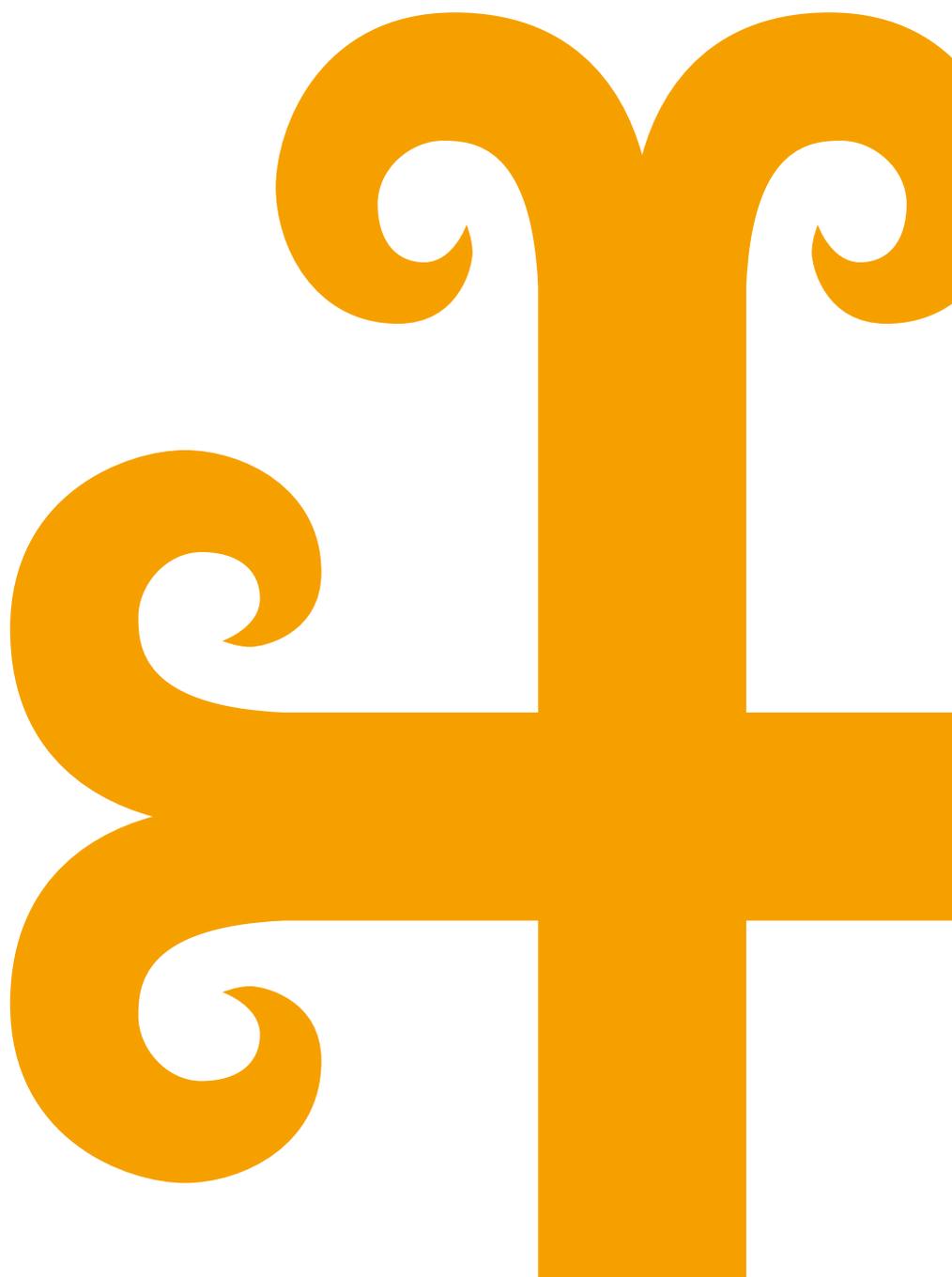


 DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

GCSE OPTIONS

2020-21





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THE GCSE COURSE

Pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum at GCSE, which enables them to learn key skills and knowledge in a range of subjects. Most pupils will follow courses leading to the award of ten or eleven GCSEs at the end of the Fifth Form.

THE GCSE CURRICULUM

At Downside, we aim for all pupils to fulfil their learning potential. We will ensure that all pupils receive the support and guidance they need in order to make an informed decision about which combination of subjects to embark upon in the Fourth Form. Most pupils will study for ten GCSEs or eleven GCSEs.

Core curriculum:

All pupils will study English, Mathematics, Religious Studies and Science.

- English
All pupils will study English and will be prepared for at least one qualification.
Most pupils will study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
A small number of pupils whose first language is not English will study IGCSE ESL (English as a Second Language) only.
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science

All pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics from the start of the Fourth Form. During the Fourth Form, we will recommend that pupils follow one of two pathways:

1. Separate sciences – the courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are academically rigorous. Any pupil aspiring to study sciences at A level should study the separate science courses.
2. Combined Science – pupils study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately, and they are awarded two grades at the end of the GCSE course. The two grades awarded are an amalgamation of performance in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For some pupils, we may recommend the Combined Science course if we feel that they will achieve higher grades than in separate sciences. We would recommend the Combined Science pathway for any pupils who find sciences difficult and are not considering sciences for A level. In saying this, pupils studying Combined Science can still study sciences at A level if they achieve grades of 77 or higher.

Other options:

- Pupils should select up to four options and this should be discussed with tutors or the Admissions Department

in the case of new pupils. We may recommend three options for some pupils if we feel that the study time will be beneficial for their overall academic performance.

- For some pupils whose first language is not English, we will recommend that they choose two or three options if we feel that they will benefit from additional language support. Additional language support lessons will occur in place of an option.
- Pupils requiring Learning Support lessons (either group or 1:1) should select three options. Their Learning Support lessons will occur in place of an option.
- All Music Scholars are required to select GCSE Music as one of their options.
- For Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) and Classical Languages (Classical Greek and Latin), pupils should have previous experience of studying the language. These subjects cannot be studied at GCSE level if pupils have not studied the language previously.
- Pupils whose first language is French, German or Spanish do not opt for these subjects, although they may be able to sit a GCSE in their home language.
- New pupils who wish to study Art and Design Technology should have experience of studying this subject. They can present a portfolio of their work so that we can determine their suitability for the course.

Following the Selection of options by the Third Form in December, we will draw up option blocks to accommodate as many subject combinations as possible. The table below shows a POSSIBLE set of option blocks. It is important to remember that the option blocks will not necessarily be the same for the Fourth Form 2020-2021.

This table should be used as an example only, and does not include English, Mathematics, RS or the sciences.

A	B	C	D
Design Technology	Geography	Design Technology	Geography
French	Latin	French	Classical Greek
History	History	Music	German
Spanish	Art	Art	Spanish
			PE

ARE THERE CONSTRAINTS ON THE SUBJECTS THAT MAY BE CHOSEN?

Pupils can only opt for one subject in each block. Subjects appear in more than one option block where they have been chosen by a large number of pupils and we need to

create more than one teaching set. Pupils cannot choose a fifth option in place of one of the compulsory subjects in the core curriculum (English, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Biology, Chemistry and Physics). At Downside, we believe it is important that pupils follow a balanced curriculum. We would recommend pupils opt for one creative subject, one of the humanities and one language within their options so that they have the necessary breadth and balance.

Please note:

The School endeavours to support as many options choices as possible by remaking the option blocks each year. However, we cannot guarantee that every combination of subjects will be possible. If we are unable to deliver a particular combination of subjects, we will inform pupils and parents of this in due course.

WHEN DO I MAKE A DECISION ABOUT MY GCSE CHOICES?

Tutors will begin to discuss the options with their tutees during the Michaelmas Term.

Michaelmas Term

Before half term – the GCSE options process is explained to the Third Form.

Half term – an opportunity for pupils to read the options booklet and discuss various subject combinations with parents during half term.

November – guidance and support provided for pupils by tutors and subject teachers.

December – deadline for choices.

Lent Term

January – parental confirmation of GCSE options.

Summer Term

June – pupils can request a change to their options following the internal examinations so long as sets are not full, and there are no clashes in the option blocks.

We expect pupils to discuss options with their tutors, subject teachers and parents so that they are in a position to make an informed choice.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?

It may be possible to change options later in the year in the light of results in the summer examinations, for example, but some options may not be possible owing to set sizes being full or clashes in the option blocks. We will attempt to accommodate the option choices of all pupils, but it is inevitable that some combinations of subjects will not be possible.

Please note: pupils will not be able to change subjects after the first two weeks of the Michaelmas Term if they find it difficult, or it is not what they were expecting.



THE GCSE COURSE



CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTIONS

With respect to suitability for different subjects, tutors and subject teachers are a valuable source of support and guidance for pupils and parents. The key questions to consider are as follows:

- What is the subject content?
- How is the subject assessed? (examination, coursework, practical)
- Is the subject an essential requirement for a career aspiration? (eg medicine)
- Does the subject complement the other subjects chosen, and in keeping with Higher Education and career aspirations?

WILL I SIT ANY OF MY EXAMINATIONS EARLY?

It is not current policy for pupils to sit GCSE examinations before the end of the Fifth Form. It is important that all pupils aim to achieve the highest grades possible and, in most subjects, pupils produce more mature work once they are in the Fifth Form. Whatever the subject, the policy at Downside is to ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential and that they are encouraged.

Pupils, who are fluent in a modern foreign language because they are bilingual would not necessarily opt for that subject as one of their timetabled GCSE choices, and the GCSE can be taken at the end of the Fifth Form with their other GCSEs. Pupils, who are fluent in another language should speak to the Head of Languages for further advice.

GCSE EXAMINATION REFORM

The ongoing reform to the GCSE examinations has taken place over three years. We welcome the improved academic rigour promised by the new GCSE courses because they will provide an ideal preparation for A level study in these respective subjects.

HOW ARE GCSE QUALIFICATIONS GRADED?

As a school, we select courses, either GCSE or IGCSE, which will provide pupils with the best overall experience and prepare them thoroughly for A level.

GCSE qualifications were traditionally graded on a scale of A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G and U (ungraded). Grades A*-C were recognised as matriculation passes for the purpose of entry to a university.

The grading system for the new GCSEs has changed to a new numeric grading system. The following is an explanation of the new numeric grading system as published by OFQUAL (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in September 2014:

- OFQUAL expect the same proportion of pupils currently achieving A*-A grades to achieve 9, 8 and 7 grades in 2017. Grade 7 is equivalent to A, and the A* grade has now been divided into two numeric grades, 8 and 9, so that the very top performers can be identified.
- Grade 4 is equivalent to grade C, and OFQUAL expect the same proportion of pupils currently achieving A*-C grades to achieve 4 and above in 2017
- Grade 5 is equivalent to a low B/high C grade and will be deemed a 'good pass' according to the Department for Education.

NON-GCSE COURSES

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

The new Careers Education and Guidance Programme focuses on increasing the awareness of the career options open to each individual. This includes broadening pupils' knowledge of various careers as well as helping them to choose their A level subjects. Downside works in partnership with Futuresmart Careers Ltd. In addition to the support and guidance offered in School, pupils will also have the opportunity to discuss different career pathways with an independent careers advisor:

- Membership of an independent careers advisory service
- Profiling test – this is a psychometric test and a personal report is provided for each pupil
- Interviews with an independent careers specialist
- Support and guidance from the Head of Careers
- Interviews with an independent careers specialist.

We host a Careers Fair, amongst other Careers events, which provides pupils with the opportunity to meet a range of speakers covering different careers such as law, finance, entrepreneurship, travel-writing, film production, journalism and archaeology. Pupils have an opportunity for Q&A in small groups with the speakers and discuss what the profession entails.

There is a well-resourced Careers Education and Guidance Programme and, as well as general information on careers, there are numerous sources of information on Higher Education institutions.



LEARNING SUPPORT

When pupils are seen to experience difficulty in their learning due to conditions such as dyslexia, for example, we aim to be supportive in a holistic way across the curriculum.

This means that pupils in particular need of Learning Support are integrated into ordinary classes where the teacher will be made aware of specific learning needs as they apply to individual pupils. Provision may be offered on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. These lessons will be timetabled and are taught by our Learning Support Department. Assessment is usually carried out within the Learning Support Department and may also include a consultation with an educational psychologist.

EAL (ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE)

When pupils have English as an additional language, we aim to be supportive in a holistic way across the curriculum.

Additional language support lessons are available to pupils whose home language is not English and who need extra assistance in order to follow their chosen curriculum. The lessons will be aimed at improving pupils' ability to use English competently in their academic subjects and to communicate fully in an English speaking environment.

Some pupils will study IGCSE ESL (English as a Second Language) instead of GCSE English Language.

THE GCSE COURSE



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examining Board
AQA 8700

Subject Entry Code
English Language

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Questions include:

Reading (40 marks) (25%): one passage and four linked questions

Writing (40 marks) (25%): one extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Questions include:

Reading (40 marks) (25%): two linked texts and four linked questions

Writing (40 marks) (25%): one extended writing question

Non-examination Spoken Language

This is assessed within the school by means of a presentation, where pupils respond to questions and feedback.

COURSE

The scheme of work involves the study and analysis of literary as well as non-literary texts. It leads to a GCSE in English Language.

An award of a grade 4 is regarded as a 'Pass' and a grade 5 is a 'Good Pass'. Pupils who do not achieve a grade 4 will need to retake in the Lower Sixth.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examining Board
AQA 8702

Subject Entry Code
English Literature

ASSESSMENT

All assessments are closed book. All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Section A: Shakespeare:

Pupils will answer one question on the play they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Currently all students study *Macbeth*.

Section B: The 19th Century novel

Pupils will answer one question on the novel they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Current texts studied include: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *The Sign of Four*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Frankenstein*.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes (60%)

Pupils will answer essay questions on modern prose or drama texts, a poetry anthology and unseen poetry. Currently we teach *An Inspector Calls* and poetry on the theme of 'Power and Conflict'.

COURSE

This is a two-year course for those members of the Fourth and Fifth Forms who, in the opinion of their teachers, will benefit from taking a specialist literature course in addition to their compulsory English Language. This course provides an ideal preparation for English Literature, which is offered at A level.

CAREERS

Essential for careers in:

Journalism
The Media and Advertising
Speech and Language Therapy
English Teaching
Publishing
Library or Archive Management

Useful for careers in:

Law
Marketing
PR
Psychology or Counselling

GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

MATHEMATICS

Examining Board Edexcel
Subject Entry Code 4MA1 IGCSE (9-1) Specification A

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through two written examination papers taken at the end of the Fifth Form. Each paper is worth 50% of the final total for the qualification, and will be of two hours duration.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component for the IGCSE in Mathematics.

COURSE

The course gives a wide and balanced overview of the key concepts and ideas of the four central assessment objectives in Mathematics – number, algebra, geometry and data handling. The aim of the course is to develop a knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques; to give students a foundation in mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas; to enable students to enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems, and to give students an appreciation of the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

The majority of students will sit the two Higher Tier papers (1H and 2H) which are targeted at levels 4 – 9, with an allowable level 3. A few students who find the subject more challenging may be invited to sit the papers at the Foundation level (1F and 2F) which are targeted at levels 1 – 5. Each paper will assess the full range of targeted grades with approximately equal marks available for each of the targeted grades. A calculator may be used in both papers.

An award of a grade 4 is regarded as a 'Pass' and a grade 5 is a 'Good Pass'. Pupils who do not achieve a grade 4 will need to retake in the Lower Sixth.

CAREERS

Essential for careers in:

Physics
 Chemistry
 Accountancy
 Computer Science
 Technology

Useful for careers in:

Economics
 Biology
 Psychology
 Banking
 Sports Science

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Examining Board OCR
Subject Entry Code Computer Science J277

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for the course as everything will be taught from first principles. The ability to think logically, apply mathematics to a situation and describe how things work are all advantageous when studying Computer Science.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Computer Systems (50%)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Programming Project

A computer program to solve the programming project.
 Written report: totaling 20 hours of supervised work

COURSE

Unit 1

Introduction to CPU (central processing unit), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software, as well as ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Unit 2

Development of skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.

Programming Project

Tasks to develop pupils' practical ability in the skills developed in Units 1 and 2. For example:

- Define success criteria from a given problem, and create suitable algorithms to achieve the success criteria.
- Code solutions in a suitable programming language, and check its functionality using a suitable and documented test plan.
- Evaluate the success of their solution and reflect on potential developments for the future.

There will be no opportunity to study computer games during this course. We do, however, learn to program which a pupil could then use to learn how to create computer games in their own time.

CAREERS

As well as programming, Computer Science teaches many transferable skills including planning, problem solving, critical thinking and use of logic. Many careers benefit from these skills, even if they do not fully utilise all of the content that may be covered. Pupils thinking of being a programmer, hardware engineer or software engineer will learn the initial skills they need to begin their journey. This course

also serves as an excellent springboard to the A level in Computer Science and on to Degree level.

Computing Careers are wide and varied. They include Programmers, Web Designers, Artificial Intelligence Specialists, Social Media Experts, Cybersecurity Experts, App Designers, Games Designers, Hardware engineers, Database Managers, Network Engineers, Technicians and many more.



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Examining Board
AQA

Subject Entry Code
Religious Studies B (8603)

Religious Studies is an important part of the formation in the Roman Catholic faith provided by the School and is a core subject at GCSE. The specification is specifically designed to meet this demand, but is also accessible to those of other denominations and traditions.

ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course in which candidates are prepared for papers over the course of two years. Assessment of each is through three written examinations, one of 1 hour and 45 minutes and two of 50 minutes duration. In these, pupils will need to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of religions and construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values.

COURSE

Paper 1 is a study of Catholic Christianity in terms of beliefs, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression in relation to six topics: Creation, Incarnation, the Triune God, Redemption, Church and Kingdom and Eschatology. This is 50% of the total. Paper 2 is a study of another religion (Judaism has been requested by our bishop) worth 25% of the total, and Paper 3 is a study of philosophical and ethical themes based on family and relationships and war, peace and issues of social justice. There is thus a mixture of theology and ethics in this course which offers rigorous understanding of Catholic teaching.

CAREERS

A qualification in Religious Studies can lead to degree courses not only in Theology, Religion and Philosophy, but is also a valuable foundation for History, Politics, Law, International Politics, Sociology, Business Studies and Management, for example. The transferable skills developed are valuable in a wide range of careers and Theology,

Religion and Philosophy graduates enjoy excellent employment prospects in law, media, publishing, public relations, management and commerce.

GCSE SHORT COURSE for new international students of no religion

Examining Board
Edexcel

Subject Entry Code
Religious Studies
A Short Course (3RAO)

Religious Studies is an important part of the life of the School and is a core subject at GCSE. The specification is specifically designed to meet this demand, but is also accessible to those of other denominations and traditions.

ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course in which candidates are prepared for papers over the course of two years. Assessment of each is through two written examinations of 50 minutes duration.

In these, pupils will need to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values.

COURSE

Paper 1 is a study of Catholic Christianity in terms of beliefs and practices with topics such as creation, incarnation and life after death. This is 50% of the total. Paper 2 is a study of another religion (Judaism has been requested by our bishop) also examining beliefs and practices.

In addition there will be the opportunity to examine fundamental questions of the existence of God, the relationship of mind and body, belief as opposed to knowledge, and an exploration of ideas such as reincarnation.



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

BIOLOGY

Examining Board
Edexcel

Subject Entry Code
1BIO Biology

ASSESSMENT

Candidates sit two written papers.

The papers are of 1 hour 45 minutes duration respectively. They contribute equally to the final grade awarded.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in Biology. Pupils will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers.

COURSE

Content overview

- Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology
- Topic 2 – Cells and control
- Topic 3 – Genetics
- Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification
- Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions
- Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals
- Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles

The rigorous nature of the GCSE course provides an excellent foundation for study of the Sciences at A level.

CAREERS

Biology is a very well regarded subject by universities, and lends itself to undergraduate study in Science, Medicine, Veterinary, Engineering and Law. It is an excellent preparation for university entrance in subjects such as Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, and it is an essential requirement for the majority of Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science courses. The analytical, practical and problem solving skills gained are also highly desirable in many fields such as Business, Accountancy and Law, amongst others.

CHEMISTRY

Examining Board
Edexcel GCSE

Subject Entry Code
1CHO

ASSESSMENT

Candidates sit two written papers.

The papers are of 1 hour 45 minutes duration respectively. They contribute equally to the final grade awarded.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in Chemistry. Pupils will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers.

COURSE

The topic areas in the GCSE course provide a thorough grounding in the basics of chemistry. These include:

- Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry
- Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures
- Topic 3 – Chemical changes
- Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria
- Topic 5 – Separate chemistry 1
- Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table
- Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes
- Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science
- Topic 9 – Separate chemistry 2

The rigorous nature of the GCSE course provides an excellent foundation for study of the Sciences at A level.

CAREERS

A level Chemistry is a challenging course highly respected by universities and employers. It is an excellent preparation for university entrance in subjects such as Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Physics, and Engineering, and it is an essential requirement for the majority of Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science courses. The analytical, practical and problem solving skills gained are also highly desirable in many fields such as Business, Accountancy and Law, amongst others.



PHYSICS

Examining Board
Edexcel GCSE

Subject Entry Code
1PHO Physics

ASSESSMENT

Candidates sit two written papers.

The papers are of 1 hour 45 minutes duration respectively. They contribute equally to the final grade awarded.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in Physics. Pupils will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers.

COURSE

The topic areas covered provide a thorough grounding in the Physical Sciences. These include:

- Forces and Motion
- Solids, Liquids and Gases
- Waves
- Magnetism and Electricity
- Radioactivity
- Astronomy

The rigorous nature of the GCSE course provides an excellent foundation for study of the Sciences at A level.

CAREERS

A level Physics is a challenging course highly respected by universities and employers. The fundamental knowledge and understanding gained, plus the skills of analysis and problem solving, are highly desirable in many fields. This subject is an excellent preparation for university entry in subjects such as Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Accountancy, Law and Medicine.

GCSE COURSES (CONT.)



COMBINED SCIENCE

Examining Board
Edexcel

Subject Entry Code
ISCO

ASSESSMENT

Candidates will sit six papers each of duration 1hr 10mins. Two grades are awarded at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Biology: Key concepts in biology; Cells and control; Genetics; Natural selection and genetic modification, and; Health, disease and the development of medicines.

Paper 2: Biology: Key concepts in biology; Plant structures and their functions; Animal coordination, control and homeostasis; Exchange and transport in animals, and; Ecosystems and material cycles.

Paper 3: Chemistry: Key concepts in chemistry; States of matter and mixtures; Chemical changes, and; Extracting metals and equilibria.

Paper 4: Chemistry: Key concepts in chemistry; Groups in the periodic table; Rates of reaction and energy changes, and; Fuels and Earth science.

Paper 5: Physics: Key concepts of physics; Motion and forces; Conservation of energy; Waves; Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, and; Radioactivity.

Paper 6: Physics: Key concepts of physics; Energy - Forces doing work; Forces and their effects; Electricity and circuits; Magnetism and the motor effect; Electromagnetic induction; Particle model, and Forces and matter.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in Combined Science. Pupils will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers.

COURSE

The course delivers a thorough grounding in all the sciences. There is evidence that the Combined Science course provide pupils, who may find the more traditional GCSE separate science courses more challenging, with a greater opportunity to succeed. The course is also recommended for pupils, who are not planning on opting for sciences at A level. In saying this, pupils studying Combined Science can still study sciences at A level if they achieve at least 77 grades.

CAREERS

The study of Science provides pupils with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the core subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, plus the skills of analysis and problem solving which are highly desirable in many fields. This subject is an excellent preparation for university entry in subjects such as Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Accountancy, Law and Medicine.



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examining Board
AQA

Subject Entry Code
8582 Physical Education GCSE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should also be of above average physical ability in at least one team sport and/or individual activity.

SPECIFICATION

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

ASSESSMENT

This is in three parts

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes (30%)

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes (30%)

Sports psychology
Socio-cultural influences
Health, fitness and well-being
Use of data

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity

Assessed by the teacher and moderated by AQA (40%)

CAREERS

The study of GCSE Physical Education could lead to the study of university courses in Sports Science, Recreation Management, Sports Technology, Sports Engineering, Teaching or Physiotherapy.



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

ART AND DESIGN COURSES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ART AND DESIGN COURSES

It is expected that pupils, who chose to study Art and/or Design courses at GCSE, have already demonstrated a good degree of independent motivation, interest and enjoyment in these subjects beforehand.

External applicants to the Fourth Form should present their sketchbook/s and/or a portfolio of work from the previous two years. This may be done digitally for an international pupil.

ART

Examining Board **Subject Entry Code**
OCR J171 Art and Design: Fine Art

The GCSE Art and Design Course consists of two units:

Component 01: Fine Art Portfolio (60%)

A portfolio of practical work showing pupils personal response to a starting point devised by the department starting in the Summer Term of the Fourth Form. The course will consist of drawing, painting, print and sculpture in a wide range of mediums.

Component 02: OCR Set Task (40%)

A set task project is undertaken in the second year of GCSE. Pupils select one starting point from the exam paper and have a period of time to produce preparatory work. The final piece is produced under exam conditions during a ten-hour period at a time and date chosen by the Art Department.

All work is internally assessed by the Art Department and externally assessed by an OCR appointed Moderator.

CAREERS

Essential for careers in:

Visual effects art
Fashion Design
Architecture
Illustration
Animation
Graphic Design
Interior Design
Set Design for Theatre, TV or Film
Costume Design
Concept Art

Useful for careers in:

Film production
Art Gallery Curation
Conservation
Art Valuation
Publishing
Photography
Web Design
App Design
Fashion Editing
Landscape Design

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Examining Board **Subject Entry Code**
OCR J310

01 Principles of Design and Technology

This is a two-hour written paper and brings together the pupils' 'core' and 'in-depth' knowledge and understanding.

- 'Core' knowledge of design and technology principles demonstrates pupils' broad understanding of principles that all learners should have across the subject.
- 'In-depth' knowledge allows pupils to focus more directly on at least one main material category.

The paper is split into two sections and a minimum of 15% of the paper will assess pupils' mathematical skills as applied within a design and technology context (50%).

02/03 Iterative Design Challenge

This component offers the opportunity for pupils to demonstrate understanding of the skills in iterative designing, in particular:

- The interrelated nature of the processes used to identify needs and requirements (explore)
- Creating solutions to meet those needs (create)
- Evaluating whether the needs have been met (evaluate).

As an outcome of their challenge, pupils will produce a chronological portfolio and one final prototype (50%).

CAREERS

Essential for careers in:

Product research
Product design
Interior Design
Set Design for Theatre, TV or Film

Useful for careers in:

Architecture
Engineering
IT
Landscape Design



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

GEOGRAPHY

Examining Board
AQA

Subject Entry Code
8035 Geography A

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment (35%)

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Topics include:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world
- Geographical skills

Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment (35%)

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Topics include:

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

Paper 3 Geographical applications (30%)

Written exam: 1 hour based upon pre-release resources.

Key skills assessed include:

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

THE COURSE

Pupils will be inspired to become global citizens by exploring their place in the world, their values and responsibilities to

other people and to the environment. Pupils will develop essential transferable skills such as problem solving, decision making, synthesising ideas, identifying issues and communicating findings through the undertaking of fieldwork, individually and as part of a team. The subject is a science and an art and, as such, has strong links to many areas of the curriculum.

CAREERS

Geography is a 'facilitating' subject which is highly sought after by top universities, and provides pupils with a broad range of options at university level and in the workplace. Geography graduates can enter a wide range of professions, including accountancy, banking, finance, IT, law, management, marketing, PR and research, to name but a few.

HISTORY

Examining Board
Edexcel

Subject Entry Code
History 1H10

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (30%)

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study (40%)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

British Depth Study: The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216

Period Study: Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555

Paper 3: Modern depth study (30%)

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes 30%* of the qualification 52 marks

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

COURSE

The study of History helps pupils to develop skills of analysis and evaluation, which are invaluable in a wide range of careers, as well as provide an historical perspective on some of the main issues facing the contemporary world.

CAREERS

A qualification in History leads to degree courses not only in History, but also in Politics, Law, International Politics, Sociology, Business Studies, Management, Media Studies, for example. The skills fostered by the study of History are valuable in a wide range of careers and good History graduates enjoy excellent employment prospects. Apart from the more obvious careers such as teaching, archive and museum work, History graduates find employment in law, the media, publishing, public relations, management and commerce. Their understanding of what "makes people tick", the ability to research and synthesise information, to formulate logical arguments and present objective reports makes historians attractive to employers.



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

CLASSICS (LATIN, CLASSICAL GREEK)

Examining Board	Subject Entry Code
OCR	Latin J282 Classical Greek J292

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through written examination in one language paper (50%) and two literature papers (prose and verse) (25% each).

CAREERS

Studying Latin and/or Classical Greek is valuable preparation for a wide range of university courses in humanities, natural sciences, theology, medicine, economics and law. It is also useful for many careers. Studying these languages gives pupils an opportunity to master a system of challenging yet manageable proportions, and to understand how languages function. Studying their literature provides insights into many essential characteristics of modern thought. And a knowledge of Latin or Classical Greek is a proven route to more articulate use of the languages of today by all who wish to acquire the highest skills of expression and persuasion.

Essential for careers in:
Classical Language teaching
Translating

Security & Intelligence Services
Law

Desirable for careers in:
Library and Museum work
Archaeology and
Historical Research
Diplomatic Service
Medicine, Veterinary
Medicine, Dentistry

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH)

Examining Board	Subject Entry Code
AQA	French 8658 German 8668 Spanish 8698

TOPIC AREAS

The new GCSE has been designed to be more relevant to the needs and interests of young people in today's society. The course covers three main themes. Theme 1 (identity and culture) includes family and friends, technology and free time. Theme 2 (local, national, international and global areas of interest) includes home, town, region, charity work, healthy living, environment, poverty, travel and tourism. Theme 3 (current and future study and employment) includes studies, life at school, education post-16, career choices and ambitions.

ASSESSMENT

AQA has developed this course in response to comments from teachers that the current GCSE does not adequately prepare pupils for the progression to the study of Modern Languages at A level.

Assessment is through examination at the end of the two-year course in the four language skills of Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking. Each of the four skills is worth 25% of the final grade. Candidates may be entered for either the Foundation Tier or the Higher Tier and will sit the same tier for all components of the examination.

The Reading and Listening examinations are each in two sections; in section A, questions will be set and answered in English; in section B, questions will be set and answered in the target language. The Reading test also includes a translation from the target language into English.

The Speaking test, which lasts approximately nine minutes for Foundation Tier candidates and twelve minutes for Higher Tier candidates, will consist of a role-play, a photo card and a general conversation.

The Writing test consists of structured writing tasks and translation from English into the target language. Dictionaries are not permitted in any of the examinations.

DICTIONARIES

Pupils will need their own dictionary at the start of the course. The MFL Department recommends the *Collins Easy Learning Dictionary*.

GCSE IN FIRST LANGUAGE

Pupils wishing to sit a GCSE in their first language (e.g. French, German or Spanish), or bilingual pupils, will not attend lessons in their first language, as the lessons and examination courses are aimed at pupils learning the language as a foreign language. However, pupils may sit a GCSE examination in their first language, and they will be provided with the guidance necessary for this. They will be expected to sit the mock examination.

CAREERS

Essential for careers in:
Language Teaching
Interpreting

Translating
Immigration

Desirable for careers in:
Tourism
Security & Intelligence
Services
Journalism
Diplomatic Service



GCSE COURSES (CONT.)

MUSIC

Examining Board
Edexcel

Subject Entry Code
IMUO Music

ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Performing (Paper code IMUO/01) (30%)
One solo and one ensemble performance are assessed. Each performance must be at least one minute long. Together, they must last at least four minutes.

Component 2: Composing (Paper code IMUO/02) (30%)
Two compositions to be made. Each composition must be at least one minute long. Together, they must last at least three minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (Paper code IMUO/03) (40%)
This is commonly referred to as 'the listening paper'. Questions will be based on eight set works, two each from four different areas of study. There will also be melodic and

rhythmic dictation, questions on unfamiliar music related to the set works, and a comparison of a set work with an unfamiliar work.

COURSE

It is expected that pupils opting for this subject will already be established singers, or players of melodic instruments, who have already taken and passed at least Grade 3. For practical reasons, percussionists cannot be accommodated. Music Scholars are expected to study GCSE Music as one of their options.

CAREERS

The study of Music is an ideal preparation for the study of Music at university and conservatoires, possibly with a view to a career in the performing, technical or administrative fields of the music industry. In addition, the analytical skills and discipline required to study Music mean that pupils develop a wide range of transferable skills which are highly sought after in a range of other professions such as Finance and Law, for example.



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