



Icknield Community College  
A Specialist College in the Humanities

# **KEY STAGE 4**

# **Guided Choices Booklet**

**2017 - 2019**

# COURSES 2017-2019

## **Key Stage 4 Curriculum Summary**

The next two years at Icknield Community College will be spent studying courses which will prepare you for your further education or training. It is important that you spend time looking at and discussing the information in this booklet.

This information booklet provides details of subjects which are both compulsory and optional. Optional subjects have a time allocation of 5 hours per fortnight.

## **Compulsory subjects**

These are the subjects that everyone has to study either because they are needed to get onto the next stage of your education, training or employment or because they give you skills that will help you as you move on from Icknield.

- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science **or** Separate-Science
- Core PE (not examined)
- GCSE Religious Education (Short **or** Full course)
- ICT Qualification (Specification to be confirmed)

## **Option subjects**

These subjects are not compulsory. You may pick up to 3 option subjects. Though the combinations you can pick will be limited by the timetable so you do have to pick carefully.

### **Arts**

GCSE Art, Craft & Design  
GCSE Drama  
GCSE Music

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

GCSE French  
GCSE Spanish

### **Technology**

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition  
Technical Award in Materials Technology

### **Humanities**

GCSE Geography  
GCSE History

### **Other**

GCSE Media Studies  
GCSE Physical Education

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Year 9 Parents' and Students' Guided Choices Evening	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Completed Guided Choices forms returned	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Key Stage 4 Guided Choices confirmed	April 2017

## **Advice**

The choices you make now will lead to a two year commitment, so a lot of thought and discussion will be required. Consider what you are good at and will do well in, what you enjoy and what will keep as many doors open for you in your future as possible.

These DOs and DON'Ts may help:

**DO** think carefully about your choices

**DO** choose subjects you are interested in and feel successful in

**DO** be realistic about your own strengths and weaknesses

**DO** try to keep a range of subjects

**DO** find out as much as you can about the courses from teachers, parents and older students

**DO** research the future requirements for education, training or career options you may consider

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**DO NOT** choose a subject just because your friend has

**DO NOT** choose a subject just because you like the teacher

**DO NOT** be prejudiced about thinking a subject is only suitable for boys or girls

**DO NOT** choose a subject because you think it will be easy

## **Please remember:**

These are important decisions.

If insufficient students select a course, it will not run.

Please be aware that some course combinations will not work.

Until July, changes to choices may be possible. However, please be aware that choices will be far more limited.

Once courses have started, it is very unlikely that you will be able to change courses.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **1. What is the EBacc and should I be trying to get it?**

The EBacc or English Baccalaureate is a performance measure for schools that involves students getting a GCSE C grade or above in a certain combination of subjects: English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography. This is to encourage schools to enter more students into the more academic subjects. If you want to study A-levels and go on to university then this might give you a good academic platform and possibly ensure you have good breadth so you have more options available to you but it is not an entry requirement and you should choose the subjects you enjoy and think you will do well in.





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# **COMPULSORY SUBJECTS 2017 – 2019**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

<b>Examination Course Title:</b>	English Language
<b>Examination Board:</b>	AQA
<b>Final Examination Percentage:</b>	100%
<b>Number of Papers:</b>	Two
<b>Controlled Assessment Percentage:</b>	None (although <i>Spoken Language</i> is examined as a 'non-examination unit' and will appear on students' results certificate as a <i>pass, merit or distinction</i> )

## **Brief Course Outline**

- **Paper One: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**  
Section A – Reading, one literature set text  
Section B – Writing, descriptive or narrative writing
- **Paper Two: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**  
Section A – Reading, one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text  
Section B – Writing to present a viewpoint

## **Assessment**

- Paper One: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
- Paper Two: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

## **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

No tiers of entry (Exam paper is based on Grades 1 to 9)

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

Homework project to last two terms each. These are designed to support the students' revision of key language and literature concepts and also to promote independent study.

## **What will GCSE English Language be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
Studying English Language is just looking at a load of different, unrelated and dull fiction and non-fiction texts.	Not at Icknield! We use the themes of our GCSE Literature texts to support our GCSE Language teaching, so when you are reading <i>An Inspector Calls</i> in Literature, for example, you will be studying Language texts based on the theme of <i>Society and Responsibility</i> (the theme of the play). This means that the texts are <i>always</i> relevant to what we are reading, and we can make interesting links between the two disciplines of both Language and Literature academic study.

## **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

There is no single career where English skills take precedence, however any role where good communication skills are vital need strong English skills. These include: Journalism (Newspaper, Magazine, Digital etc) / Copy Writing + Proof Reading / Librarian / Marketing / Advertising / Teaching (Primary and Secondary) / Lecturing / Project Management / Public Relations...

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

<b>Examination Course Title:</b>	English Literature
<b>Examination Board:</b>	AQA
<b>Final Examination Percentage:</b>	100%
<b>Number of Papers:</b>	Two
<b>Controlled Assessment Percentage:</b>	None

## **Brief Course Outline**

Students explore a wide range of different texts from across the ages. You are introduced to literary classics and encouraged to analyse and explore them in detail. You will read a Shakespeare play and also a modern piece of drama, as well as a post-1914 novel and a collection of poetry from an Anthology.

- **Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel**
- **Paper Two: Modern texts and poetry**

## **Assessment**

- Paper One: 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)
- Paper Two: 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)

## **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

No tiers of entry (Exam paper is based on Grades 1 to 9)

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

Homework project to last two terms each. These are designed to support the students' revision of key language and literature concepts and also to promote independent study.

## **What will GCSE English Literature be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
You can get away with just reading a study guide and looking at some notes on the internet written by somebody else. They're all just really old books anyway.	That just doesn't work! Also, it misses out the key point: that the texts you will study for Literature are all <i>interesting, provocative and engaging</i> . They may be classics and therefore from a different era, but they raise issues that impact on our lives <i>today</i> and they will reward the time you take studying them with lots of thinking points about the way our modern world works. Give them a chance: they are well worth it.

## **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

There is no single career where English skills take precedence, however any role where good communication skills are vital need strong English skills. These include: Journalism (Newspaper, Magazine, Digital etc) / Copy Writing + Proof Reading / Librarian / Marketing / Advertising / Teaching (Primary and Secondary) / Lecturing / Project Management / Public Relations...

# MATHEMATICS

**Examination Course Title:** GCSE Mathematics 8300

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 100%

**Number of Papers:** 3

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 0%

## Brief Course Outline

You will:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Learn to select and apply appropriate mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

## Assessment

- Paper 1, 2 and 3: 1 hour and 30 minutes each (exams are equally weighted)
- Paper 1 is non-calculator based but a calculator is permitted for exam papers 2 and 3

## Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

- Higher (Grades 4 to 9) NB It is possible for you to gain a Grade 3 if you fall below the Grade 4 threshold
- Foundation (Grades 1 to 5)

## Special Equipment Required

Scientific calculator, a compass and a protractor is required for both levels

## What sort of homework will I get?

- Skills checks
- Exam questions
- Online practise on mangahigh
- Flipped Learning

## What will GCSE Mathematics be like?

Myths	Truths
Some people have a maths brain and some people don't so you will always be very good or really bad at maths depending on the type of brain you have.	People can improve in maths like any skill it takes time patience and practice. (This has been scientifically proven recently!)
Algebra is not useful in real life.	As well as improving your problem solving skills which is useful in plenty of careers – Builder, Lawyer, Medicine, Management to name a few – without algebra we wouldn't have any of our beloved technology (yes including your smart phone!!).

## What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Maths is a fundamental requirement of all courses and training on leaving school at age 16 and will be a part of all further education opportunities. Careers where maths is main component could be Actuarial Science, Computer Science, Operational Research, Biomathematics and Cryptography.

# COMBINED SCIENCE

**Examination Course Title:** Combined Science: Trilogy

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 100 %

**Number of Papers:** 6

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** N/A

**Number of GCSEs awarded:** 2

## **Brief Course Outline**

The subject content is split into three sections for each of the subject areas: biology, chemistry and physics. In addition the following skills will be developed throughout the course: Working scientifically, Mathematical skills and use of apparatus and techniques.

- Biology paper 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- Biology paper 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- Chemistry paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- Chemistry paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.
- Physics paper 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- Physics paper 2: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

The working scientifically skills fall broadly into four main strands:

1. The development of scientific thinking
2. Experimental skills and strategies
3. Analysis and evaluation
4. Vocabulary, units, symbols and nomenclature.

## **Assessment**

Students will sit 6 papers, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics. All will be written exams.

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

The papers are deliberately flexible in terms of the mixture of question types and number of marks within each topic. Each question assesses an assessment objective and in some cases more than one assessment objective.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding (40%)

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding (40%)

AO3: Analyse information and ideas to (20%)

## **Special Equipment Required**

- Pencil and ruler
- Scientific Calculator

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

A mixture of homework that may include creating revision resources, practising skills and processes, research, exam question practise.

## What will GCSE Science be like?

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
You need Separate Science GCSEs to take A-levels.	Access to A-Level courses will require a minimum grade in a Science GCSE, which could either be Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
You will only be assessed on the recall of your scientific knowledge.	This is part of the GCSE but mostly it is about showing understanding of your scientific knowledge and applying this, as well as your working scientifically skills. For example, you will be assessed on your analysis and evaluation of data and experimental procedures.

## What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

- A-Levels in Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology)
- BTECs and Technical awards (list for 2019 to be confirmed)

There are really no limits to the type of job studying science could lead to. The skills you gain from studying science will open up opportunities in areas which are not obviously science related. For example: finance, teaching, marketing, patent law, photography, media and film production, food technology and computer science.

Possible apprenticeships and jobs include:

- Animal care and agriculture
- Electrical installation apprentice
- Electronic engineering
- Horticulture
- Land-based technology
- Optics
- Plumbing apprentice
- Service engineering apprentice
- Sports science
- Vehicle maintenance

Information on possible career paths can be found at <http://sciencecouncil.org/>

# SEPARATE SCIENCE GCSEs

The information about the Combined Science GCSE is applicable to the Separate Science GCSEs except for the information below.

**Examination Course Title:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 100 %

**Number of Papers:** 6

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** N/A

**Number of GCSEs awarded:** 3

## **Brief Course Outline**

The same topics titles are Separate Science units are used in Combined Science. However, Separate Scientists will study additional sub-topics within these units.

## **Assessment**

Students will sit 6 papers, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics. All will be written exams.

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Short Course)

**Examination Course Title:** Religious Studies B - beliefs in action

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Final Examination Percentage:** 2 papers weighted 50% each

**Number of Papers:** 2

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 0%

## **Brief Course Outline**

### **Area of study 1: Christianity**

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world; its beliefs and teachings on life specifically within families and with regard to matters of life and death.

There are two sections: Christian Beliefs and Marriage and the Family.

### **Area of study 2: Islam**

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Islam, its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about the issues of peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. This approach encourages students to reflect upon the links between beliefs and teachings of Islam and the issues of crime and punishment which are part of life today.

There are two sections: Beliefs in God and Crime and Punishment

### **Assessment**

Final examination sat in Year 10 and marked externally.

### **What sort of homework will I get?**

Exam questions, online research, revision, past papers, sample assessment material exam questions.

### **What will GCSE Religious Education be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
You have to be religious to get a good grade.	No you do not! In fact not being religious and open minded is an added bonus!
RE lessons are just about God	No they are not! In fact you cover a vast amount of moral and ethical issues and although belief in God is a part of the course it is only a small amount
It is only half a GCSE so is not important	All GCSE's are important even if they are short course. They will still be counted and look good on any CV

### **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

Any career path will accept a Religious Education qualification. In particular teaching, services, philosophy, law and even doctors and nurses.



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# **OPTIONAL SUBJECTS 2017 – 2019**

# ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

**Examination Course Title:** Art, Craft and Design

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 40%

**Number of Papers:** 1

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 60%

## Brief Course Outline

This is an, **exciting and vibrant** course run over 2 years. You will learn and explore a wide range of techniques and processes including drawing, painting, print-making and 3D design. You will be taught how to engage in new ways of thinking and expressing ideas creatively, imaginatively, and skillfully. You will learn how to observe, plan and 'create' successfully to a high standard of technical competency, both through practical and written analytical tasks, themes and projects. Your skills as an **independent thinker** and **creative problem solver** will develop through a varied range of tasks and opportunities.

## Assessment

Art	Craft	Design
Development of personal work to explore a theme, idea or experience	Making activities with knowledge of tools, skills and practical processes	Response to a specific need or brief with given requirements
<b>Portfolio of Coursework – minimum of 2 projects 60%</b>		
<b>Exam Project 40%</b>		

## Special Equipment Required

You will need:-

- A3 Sketchbook for each project (available to buy from school)
- A3 plastic carry case/portfolio (available to buy from school)
- Set of sketching pencils
- USB Memory stick

## What sort of homework will I get?

You will be given a range of homework tasks throughout the course which will include written research, photography, drawing, collecting as well as completing tasks acting on feedback.

## What will GCSE Art, Craft & Design be like?

Myths	Truths
You have to be 'good' at drawing	You need to be open to learning new skills
It's easy because there's no writing in Art	The new GCSE requires a high written content
I can do my own 'thing'	Your projects and tasks are set and directed by your teacher
It's a 'soft' option / not academic subject	There is a high technical content and written element required to be successful.
You have to do masses of work	It is a lot of coursework but if you work steadily across the course you will be successful.

## What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

A Level or BTEC – Art & Design, Fine Art, Photography, Ceramics, Graphic Communication

Careers: Artist, product designer, graphic designer, florist, set designer, window dresser, marketing, architecture, planning, photographer, animation, art therapist, fashion, interior design

# DRAMA

<b>Examination Course Title:</b>	GCSE Drama
<b>Examination Board:</b>	AQA
<b>Final Examination Assessment:</b>	40%
<b>Number of Examination Papers:</b>	1
<b>Controlled Assessment Percentage:</b>	60%

## Brief Course Outline

### **Component 1: Understanding drama (written exam worth 40%)**

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

## Coursework

### **Component 2: Devising drama (practical worth 40%)**

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

### **Component 3: Texts in practice (practical worth 20%)**

- Performance of two extracts from one play
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1

## Assessment

The course is assessed in two ways; firstly by written exam at the end of the course. This is split into three sections, knowledge and understanding of drama (4 marks), study of a set text (44 marks) and an analysis of a live performance (32 marks). Secondly, by two pieces of controlled assessment, a devising piece based on a stimulus (component 2) and performance of two scripted scenes (component 3). The devising piece is worth 80 marks, however, there is a written devising log that accompanies this piece of work that is worth 60 of the 80 marks. Component 3 is purely practical and is worth 40 marks.

## Special Requirements

For the third section of the exam, students will be expected to take part in theatre trips.

## What sort of homework will I get?

A mixture of practical and research based homework will be set along with line learning and exam preparation. Students will often find their own time to rehearse in their groups, this can be at lunch time or after school.

## What will GCSE Drama be like?

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
Drama is easy because it's practical.	Drama requires a huge amount of self-discipline and self-control. There is a lot of written work that accompanies the performances
Drama is only useful if I want to be an actor	In a recent survey of Oxfordshire employers, communication skills was the number one attribute they were looking for in a prospective employee - drama can play a huge role in the development of these skills
Drama is for girls	Quite simply, ridiculous!

**What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

If you are looking at specifically continuing your drama education then theatre studies (more academic) or a BETC in performing arts (more practical) arts would be obvious route for you to follow. Alternately, the life skills you learn in drama are applicable across the board for whatever you future may hold.

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

<b>Examination Course Title:</b>	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
<b>Examination Board:</b>	Eduqas
<b>Final Examination Percentage:</b>	50%
<b>Number of Papers:</b>	1 (1 hour 45 minutes)
<b>Controlled Assessment Percentage:</b>	50%

## **Brief Course Outline**

The GCSE exam course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3. It requires you to demonstrate principles of food science, healthy eating, nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety.

Practical investigations and assessments are a compulsory element of this GCSE. It is important to note that you will be required to provide the relevant ingredients regularly. You will be developing a deeper understanding of the working characteristics, functional properties and chemical characteristics of ingredients through investigations and practical tasks. Assessments have been designed to expand practical skills in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, and presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

## **Assessment**

There are two practical Controlled Assessments which amount to 50% of the overall GCSE grade. The work will be assessed through research, investigation, planning, preparation, written reports (1,500–2,000 words), photographic portfolios as well as practical. These include:

### **Assessment 1 - The Food Investigation Assessment (15%)**

A scientific food investigation which will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

### **Assessment 2 - The Food Preparation Assessment (35%)**

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of three final dishes.

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

You will be expected to complete a minimum of one hour of homework per week. These will include research and analysis tasks as well as revision and exam questions.

## **What will GCSE Food & Nutrition be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
It's all cooking	There will be 3-4 practical tasks each term.
I get to cook what I want	Sometimes – you will be given tasks that relate to topics, these can be adapted to personalise.
There's loads of coursework	There USED to be, this is the new course where there is less but individuals will still need to be independent, responsible and motivated.

## **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

Chef, Caterer, Nutritionist, Dietician, Product development, Food Writer, Hospitality (restaurant/hotel)

# GEOGRAPHY

**Examination Course Title:** AQA A Geography 8035

**Examination Board:** AQA A

**Final Examination Percentage:** 100%

**Number of Papers:** 3 papers

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** Not applicable, however there is a 'controlled assessment style' exam worth 30%.

## **Brief Course Outline**

The course is split into 3 sections; Unit 1: The Physical world, Unit 2: The human world and Unit 3: Geographical applications.

In year 10 students start the course with the physical world and look at how the natural world interacts with humans. The topics they study are;

<b>Section A: Natural hazards</b>	<b>Section B: Living world</b>	<b>Section C: UK landscapes</b>
Tectonics	Ecosystems	Introduction to landscapes
Weather	Tropical rainforests	Coastal areas
Climate change	Hot deserts	River areas

Students will also carry out one piece of compulsory fieldwork which will be based on a river study within the local area. There will also be an opportunity to attend an optional fieldtrip to the coast, this has previously been at a cost of £335 for a 4 day trip.

In year 11 students start to look at the human world and study the following topics;

<b>Section A: the urban issues</b>	<b>Section B: Economic world</b>	<b>Section C: Resource management</b>
Urbanisation	Global variations	Resource management
LIC urban growth	Reducing the development gap	Water management
UK urban change	LIC case study	
Sustainability	Economic change	

Students will also carry out one piece of compulsory fieldwork which will be based on an urban environments within the local area.

Unit 3 teaching will be split to teach the fieldwork element over the course of the two years, while the pre-release material will be available in the March of year 11.

## **Assessment**

Unit 1: Physical exam – 35%, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks available

Unit 2: Human exam – 35%, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks available

Unit 3: Geographical applications – 30%, 1 hour, 76 marks available

On all three papers students are awarded marks for their SPaG.

Assessments within the year take on a variety of formats, including mock exams, in class tests, homework activities etc.

## **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

There are now no longer tiers for geography and all students sit the same paper.

## **Special Equipment Required/Special Requirements**

While there is no special equipment required other than ensuring students have pens and pencils etc. When students take part in field trips there is requirement to have appropriate clothing, whether this be sturdy shoes, a waterproof coat, or a change of warm clothes. (For the rivers trip we provide waders, although wellington boots can be useful too).

There is an optional magazine that can be purchased. This was £10 per year and includes 4 magazines over the year.

**What sort of homework will I get?**

You will get 1 hour per week, although we also recommend that students read around the subject area and keep their eyes out for programmes or articles that could relate to the course. Homework activities will involve a mixture of; flip learning, research, case study development, news articles, exam questions to name a few.

**What will GCSE Geography be like?**

Myths	Truths
There's loads of writing  There's loads of controlled assessment	There is a fair amount, but the notes that are made are key facts and you're encouraged to start establishing how to make 'helpful' notes that are focusing on the facts.  There is no CASS anymore in the traditional sense. We do still complete at least 2 pieces of compulsory fieldwork. There is now an exam to assess your knowledge of this area.  The new style GCSE means all students sit one exam paper, there are no tiers any more.  There are more topics being covered than ever before, giving a wider perspective on the world.  Some students comments are below; I find it easier than I thought I would because I think it's really interesting and I like learning about the subject. There is so much information about the wider world that you can investigate. We use local examples and things that are happening in the news to make it link to the real world. We are able to use a mixture of resources, including videos, which really help to find out more information and see the 'real life' of the topics. You have more control over how you make your notes now than at KS3 because we're encouraged to start thinking more independently. The teachers ensure they are using up-to-date case studies and examples of events that have happened, for example we looked at the Italy earthquake the day after it happened.

**What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

In further education you can study a wide range of subjects which link to the skills and knowledge you will have started to develop at KS4. For example; environmental studies, geology, sociology, anthropology, law, psychology and let's not forget GEOGRAPHY!

With regards to careers students who study geography at GCSE and higher open themselves to a wealth of job opportunities. Knowledge of the world around you and how different aspects interact mean that you are able to take on whatever role you'd like to! Here are some jobs that people with geography degrees have gone on to do; Transport for London- designing new road and rail systems, lawyer, teacher, designer, charity work, disaster management, cartographer, surveyor, environmental consultant, GIS, planning and development, town planner, working for big companies like apple and Microsoft in various different capacities. The world is your oyster.

# HISTORY

**Examination Course Title:** GCSE History

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Final Examination Percentage:** 100%

**Number of Papers:** 3

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** None

## **Brief Course Outline**

### **Paper 1: British Thematic Study with Historic Environment (30%)**

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present
- The British sector of the Western Front: injuries, treatment and the trenches

### **Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (40%)**

- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88

### **Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30%)**

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

## **Fieldwork**

To tie in with your study of the historic environment for Paper 1, there will be a day trip to Ypres in Belgium.

## **Assessment**

Student's work will be assessed regularly through completing practice exam questions. These will form part of the normal classroom activities. In addition there will be a more formal assessment at the end of every completed unit.

## **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

All students take the same examinations. There are no tiered papers.

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

You will get homework once a week. This will be a mixture of research, revision and answering practice questions.

## **What will GCSE History be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
The past has no relevance for today	Most of the news today relates to events from the past
History is all about learning dates	As with all subjects, you will need to learn some information but History is also about developing your skills
There is a lot of writing	Assessment in History is in written format with a range of questions, some short and some longer essay questions

## **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

Not only is History hugely interesting in itself, it also helps you to develop many useful skills. You will become much more critical about what you read and hear on the news. It will develop your ability to reason and argue your point of view with supporting information. It is a subject that develops your skills in thinking about the motivations people might have behind what they actually say. This is a useful skill in most work places. GCSE History has always been highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. There are more directors of multinational companies with History degrees than any other subject!

# MEDIA STUDIES

**Examination Course Title:** Media Studies

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 70%

**Number of Papers:** 2

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 30%

## **Brief Course Outline**

The mass media shapes the way in which we see the world today. It is an ever changing phenomena that is impossible to avoid: TV, radio, magazines, newspapers, films, the internet and social media all dominate the way in which we perceive the world that we live in. How they do that, and the effect that has on individuals, communities and cultures, are issues at the heart of Media Studies.

The new specification for media will enable students to study an array of media texts from a variety of forms and platforms. In Media Studies you will assess and analyse a range of media products, across the worlds of print, online and audio/visual mediums. You will investigate how media language is used to create meaning; the role of the audience and how this shapes the construction of a text; the representation of social groups and the various institutions that control and monitor the mass media.

You will learn not only how texts are created, but also experiment with different tools to produce your own, original and unique media product. Media studies is part English, part sociology, part psychology, with a smattering of art, economics, politics, and business studies thrown in for good measure.

**GCSE Media Studies** is not a course designed to prepare you for a career in film-making any more than English prepares you for a career as a novelist. Only talent and determination will win you that prize!

## **Assessment**

Paper 1- Written Exam Paper worth 35% of overall GCSE

Paper 2 – Written Exam Paper worth 35% of overall GCSE

Non exam assessment (creating a media product) 30% of overall GCSE

## **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

There are no differentiated examination papers in Media.

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

Each term, you will be given a project that you will be expected to complete independently. The tasks in the projects will not only develop your understanding of the new content that you are studying but will become a crucial revision source when you come to complete your coursework and exam preparation.

## **What will GCSE Media Studies be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
Media is a much easier subject to take because there is not as much writing.	The new media specification means that, more than ever, students will be expected to write in an extended way on a variety of different topics.
By doing Media, I will be able to come a film director, make magazines and run newspapers.	Whilst Media Studies will certainly help you on the path to this, it does not mean that you will be automatically qualified to do this. In the new specification, you will be required to know and understand Media theory and how this shapes our understanding of the mass media; you will not simply be making film trailers and running newspaper prints for the entire course.

**What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

Studying Media Studies A Level or B-Tec Diplomas. Working in publishing, marketing, advertising, journalism, creative writing, teaching or PR are just some of the possibilities.

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

<b>Examination Course Title:</b>	GCSE (9-1) in French/Spanish
<b>Examination Board:</b>	Edexcel
<b>Final Examination Percentage:</b>	Listening (25%), Speaking (25%), Reading (25%), Writing (25%)
<b>Number of Papers:</b>	4 (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)
<b>Controlled Assessment Percentage:</b>	N/A

## **Brief Course Outline**

This course allows you to develop your ability to communicate with French/Spanish native speakers in both speech and writing. You will study across a variety of contexts relevant to your age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of culture of French/Spanish-speaking communities and countries.

The course consolidates work on themes during throughout Key Stage 3, follows the Edexcel syllabus and provides a firm foundation for students to make a smooth transition to A Level. Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, education & work
- International and global dimension.

## **Assessment**

### **Paper 1 – Listening and understanding in French/Spanish**

You are assessed on your understanding of standard spoken French/Spanish by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings. You will respond to multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on a recording featuring male and female French/Spanish speakers.

#### ***Foundation tier***

- Section A is set in English. The instructions to students are in English.
- Section B is set in French. The instructions to students are in French.

#### ***Higher tier***

- Section A is set in French. The instructions to students are in French.
- Section B is set in English. The instructions to students are in English.

### **Paper 2 – Speaking in French/Spanish**

You are assessed on your ability to communicate and interact effectively through speaking in French/Spanish for different purposes and in different settings. There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1 – a role play based on one topic that is allocated by the exam board.

Task 2 – questions based on a picture stimulus based on one topic that is allocated by the exam board.

Task 3 – conversation based on two themes. The first theme is based on the topic chosen by you in advance of the assessment. The second theme is allocated by the exam board.

### **Paper 3 – Reading and understanding in French/Spanish**

You are assessed on their understanding of written French across a range of different types of texts, including advertisements, emails, letters, articles and literary texts. You are required to respond to multiple-response and short-answer questions based on these texts.

Section A is set in English. The instructions are in English.

Section B is set in French/Spanish. The instructions are in French/Spanish.

Section C includes a translation passage from French/Spanish into English with instructions in English.

## **Paper 4 – Writing in French/Spanish**

You are assessed on your ability to communicate effectively through writing in French/Spanish for different purposes and audiences. You are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French/Spanish. The instructions are in French/Spanish.

**Foundation tier** – three open response questions and one translation into French.

**Higher tier** – two open response questions and one translation into French.

### **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

Higher and Foundation papers are available. You must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

### **Special Equipment Required**

A bilingual dictionary

### **What sort of homework will I get?**

You will be expected to complete 45 minutes of homework twice per week. This could include Reading, Writing, Translating (from English to French/Spanish or from French/Spanish to English) Learning or Speaking using a MP3/iPhone/Computer/Digital device.

### **What will GCSE French or Spanish be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
I don't need a language, everyone speaks English.	Only 5% of the world population speaks English, while 95% speak another language.
Learning a language is just about grammar and vocabulary.	You get to study a wide range of topics all about different people and cultures, not just how to speak.
Language learning is unnecessary with modern translation technologies.	Learning French or Spanish doesn't require special abilities or skills. It just requires the right method of learning.
Only people with an "ear" for languages can learn a second language.	Success in language learning is influenced by many factors including aptitude, motivation, learning opportunities, willingness to communicate, strategy use, etc.
Not everyone can learn a foreign language.	Language classes are still fun and interactive. Learning languages improves your communication skills. A language will always be useful, no matter what you do.

### **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

GCSE French/ Spanish can lead to further study of the language or another language of your choice. A modern language is also a good combination with other subjects such as Law, History or Geography. Many universities look favourably on candidates with a GCSE in a language.

Recent surveys have shown that the five business languages most in demand in the UK are, in this order: **French**, German, **Spanish**, Italian and Dutch.

# MUSIC

**Examination Course Title:** GCSE Music

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Final Examination Percentage:** 40%

**Number of Papers:** 1

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 60%

## **Brief Course Outline**

The qualification is broken down into three units:

### **Unit 1: Performing Music (30%)**

- You will produce both a solo and an ensemble performance recorded at any time during the course.
- Performances may be on any instrument and in any style.

### **Unit 2: Composing Music (30%)**

- You will produce two compositions.
- The combined length of the two pieces should be between two and four minutes.
- One of the compositions will be to a brief set by the exam board, the other is a free composition to a brief set by the student.

### **Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (40%)**

- A 1 hour 30 minutes examination which is externally set and marked by Edexcel.
- You will respond to questions based around the 8 set works for the unit.
- In Section A, you will respond to questions based on recorded extracts of set work.
- In Section B, you will answer a more in-depth question on a chosen set work(s) and a previously unheard piece of music where you are assessed on quality of written communication as well as musical understanding.

## **Assessment**

Controlled assessment is marked internally and then moderated externally. The listening exam is marked externally.

## **Special Requirements**

You should be currently taking instrumental lessons, either in school or privately, in order to take GCSE Music. You should be of at least a Grade 3 standard on your instrument.

## **What sort of homework will I get?**

Homework is varied and will consist of tasks towards your practical portfolio of coursework and other tasks based around listening and appraising for the exam. There will be lots of wider listening for you to undertake as homework.

## **What will GCSE Music be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
GCSE music is all practical work.	There is a lot of listening to and appraising music during the course. You will need to have a good understanding of music theory.
GCSE music is easy and there is no homework for Music at KS4.	Music is hard – there are homework tasks set each week in addition to the 30 minutes of instrumental practice that you should be doing every night.
I don't need to be able to play an instrument in order to take Music.	It will be much harder to get a good grade on the composing and performing aspects of the course if you do not play an instrument.

**What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

A GCSE in Music can lead onto further study at A-Level of either Music or Music Technology. At University level it can lead to degrees such as Audio Engineering or Music Business.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Examination Course Title:** GCSE Physical Education

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 60%

**Number of Papers:** 2

**Practical Assessments:** 30% which will be assessed in three activities

**Coursework Percentage:** 10% which is gained through the analysis and evaluation of student performance and the implementation of a training programme

## **Brief Course Outline**

This course aims to provide you with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of key concepts that are important for a healthy and active lifestyle. The theoretical element of this course covers a wide range of topics including applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, sports psychology and data analysis. All topics will be assessed through two papers taken at the end of Year 11. Many of the topics covered we cover will be brand new to you providing an exciting opportunity to learn.

The practical element of this course is aimed to demonstrate excellence within both team and individual sports such as football, netball, rugby and hockey as well as less mainstream sports such as rock climbing and golf. You are expected to excel within a number of sports both in and out of school and commit to attending extra-curricular clubs.

## **Assessment**

### **Practical Assessment**

This element of the course is supported by 1 practical lesson per fortnight (in addition to the compulsory 4 core lessons of PE) and is split into 3 key processes:

#### ***Skills during progressive drills***

You will need to demonstrate your ability to develop and apply your skills within controlled situations showing precision and fluency across both team and individual sports.

#### ***Skills within competitive situations***

You will be assessed in your ability to select and use tactics and strategies in increasingly complex and demanding situations. You will be able to respond effectively and imaginatively to changing circumstances during your performance across both team and individual sports.

#### ***Analysis and evaluation (coursework)***

You will be required to use your sporting knowledge and understanding to analyse your own and others performances, identifying key strengths and areas for improvement. You will be expected to devise extensive training programmes in the aim to develop various components of fitness and skills.

### **Theory Assessment**

You will attend 4 classroom based theory lessons per fortnight in preparation for the 2 written papers at the end of the course which comprises of both multiple choice questions and long answer exam questions. The papers are split into 2 areas; - 'The human body and movement in physical activity' and 'Sport and Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport'.

## **Special Equipment Required**

Appropriate sports clothing (Icknield PE kit) and footwear plus football boots, gum shield and shin pads.

### **What sort of homework will I get?**

You will be expected to complete a variety of different homework from researching topics, to application of knowledge learnt in lessons. It is expected that you will have an interest in sports and will be up to date with current sporting events. You are expected to be taking part in sport outside of school hours (this could be an extra-curricular school club) to further your practical ability

### **What will GCSE Physical Education be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
GCSE PE isn't a very academic subject	The changes to GCSE PE mean that 60% of your grade will come from 2 exam papers. They cover a wide variety of topics from the structure of the heart to information processing, from understanding levels and axis to being able to interpret graphs and statistics. Strengths in maths and science are advantageous in this subject.
Being very good at one sport will mean I will get a high grade	The practical element of this course requires you to be assessed in 3 different sports, so you need to be a versatile sportsperson to get the very best marks. You need to be willing to try new sports and work hard to develop your skills in them.
I can do well in this subject, even though I don't really like sport	As well as your GCSE PE lessons (5 lessons per fortnight), you will also still be taking part in core PE (5 lessons per fortnight). This will mean that in some cases you will be doing PE every day. You will also need a good knowledge and understanding of a wide range of sports and sports performers so you really need to love sport and PE.

### **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

This course will provide a foundation for you to progress in a number of different areas within sports such as coaching, officiating, physiotherapy and sporting injuries, sports development, nutrition and teaching. A love of sport is essential!

# MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

## “Design and Make a Product for a Target Market”

**Examination Course Title:** Technical Award in Materials Technology

*(Technical Awards are practical, vocational qualifications available to 14-16 year olds to take alongside GCSEs. This is a new qualification, if approved by the Department for Education, a single award will be equivalent to a GCSE qualification and will count towards performance tables)*

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Final Examination Percentage:** 40 %

**Number of Papers:** 1

**Controlled Assessment Percentage:** 60 %

### **Brief Course Outline**

Students will develop their skills in making high quality products using woods, metal and polymers (plastics). They will make a range of products, prototypes and samples, applying technical and practical expertise to ensure that the product is fit for purpose. They will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and modern technologies. Through this qualification students will

- develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies
- develop practical skills to produce high quality functional prototypes and/or products
- be able to read, interpret, work and produce from drawings, plans and instructions
- use materials efficiently in relation to cost and environmental impact
- demonstrate safe working practices
- develop an awareness of industrial practices and employment opportunities.

### **Assessment**

**Unit 1:** Skills Demonstration (30%)

Students will produce a portfolio of small made products to demonstrate core skills outlined in the specification. These skills include: designing, marking out, cutting and shaping, forming, bending and laminating, casting and moulding, quantity production, the use of powered machinery, heat and chemical treatment, joining techniques (welding, soldering, wood joining, solvent welding), using CAD/CAM systems, using finishing techniques and quality control and maintaining accuracy.

**Unit 2:** Extended making project (30%)

Learners will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1. The brief for this will be set by AQA. The project will be marked against the following criteria: planning and development, making, testing and evaluation and communication.

**Unit 3:** External assessment (written exam – 40%)

This will cover the course content listed above.

### **Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)**

**Level 1 and Level 2**

At Level 1, unit and qualification grades will be Credit and Advanced Credit. At Level 2, unit and qualification grades will be Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*.

### **What sort of homework will I get?**

Homework's will be linked to the theory aspect of the course and will centre on research.

## **What will GCSE Materials Technology be like?**

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Truths</b>
There is no final exam, it is all practical work and coursework.	There is an exam worth 40% as well as the extended project which will require detailed written work.
We don't have to design.	There is a design element so students will need to be creative and research.
There is less time to make.	There will be more time to make than in the current specification but there will be lessons that focus on the written side of the course too.

## **What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?**

This Technical Award is designed to equip students with the practical skills in Materials Technology that they need to progress to further general or vocational study. They'll develop a broad understanding of the sector, so they can make informed decisions about their career opportunities. Students will also develop valuable transferable skills including communication and collaboration. Technical Awards count equally alongside GCSEs when applying to do further study in either general or vocational qualifications.

Students can progress to Technical Certificates and other Level 3 vocational qualifications such as NVQ Carpentry or Manufacturing and Production and A-level Design and Technology: Product Design.