

1. Issues of Relationships
 - Marriage and the Family
 - Sexual Relationships
 - Gender Equality, Prejudice and Discrimination
2. Issues of Life and Death
 - The Origin and Value of Human Life
 - Sanctity of Life and Quality of Life (including attitudes to Abortion and Euthanasia)
 - Beliefs about Death and the Afterlife
3. Issues of Good and Evil
 - Approaches to Crime and Punishment
 - Forgiveness
 - Good, Evil and Suffering
4. Issues of Human Rights
 - Human Rights and Social Justice
 - Prejudice and Discrimination
 - Wealth and Poverty.



Why should I study Religious Studies? What can I do with it after GCSE?

This GCSE course will develop your ability to understand and evaluate ideas. These are very important skills which can be transferred to almost any other area. Success in GCSE Religious Studies will show employers that you can study complex ideas, analyse them and present your ideas effectively.

This GCSE also provides a good foundation for going on to study Religious Studies at A Level.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

The GCSE course builds on what you have learned in Religious Studies in Years 7, 8 & 9

Key Stage 4 EBacc
subject choice

(Choose one Humanities
subject and one
language)

Geography

Exam board:

AQA GCSE Geography

Introduction:

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future”, Michael Palin.

Studying Geography is a fantastic way to understand the geography of the past and how it has played an important role in the evolution of people, places and the environment. Not only will you discover the processes which have created certain landforms, you will gain the knowledge and insight into the basic systems that affect everyday life.

Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the Earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one to another and how people interact with the environment

Geography is all around us and studying GCSE Geography will certainly bring these ideas to life! You will also develop your skills of how to discuss and debate large scale problems (e.g. global warming, poverty, pollution, water shortages and natural hazards). You will discover the world we live in, see and understand changing landscapes!

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 exams at the end of year 11:

Unit 1- Living with the Physical Environment (35%)

Unit 2- Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)

Unit 3- Geographical Applications (30%)

What will I be learning?

Over the course of 3 years, there are a number of topics covered.

Physical Geography: Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards (including tropical storms and extreme weather), Climate Change (past and present), Ecosystems, Cold Environments, Coastal Landscapes and Glaciers

Human Geography: The global pattern of urban change, Urban growth in Nigeria, Urban Challenges in the UK, Sustainable development of urban areas, Economic development and quality of life, Reducing the global development gap, Economic development in Nigeria, Economic change in the UK, Global resource management, Resources in the UK and Food



Throughout the course, you are taught **geographical skills** which are assessed in all exams. You will also have the opportunity to go on a fieldtrip as part of the course to look at coastal management.

Why should I study Geography? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Weather and Climate-forecasting, monitoring, modelling, observing

Population and Settlement- planning, designing, land use, power

Natural hazards- predicting and prevention

Rivers and Coasts- Management, landforms, protection

Teaching, geology, engineering, armed services, nature conservation and tourism and many more!

History

Exam board:

Edexcel GCSE History

Introduction:

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”
— George Orwell

History at GCSE is an exciting opportunity to expand your learning. It is an interesting and wide-ranging course that enables you to investigate major changes and events of the twentieth century, and see how life has changed since c.1000. It builds on the skills you have been developing at KS3: interpretation, evidence, causation, change, and significance. It allows you to explore and discover new topics that you have not studied before while developing the broad overview of the political and social History you have studied in Years 7 and 8, whilst developing your knowledge from Year 9. By the end of the course you will be able to communicate effectively in written form and be able to show an understanding of different perspectives.

How will I be assessed?

History is assessed through three examined papers, all sat in the summer of Year 11:

Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain c1000 to present **with** Whitechapel, c1870-1900: crime, policing and the inner city. (30%)*

Paper 2: Period Study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.

British Depth Study: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88. (40%)

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 (25%)*

*5% of marks are awarded for good spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

You will be assessed on your explanation writing, your source skills and your understanding of historians' interpretations.

What will I be learning?

Paper 1: The nature and changing definitions of criminal activity and the nature of law enforcement and punishment. Whitechapel – community, policing and Jack the Ripper.

Paper 2: Cold War: The origins of the Cold War, the crises of the 1950s-70s and how the Cold War ended.

Elizabeth: Plots and revolts against Elizabeth; relations with Spain; exploration and discovery.

Paper 3: The Weimar Republic; Hitler's rise to power; Nazi control; life in Nazi Germany.

Why should I study History? What can I do with it after GCSE?



Skills

- Analysis
- Research
- Essay writing
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Arguing

History is a widely recognised subject for its diversity. Colleges and employers regard History highly for the skills that you develop. Through continuous analysis of source material you will develop the ability to 'read between the lines' and express your own opinions. History enables you to understand how the world

around us has developed and teaches us to learn valuable lessons from the past. By the end of the course you will be able to explain how events happened and the complex reasons why.

The study of History gives you many options. You could continue to study History at A Level. Beyond, History students go on to further study not only History at University, but also Politics, Law, International Relations and Education as examples. It is a facilitating subject that is universally valued, whether you choose a Science/Maths route or a creative/arts route. Employers also look favourably at History students as the skills you develop can easily be transferred to the workplace.



Careers

- Law
- Politics
- Public sector
- Business
- Marketing
- Economics
- Teaching
- Academia
- Insurance
- Archaeology

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

Due to the source material, it would be beneficial to have good literacy skills, or a willingness to develop your vocabulary. An inquisitive mind with a hard-working attitude would also be valuable.

AQA GCSE French

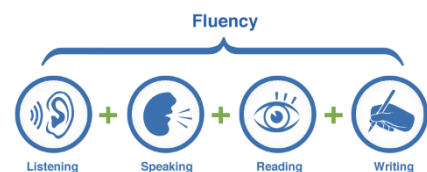
GCSE French has always been an excellent and exciting opportunity to consolidate and build upon the learning you have been doing in years 7-9. It is an interesting course, covering a range of enjoyable and interesting topics and themes.

The new GCSE has an increased focus on practical skills and so we will be teaching you how to have real life conversations and do translations, both of which are useful skills which will benefit you in the future.


By the end of the GCSE, we want you to be confident in speaking French in a variety of situations, so that the world is your oyster!

The qualification is assessed through 4 exams which happen in the summer of year 11:

- Speaking (25% - sat in May)
- Reading & Translation (25%)
- Listening (25%)
- Writing & Translation (25%)



You will be studying and learning new vocabulary based on the following themes:

1. Identity and culture
 - Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries / communities.
 - Technology in everyday life
 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
 - Social issues
 - Global issues
 3. Current and future study and employment.
 - Education post-16
 - Jobs, career choices and ambitions
- 



You will be assessed in each of the four skills in all of these themes. We will also be looking at literature and translation so that you have real-world experience that can be taken beyond GCSE!

French is one of the most spoken languages in the world and remains one of the official languages of the United Nations. Studying French at GCSE shows you have the communication skills that employers and universities want from prospective candidates; some of the top universities even have a languages GCSE as an entry requirement!

The beauty about studying French at GCSE is that it complements any career path you may wish to follow. The UK has an increasing need for people who speak more than one language, particularly given that we are leaving the EU. Having a languages GCSE means you can do any job and be more unique in your field as less and less people speak another language to a high level. Speaking another language can increase your earnings from 8-20%.

Some career options open to you include:

- Doctor
- Journalist
- Translator / Interpreter
- PR
- And many more!



You need to have studied French in years 7-9 or be a native speaker to be able to do this GCSE.



Spanish



Exam board:

AQA GCSE Spanish

Introduction:

GCSE Spanish has always been an excellent and exciting opportunity to consolidate and build upon the learning you have been doing in years 7-9. It is an interesting course, covering a range of enjoyable and interesting topics and themes.

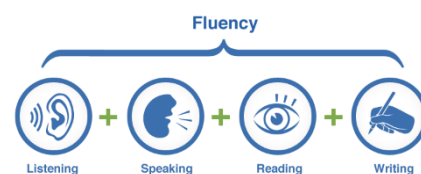
The new GCSE has an increased focus on practical skills and so we will be teaching you how to have real life conversations and do translations, both of which are useful skills which will benefit you in the future.

By the end of the GCSE, we want you to be confident in speaking Spanish in a variety of situations, so that the world is your oyster!

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is assessed through 4 exams which happen in the summer of year 11:

- Speaking (25% - sat in May)
- Reading & Translation (25%)
- Listening (25%)
- Writing & Translation (25%)



What will I be learning?

You will be studying and learning new vocabulary based on the following themes:

4. Identity and culture
 - Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries / communities.
 - Technology in everyday life
5. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
 - Social issues
 - Global issues
6. Current and future study and employment.
 - Education post-16
 - Jobs, career choices and ambitions



You will be assessed in each of the four skills in all of these themes. We will also be looking at literature and translation so that you have real-world experience that can be taken beyond GCSE!

Why should I study Spanish? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world and remains one of the official languages of the United Nations and its use is increasing year by year in the USA! Studying Spanish at GCSE shows you have the communication skills that employers and universities want from prospective candidates; some of the top universities even have a languages GCSE as an entry requirement!

The beauty about studying Spanish at GCSE is that it complements any career path you may wish to follow. The UK has an increasing need for people who speak more than one language, particularly given that we are leaving the EU. Having a languages GCSE means you can do any job and be more unique in your field as less and less people speak another language to a high level. Speaking another language can increase your earnings from 8-20%.

Some career options open to you include:

- Doctor
- Journalist
- Translator / Interpreter
- And many more!



Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to have studied Spanish in years 7-9 or be a native speaker to be able to do this GCSE.

Key Stage 4 Free **Option Choice**

(Choose two
subjects from
these pages)

Art

Exam board:

Edexcel GCSE Art, Craft and Design: Fine Art

Introduction:



GCSE Art is an exciting step towards working in any creative industry. You will build your imaginative and creative skills and develop your practice within a broad spectrum of themes and media. You will have the



opportunity to take part in skills-based workshops, trips to galleries and exhibitions and working with visiting artists. You will improve your technical skills which will enable you to develop a personal style. This course will also help you build confidence through artistic expression.



How will I be assessed?

The qualification is assessed through two key units:

- Component 1 – Personal portfolio. This is a coursework unit worth 60% of the qualification.
- Component 2 – Externally set assignment. This is an exam unit worth 40% of the qualification.

What will I be learning?

Each unit on the course will enable you to develop your creative thinking and enhance your technical skills. You will do this through:

- experimenting with a range of techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and mixed media, sculpture and photography
- exploring a range of artistic styles and movements
- studying artists, designers and craftspeople from a range of backgrounds, eras and cultures
- learning how to develop ideas and build a portfolio of work through sketchbooks and design sheets
- developing and applying key vocabulary through a programme of critical and contextual studies.



Why should I study Art? What can I do with it after GCSE?

This qualification will help develop your ability to think and work creatively which are desirable skills for any career choice.

This qualification can lead to further study and eventually careers in areas such as: fine art, professional photography, textile design, fashion design, special effects, stage design, animation, architecture, graphic design, interior design, surface design, illustration, jewellery design, product design, marketing and advertising, art directing, theatre/film/TV make-up, furniture design, exhibition design, community art and art therapy.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You will be expected to collect primary research outside of school. Having access to a camera is an advantage.

Business Studies

Exam board:

Edexcel Business Studies GCSE

Introduction:

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate the theory behind business concepts as well as equipping you with the skills required to be successful in any business in the future. The course is engaging and inspiring, and reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving business environment – enabling you to develop as a commercially minded and enterprising individual and helping you to succeed in your chosen pathway.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is made up of two components.

It is assessed through two written paper exams, each weighted at 50%.

What will I be learning?

Theme 1 – Investigating small businesses

This topic looks at:

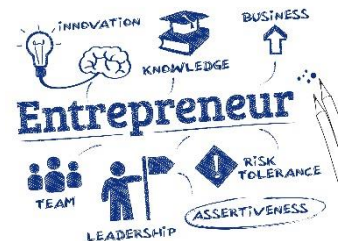
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business.



Theme 2 – Building a Business

This topic explores:

- The concepts of marketing
- Meeting customer needs
- Effective financial management
- Effective people management
- The wider world affecting business.



Why should I study Business Studies? What can I do with it after GCSE?

The specification is designed to encourage candidates to consider the practical application of business and economic concepts. GCSE Business Studies provides progression for those wishing to continue their studies to A-Level Business, Economics or Diplomas in Applied Business or Administration and Finance.

This exciting and valuable qualification will help you to understand how businesses operate and what you need to do to become more employable or indeed to set up your own business. The course is up-to-date and relevant, reflecting the blend of business knowledge, practical skills, communication and team-working skills needed by anyone who is thinking about a career in any business-related job.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to be able to write in English with ease, show a good understanding of Maths and have an interest in business news and current affairs to be able to do this GCSE.



Exam board:

Citizenship



AQA GCSE Citizenship

Introduction:

You will gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law. You'll learn how to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present your viewpoints and those of others, and plan practical citizenship action that delivers benefits for our society.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification will be assessed by 2 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

What will I be learning?

There is a wide range of skills that you will be learning such as presentation and communication skills. You will also be able to go out and advocate for social issues within the local area.

There are four themes within GCSE Citizenship:

1. Life in Modern Britain
 - Identity
 - British values
 - Media
2. Rights and Responsibilities
 - Laws
 - The Criminal Justice System
 - Human Rights
3. Politics and Participation
 - Governments
 - Voting
 - Political power
4. Active Citizenship
 - Advocating for a social issue



Why should I study French? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Citizenship can take you into a variety of different jobs and fields such as:

- Law
- Journalism
- Media
- Teaching
- And many more!



Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to have a good level in English and be open to sharing your opinions.

GCSE Computer Science

Exam board:

OCR GCSE Computer Science 9-1

Introduction:

This exciting GCSE gives you the knowledge & skill in how computers operate and how we use computers to perform everyday tasks. The course develops a deep understanding of the principles, concepts, analysis, problem solving, creativity & logical aspects of computing. The skills developed through the course provide an excellent foundation for any student, aspiring to have a career in the Computer Science field, undertake higher level study or any chosen pathway, as well as equipping you with very direct and transferable links into the everyday world.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is made up of two components and a third practical programming component. It is assessed through two written paper exams, each weighted at 50%.

What will I be learning?

Component 1 - Computer Systems

This topic looks at:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns



Component 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming

This topic explores:

- Algorithms *
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation



Why should I study Computer Science What can I do with it after GCSE?

The specification is designed to encourage candidates to understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems, understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society. It is also designed to develop valuable thinking and programming skills, that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace and a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it through a chosen programming language.

This exciting and valuable qualification will help you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically, towards analysing computational problems to solve, as well as understand the fundamental principles, of how we use computers.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to be able to write in English with ease, show a very good understanding of Maths, have and be able to think critically, and ideally will have some prior knowledge of coding.

Drama

Exam board:

Edexcel

Introduction:

Choosing to pursue GCSE Drama is a truly exciting opportunity for any person that builds the foundations to be able to work in any Industry or Sector. Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to explore how theatre can be used as a tool for societal change by building on the skills and techniques that you have established throughout Key Stage 3 as well as introducing you to the works and theories of key Theatre Practitioners. Whilst doing this you will continue to develop your key skills of collaboration, problem solving and confidence to name but a few.

Throughout the course there is the opportunity to explore different opinions and beliefs that will challenge you academically. This will be achieved within lesson time and outside of the classroom on a range of trips to the theatre and with working industry professionals.



Remember, the course isn't just for those who have an interest in Performance but also the Design Elements of Lighting, Hair & Make-up, Costume, Set and Sound Design.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1 – Completed in the July of Year 10 – Develop, Refine and Create your own play and write about it. (40%)
- Component 2 – Completed in the January of Year 11 – Perform from a script (20%)
- Component 3 – Completed in the May of Year 11 – Write about a play in depth and analyse and evaluate a live piece of theatre (40%)

What will I be learning?

At the start of Year 10, we begin by introducing you to advanced performance techniques as well as the role of a designer, should you choose that path. This will run as a mock assessment for Component 1 so that you get familiar with the skills and requirements.

We will then proceed onto learning how to approach a text from the viewpoint of a performer and a director and how to break it down into units and actions and how to build a directorial vision and intention for the extract that you are given. This will prepare you for success in both your Scripted Performance and your written exam.



Following this, you will start the gradual development of dissecting a whole play and understand a writer's intention whilst being able to link this back to Historical, Social, Political and Cultural Context

Why should I study Drama? What can I do with it after GCSE?

There are a lot of students studying it already and there is a proven track record of success with Drama Alumni going on to study a wide range of topics and gaining places in prestigious Drama Schools and Universities throughout the country.

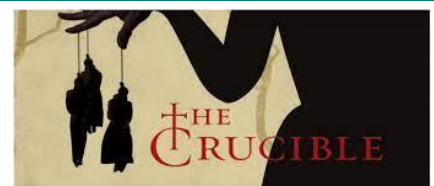
Potential jobs – Performer, Stage Technician, Arts Administrator, Drama Teacher, Drama Therapist, Lawyer, TV Production Assistant, Radio Presenter, Director, Youth Worker, Personnel Manager, Social Worker, Journalist, Marketing Administrator and Charities Administrator.

It is now even preferred from Russell Group Universities that students have studied a subject similar to Drama for the skills that it provides.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to impress in Drama in Year 9. Also some important things to do:

- Go on BBC Bitesize Drama
- Go to watch live theatre
- Pay an interest in what the older year groups are doing.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam board:

EDUQAS

Introduction:

This GCSE brings together the skills you have learnt in year 7 & 8 Food lessons. It also links in with the science lessons that you will be taking at GCSE level. The course will help you develop the cooking skills needed for everyday life as well as the ability to learn how the science behind food works.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 Non-Exam Assessments (NEAs) in year 11 worth 50% of your final grade:

- NEA 1: The Food Investigation
 - A scientific food investigation which will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. This coursework has a time limit of 8 hours.
- NEA 2: The Food Preparation Assessment
 - Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. This coursework has a time limit of 12 hours.

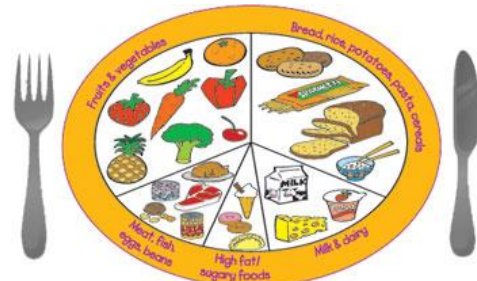
Then, at the end of year 11, in the summer exam period, you will have a written examination that lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your final grade. The exam is based on the Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition.

What will I be learning?

You will have some theory lessons covering a wide range of topics which include:

- Different food groups
- Nutrition and how it differs for different groups of people
- The science of how food cooks
- How you can adapt dishes when cooking them
- Different cultures and cuisines.

There will of course be practical lessons which will allow you to develop more complex cooking skills and practise your food presentation skills.



You will have practice NEA-style assessments throughout year 9 and 10 so that you are well prepared for these when you enter year 11.

Other information you should know:

- You need to be prepared that you will be cooking dishes that you may not particularly like
- There will also be tasting sessions throughout the GCSE, which you need to be prepared to take part in
- You need to be prepared that the course has a lot of theory based work (often relating to Science) and will not always be cooking.

Why should I study Food, Preparation and Nutrition? What can I do with it after GCSE?

After completing this GCSE, you will be able to continue with it at college on a wide range of cookery courses which could lead to hospitality and catering careers.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

- A good understanding of Science
- Basic cooking skills
- Being prepared to provide ingredients for the practical sessions as in years 9 and 10 you will be expected to provide the majority of the ingredients for these sessions.

Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Exam board: OCR

OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Introduction:


This BTEC has been developed to inspire and encourage you to consider a career in creative iMedia or to pursue further studies of media industry and production. It presents knowledge, skills and understanding in a meaningful, work-related context, allowing you to explore media concepts and their application.

How will I be assessed?

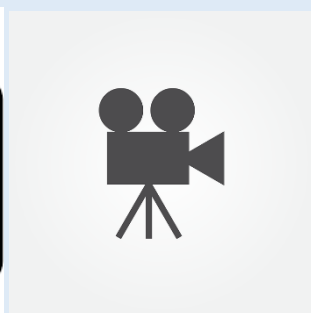
The course consists of one examination unit and two coursework units:

- R093 – Creative iMedia in the media industry (externally set)
- R094 – Visual identity and digital graphics
- R098 – Visual imaging

What will I be learning?

Unit	Learning
R093 – Creative iMedia in the media industry (Externally set exam)	<p>You will be undertaking a practical, creative project which will be externally assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media industry sectors and products• How style, content and layout are linked to the purpose• Client requirements and how they are defined• Audience demographics and segmentation• Research methods, sources and types of data• Media codes used to convey meaning, create impact and/or engage audiences• Pre-production planning• The legal issues that affect media.
R094 – Visual identity and digital graphics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose, elements and design of visual identity.• Techniques to plan visual identity and digital graphics• Properties of digital graphics and use of assets• Techniques to plan visual identity and digital graphics• Tools and techniques of imaging editing software used to create digital graphics• Technical skills to source, create and prepare assets for use within digital graphics• Techniques to save and export visual identity and digital graphics.

R098 –Visual imaging



- Features and conventions of photographic images and videos
- Content used in visual imaging portfolios
- Equipment for capturing images and video
- Pre-production and planning documentation and techniques for photoshoots and video recordings
- Production, portfolio management and post-production techniques.

Why should I study Creative iMedia? What can I do with it after GCSE?

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia can be seen as a useful qualification, not just because you may wish to consider a career in the media industry but because the course is practical and allows you to develop relevant vocational skills.

Media sectors work closely together, and employees should be able to develop products across sectors and platforms. In order to do this, you must learn how the industry works through case studies, practical projects which allow a cross-sector approach. For example, a professional film will usually be accompanied by a website, TV advert or magazine article promoting it.

You will also learn how professional media producers measure the response to their products and how they make any changes to meet audience needs. The course presents knowledge, skills and understanding in a meaningful, work-related context, allowing you to explore media concepts and their application.

Future Careers – Social Media Marketing, Photography, Market Research, Public Relations, Publishing, Web Design, Radio Production, Content Creator.

How can I best prepare myself?

Students are advised to 'read' digital texts as widely as possible and to research the regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing and monitoring the digital industry.

Music

Exam board:

EDUQAS

Introduction:

Music encourages creativity, coordination, and teaches you to work individually and as part of a team. Music lessons are largely practical and focus on turning you into a musician, whilst you have fun.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE music is made up of three components:

- Performance 30%
- Composition 30%
- Understanding Music 40%

The performance and composition components are submitted as coursework, you will build up your portfolio through year 10 and 11 to ensure you submit the best music you are capable of. The 'Understanding Music' component is assessed through an examination at the end of year 11.

What will I be learning?

You will be learning about the history of music, how to read and write music, how to compose music for your own enjoyment as well as the enjoyment of others. You will develop your performing skills both as a soloist and a group member, and over the duration of the course you will play, to some extent, at least five instruments.

Some of the topics you will cover include Britpop, video game music, film and TV music, Reggae, The Beatles, Jazz, classical music, political music, World music, and much more.

Why should I study Music? What can I do with it after GCSE?

A GCSE in music can put you on the path for a lot of careers that you may not have realised. Some careers music can help you with are:

- Events manager
- Producer
- DJ
- Performer
- Composer
- Conductor
- Music Teacher
- Production assistant / or manager
- Music technician
- Radio presenter
- Music therapist



Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

It is necessary that you have some experience on at least one musical instrument (this could be singing) prior to starting the GCSE.

However, if you are capable of hard work, and focusing on a goal, you will be able to succeed in GCSE Music.

You must be willing to participate fully in group work.

GCSE PE

Exam board:

Edexcel

Introduction:

Students will receive a well-rounded introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science through the combination of physical performance and academic challenge. GCSE PE balances theory and practical and allows pupils to be assessed both inside and outside the classroom.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE (9–1) in Physical Education consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined components. Components 1 and 2 will be assessed in May/June in year 11. Components 3 and 4 may be assessed at any point during the course, with marks submitted prior to the moderation day.

Component 1 – Fitness and Body Systems

- 36%
- 90 marks
- 1 hour 30 minute written examination
- The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. Students must answer all questions.

Component 2 – Health and Performance

- 24%
- 60 marks
- 1 hour 15 minute written examination
- The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. Students must answer all questions.

Component 3 – Practical Performance Coursework

- 30%
- 105 marks (35 marks per sport)
- The assessment consists of students completing **three** physical activities from a set list. One must be a **team** activity. One must be an **individual** activity. The final activity can be a **free** choice.

Component 4 - Personal Exercise Program Coursework (Written/Presentation format)

- 10%
- 20 marks
- The assessment consists of students producing a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP), and will require students to analyse and evaluate their performance.



What will I be learning?

Topics that are covered through the examined content include: applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, health, fitness and wellbeing, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences. It is 70% theory and 30% practical. Pupils will learn to be healthy, active and independent learners.

Why should I study GCSE PE? What can I do with it after GCSE?

GCSE PE is not simply a pathway to sport. Whichever career you pursue, GCSE PE demonstrates your lifestyle, and your awareness of your body and mind. GCSE PE can be a stepping stone to most careers but especially ones that include leadership, science, sport and training. For example: teaching, coaching, sports science, fitness instructor, dietician or a health care professional.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

In order to take GCSE PE you should take part in sport regularly outside of school as well as in school.

Design and Technology

Exam board:

AQA

Introduction:

This GCSE is a great way to develop your creativity and practical skills. You get to explore different areas of Design Technology such as textiles, plastics and wood. You get to showcase off designing and practical skills. You will be covering a lot of scientific and mathematical elements that link with Technology so it is a good course for you if you are interested in those subjects.

How will I be assessed?

There are two parts to the GCSE:

- **COMPONENT 1 (June of Year 10) – NEA 50% of final grade (design and make task)**
 - In the June of year 10 students will begin their non-exam assessment (NEA). This is a task which involves designing and making a final product.
 - This involves about 35 hours of work.
- **COMPONENT 2 (Year 11 June Exams) = 2 hour written exam**
 - In Year 11 you sit a written exam which has two sections:
 - Section A: multiple choice of all design technology areas
 - Section B: focused on chosen area.



What will I be learning?

You will select the option to do Product Design and the focus of the course will be around that particular medium. You will improve your knowledge of the different types of materials, their uses and different construction skills. There will be several practical sessions. Given that the product element falls into part of the wider GCSE, you will develop your knowledge on all of the material areas that can fall within Design Technology, including some work on textiles.



You will be developing your drawing skills with designing and designing using CAD.

You will be learning about machinery, production methods and future developments in the world of technology.

Why should I study Design Technology? What can I do with it after GCSE?

You can move forward with the qualification to further study a Design Technology A Level which can then take you onto degree level to further develop into a career in designing.

Careers involving Product Design include:

- Graphic Designer
- Production designer for theatre, television or film
- Advertising
- Furniture designer
- Interior designer

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

A good understanding of Maths and the ability to draw.



Sociology



Exam board:

AQA GCSE Sociology

Introduction:

Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways. Students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues.

Sociology is not just about Britain. As well as trying to make sense of crime and poverty, it also deals with global issues like the environment, migration and 'globalization' itself. How do these social changes affect people at every level of life? Is it possible to be a true citizen of Europe or must you be British or French or Polish? Sociology is therefore exciting, interesting and **relevant** to students' lives.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification will be assessed by 2 exams at the end of Year 11

- **Paper 1** – 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
Families, Education, with Theory and Methods
- **Paper 2** – 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification, with Theory and Methods

What will I be learning?

You will be studying a range of **interesting topics** in Sociology.

- **Families:** divorce, changing family types and structures, globalisation and the family, (changing) roles within the family, gender relationships, criticisms of the family
- **Education:** inequalities within education (gender, ethnicity, class), institutional racism, processes within schools affecting educational achievement, policy, roles and functions of education
- **Methods:** research design, create your own study, interpretation, ethical and practical issues of research
- **Theory:** gender/sexuality/ethnicity/nationality as 'constructs', feral children, nature vs nurture, sociological theories (how do we **explain** society?)
- **Crime and Deviance:** racist policing, methods of social control, examining criminal data – who are the criminals? why do people commit crime (theories), gangs/delinquent subcultures
- **Social Stratification:** different views on class, factors affecting life chances, poverty as a social issue, different forms of power and authority, power and patriarchy (male power)



Why should I study Sociology? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Sociology asks the big questions and examines connections within society. We live in a world where big changes happen on a daily basis and by studying Sociology we can start to explore why some of these changes take place and what the implications are for the rest of our world.

By studying societal behaviour, we can make comparisons, attempt to solve issues and gain a rational understanding of some of society's more frustrating habits. This could also make you more employable, due to the fact that the UK employs a broad demographic in their work force, and therefore having a more comprehensive awareness of those cultures must be a good thing.

Sociology can take you into a variety of different jobs and fields such as:

Law, counselling, psychotherapy/psychoanalysis, teaching, journalism, management, social work, criminology/forensics, probation and policing, health care, politics, HR and many more!

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

You need to have a good level in English and be open to sharing your opinions.

Skills

- Analysis
- Research
- Essay writing
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Arguing

CNAT Sport Studies (formerly BTEC Sport)

Exam board:

OCR

Introduction:

The Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models & sports in the media. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

How will I be assessed?

CNATs are graded at U, Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Theoretical content is now worth 100% and assessed through coursework and an online examination. This is made up of 3 coursework units and 1 examined unit.

The 3 coursework units all have elements of practical participation including sports participation, fitness and leadership.

Unit no.	Unit title	Unit ref. no. (URN)	Guided learning hours (GLH)	How are they assessed?	Mandatory or optional
R184	Contemporary issues in sport	J/618/5942	48	E	M
R185	Performance and leadership in sports activities	L/618/5943	48	N	M
R186	Sport and the media	R/618/5944	24	N	O

What will I be learning?

Example assignments include:

Planning and leading a sports activity
Practical performance
Investigating the influence of the media on sport

These can be completed through:

Presentations
Written reports
Tables
Video evidence
Photos

Why should I study CNAT Sport Studies? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Just because you choose CNAT Sport Studies doesn't mean you will end up having a career in Sport, but you might become a...

- Professional Sports Athlete
- PE Teacher
- Commercial Diver
- Sports Commentator
- Events Manager
- Leisure Centre Manager
- Sports Scientist
- Outdoor Sports Instructor
- Fitness Instructor



Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at Level 2?

To do well in CNAT Sport Studies you should enjoy taking part in PE, have a passion to learn more about sports and fitness, take part in PE/sport regularly, prefer to learn in small chunks and perform better in coursework than in written exams.

Triple Science

Exam board:

AQA Biology (8461)
AQA Chemistry (8462)
AQA Physics (8463)

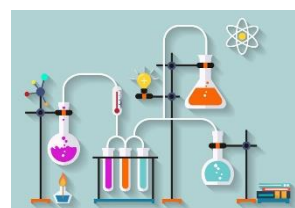
Introduction:

Triple Science allows you to gain three GCSEs in Science and you will study each discipline (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in more breadth than in the Combined Science GCSE. As a result, you will have more periods of Science a week to cover the additional content. If you enjoy and have a clear interest in science, want to go onto study Science at AS/A level and beyond, this option will suit you.

How will I be assessed?

Six exam papers altogether, two for each qualification: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics.

All of the papers are **1 hour 45 minutes**, the exams are longer than the combined science meaning there will be a greater range of topics assessed in the exams. There are Foundation and Higher tier papers. Each paper has 100 marks and the papers are equally weighted, so each is worth 50% of the qualification. Exams will contain a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions. **All examinations will be sat in May/June of Year 11.**



There is no coursework or controlled assessment. However, students will need to complete a number of required practical activities throughout the course, and details of these will be assessed in the exams.

What will I be learning?

GCSE Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and Response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

GCSE Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
2. Bonding, structure and properties of matter
3. Quantitative Chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. Rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic Chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

GCSE Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space

Why should I study Triple Science? What can I do with it after GCSE?

Triple Science is a very popular choice; students are encouraged to opt for it if they enjoy Science. It is important to note that students do not have to study Triple Science in order to be able to study Science at A Level.

However, Triple Science is a better preparation for studying A Level Biology, Physics or Chemistry than Combined Science because students are introduced to a wider range of concepts, which will be built on in A Level Science and the increased curriculum time means those concepts can be studied in greater detail. Students who study Triple Science perform better in A-level Sciences.

Are there any requirements for me to be able to do this at GCSE?

Science requires: Thinking skills, Mathematical skills, problem solving, IT skills, Literacy skills and an enquiring mind. You will also need to own a calculator along with standard equipment.

Notes pages

Pros and Cons

Use these pages to write the pros and cons of studying any subject of your choice. Remember to ask your teachers for more help if you need it.

Subject: _____

Pros:	Cons:

Subject: _____

Pros:	Cons:

Subject: _____

Pros:	Cons:

Subject: _____

Pros:	Cons:

Options selection

Example 1- Combined Science

The example below is if the student is doing Combined Science

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects- EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language	Geography	Art
Maths	French	Product Design
Combined Science		
Religious Studies		

Example 2- Geography or History as an optional subject and another option

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects- EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language	Geography	Drama
Maths	French	History
Combined Science		
Religious Studies		

Example 3- Triple Science

Remember- if you choose to do Triple Science, you will not be doing combined Science, but Triple Science will come from one of your 'Other Options' selection

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects- EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language	Geography	Triple Science
Maths	French	Drama
Religious Studies		

Personal options selection idea 1 (Combined Science route):

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects- EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language		
Maths		
Combined Science		
Religious Studies		

Personal options selection idea 2 (Triple Science route):

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects- EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language		Triple Science
Maths		
Religious Studies		

Personal options selection FINAL selection:

Compulsory core subjects	Optional subjects-EBacc	Other options
English Literature and Language		
Maths		
Religious Studies		