



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

**Key Stage 4
Subject Information
2026 – 2028**

Useful information sources

Good information is the key to choosing well. Do you know where to get good information in school?

Library and Careers Hub	Our careers coordinators, Miss Smith and Mx Sadler, are based in the Careers Hub. Drop in appointments are available 8-8.30, Break 1, Break 2, 3.05-4.00 every day. If you would like a longer appointment, please email msmith@prioryacademies.co.uk or rsadler@prioryacademies.co.uk
	The Careers area on the school website
	The Options area on the School website
	Careers Advice & Guidance Online Platform - Morrisby (students will be provided log in details during PD in module 4)
	Buzz Quiz (Careers)
	www.thefuturefocus.co.uk
	BBC bitesize - GCSE Options: Everything you need to know about choosing your GCSE options

Dear Student,

We have reached an exciting point in your educational journey, when we encourage you to focus on the subjects you are passionate about; investigate new subjects with curiosity and have the courage to challenge yourself to achieve excellent qualifications to support your future.

Over the next few weeks, you will be given a variety of opportunities to consider your future; to investigate the career pathways available to you and to make one of the most important decisions of your life so far: choosing your Key Stage 4 options.

All students study the core GCSE subjects:

- **Maths**
- **English Literature**
- **English Language**
- **Combined Science**

You will then choose three additional subjects. Every student must choose either History or Geography, but you may choose both if you like.

We strongly encourage you to consider adding Spanish to your options. This helps students achieve the EBacc, a combination of subjects valued by colleges, universities, and employers:

- GCSE English
- A Modern Foreign Language
- GCSE Maths
- History or Geography
- Two GCSE Science qualifications

There are restrictions in the options process:

1. National Curriculum and JCQ guidelines: These ensure every student studies a balanced range of subjects in Key Stage 4. Students may not select the following combinations of subjects. If these are subjects you are interested in, you can only select one from each pair:
 - i. GCSE Fine Art and GCSE Photography
 - ii. GCSE D&T Timber and GCSE D&T Textiles
2. Building the School Timetable: Students will list subjects in order of preference, including backup choices. We always try to match students to their top choices, but we can't guarantee that every first choice will be available. We will work with students to find the best alternative options if needed.

Your Key Stage 4 options help shape future pathways and our aim is to provide you with the combination of GCSEs and technical qualifications that will enable you to move on to the next stage of your education or career fully equipped with the knowledge and skills to succeed. If you are unsure of your next stage; college, sixth form or apprenticeship, you can arrange an appointment with Miss Smith or Mx Sadler.

When thinking about your options, talk with parents, carers, teachers and think carefully about:

- Which subjects excite you
- Whether your chosen subjects support those ideas
- What you are good at
- Keeping options open for the future
- What's involved in each course
- Having a balanced and sensible mix of subjects
- Any career ideas you have

Don't choose a subject just because friends are doing it or because you like the teacher.

Choose what is right for *your* future.

The options information booklet is designed to help you through the process of deciding on your Key Stage 4 option subjects, but it is best used as a discussion tool with your parents or carers and teachers.

Important Dates

- **13th March 2026:** Options Form released via SIMS Student App
- **27th March 2026:** Final deadline to submit choices
- **June 2026:** Students receive confirmation of their Key Stage 4 subjects for September 2026

You will be thoroughly supported throughout this option process through regular contact with your Form Tutor and subject teachers. You can also make an appointment to see Miss Smith or Mx Sadler our Careers Coordinators, or your Head of House, and you can speak with members of the Senior Leadership Team if you need further advice.

Never hesitate to ask for help, your future is important, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Warnock
Assistant Headteacher



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**Key Stage 4
Core Subjects**

2026 - 2028

**Subjects in the following section are compulsory for
all Key Stage 4 students.**

AQA English Language

Why do you study GCSE English Language?



The GCSE in English Language equips you with the vital literacy skills you will need in later life, whatever your desired career path is. You are taught how to read, understand and discuss unfamiliar texts with confidence; you learn how to communicate your own ideas convincingly and you also learn how language can be used and manipulated to have a desired effect on an audience or reader.

What will I study?



You will read a wide range of texts and learn how to explore the effect of language and structure. You also have to develop your own arguments and judgements and communicate your ideas convincingly in an essay. You also learn how to create your own original stories and descriptions.

You will also be exposed to a wide range of non-fiction texts spanning the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. You will learn how to synthesise and compare two texts, analyse the language and then identify and compare two writers' viewpoints, ideas and perspectives. You also learn how to write a non-fiction article where you have to articulate your opinion on a given topic.

How will I be assessed?



GCSE English Language is assessed in two papers and a speaking and listening presentation.

- Paper One: Fiction, 1h45. 50% of final grade.
- Paper Two: Non-fiction, 1h45. 50% of final grade.
- Speaking and listening presentation. Pass, merit or distinction awarded.

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will help you to develop the following skills:

- Understanding the effect of language
- How writers structure their work to affect their readers
- Your ability to communicate your own ideas convincingly in your own writing
- Synthesising and comparing two texts
- Understanding how texts have been written to make the reader feel or think a certain way.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of English at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16. It particularly compliments history, law, politics, sociology, psychology, media and drama. The skills you develop can be used in a multitude of careers such as: teachers, doctors, politicians, actors, directors, journalists, lawyers and many more. The skills you develop in this GCSE are fundamental to life and can be used anywhere.

Edexcel English Literature

Why do you study GCSE English Literature?



The GCSE in English Literature exposes you to a wide range of some of the most significant works ever written in the English language. You will learn why they are so significant and where they sit in the history of literary development. Reading high-quality literature enables you to understand the world around you and gain an insight into different periods throughout history. Perhaps more importantly, it is a study of the human condition which in turn helps us to understand more about ourselves.

What will I study?



English Literature is split into five key studies.

- **Shakespeare:** *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- **Modern Drama:** *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley
- **19th Century Novel:** *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- **Belonging Poetry:** Fifteen poems from various periods throughout history
- **Unseen Poetry:** learning how to engage with and understand unseen texts.

How will I be assessed?



GCSE English Literature is assessed in two papers:

- Paper One: Shakespeare and Modern Drama
- Paper Two: 19th Century Novel, Belonging Poetry and Unseen Poetry.

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will help you to develop the following skills:

- Understand a writer's messages and ideas
- Understand how these messages and ideas have been communicated
- Understand why these messages were pertinent in the time they were written
- Construct your own analytical essays
- Compare ideas and themes in two poems
- Learn how to engage with and understand poetry.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of English Literature at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16. It particularly compliments history, law, politics, sociology, psychology, media and drama. The skills you develop can be used in a multitude of careers such as: teachers, doctors, politicians, actors, directors, journalists, lawyers and many more. The skills you develop in this GCSE are fundamental to life and can be used anywhere.

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics

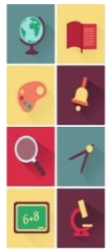
Why do you study GCSE Mathematics?



The mathematics GCSE will develop and test your knowledge and competency in three ways:

- *Mathematical Fluency* – teaching you how to use mathematical skills and procedures on a variety of concepts; from the simple, to the more complex.
- *Problem Solving* – teaching you how to approach unfamiliar multi-step questions.
- *Reasoning* – teaching you how to communicate effectively and explain using mathematical ideas.

What will I study?



Pupils are taught the skills and knowledge required to pass the course through a combination of teacher led sessions and spaced recall activities. They are given the chance to apply problem solving skills on a regular basis, employing concepts and learnt knowledge to more complex situations at every opportunity. Areas covered include number, algebra, ratio, proportion, geometry and measures, statistics and probability.

How will I be assessed?

Currently we use the Pearson Edexcel exam board which is assessed in the following way:



- Three examinations - Paper one is non-calculator, in papers two and three a calculator is permitted.
- Two Tiers - higher tier (awarding grades 3 to 9) or foundation tier (awarding grades U to 5)
- Each paper is worth eighty marks.

Which skills will I develop and use?



The intent of the department is that pupils have the skills and knowledge necessary to function in society and in every day adult life. From managing expenses and savings, organising and planning a journey to estimating a bill when out for a meal and choosing the most suitable mortgage deal. We also place a high emphasis on careers, and where appropriate use future employment opportunities to contextualise the mathematics that we deliver. At Priory Pembroke we strive to help our students become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics. This is through tackling increasingly complex problems as they progress through the academy, pupils develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly, accurately and use to solve complex problems.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Well-qualified mathematicians are always in demand when entering the job market. Particular careers which value employees with sound mathematical problem-solving skills include construction industry such as electricians, plumbers, joiners, office administrators, RAF personal, nursing or shop assistants. There are very few subjects in higher education for which mathematics at GCSE would not be useful. Opportunities are numerous for mathematics graduates and include career paths in areas such as business, science, accountancy or technical fields and disciplines such as social services, education and government.

AQA GCSE Combined Science

Why do we study GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy?

This is a required course that is useful for:



- Working out why things work
- Learning lots of information to help you understand the world
- Linking different facts together to explain complicated ideas

What will I study?



Pupils take their year 7, 8 and 9 science studies into a lot more detail. The 3 main sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied. There are 8 Biology units looking at topics ranging from Cellular Biology, Infection and Response all the way to Ecology. Physics has 8 units ranging from Energy and Electricity and further topics such as Waves and Electromagnetism. The 8 Chemistry units are more closely linked looking at Atomic Structure, the Development of the Periodic Table and topics looking at Organic Chemistry and Chemistry of the Atmosphere.

Science will be studied in approximately 4 or 5 week blocks of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics with homeworks set on previous topics covered to improve recall and retention. Each unit is assessed with a topic test to check current levels of knowledge and understanding. There are also 4 mock examination opportunities to check progress against externally assessed criteria

How will I be assessed?



This course is assessed in the following way:

- Each subject has two 75 minute papers, of 70 marks each, giving a total of 6 papers.
- All 6 scores are totalled together with students receiving two GCSE grades ranging from 9-9 to 4-4 on the higher tier paper and 5-5 to 1-1 on the foundation tier paper.

Which skills will I develop and use?



Students are taught to:

- Recall and use key scientific formula
- Describe practical investigation methods
- Analyse primary and secondary data to draw valid conclusions.
- Evaluate and improve scientific methods and data
- Link ideas and concepts to explain observation and experience
- Evaluate the moral, social and economic implications of scientific discovery and innovation



How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?

This course provides good progression onto all Science A-Level courses, that will lead to careers in Engineering, Education, Design, Research and Investigation. The list of scientific career pathways is practically endless.



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Key Stage 4 Option Subjects

2026 - 2028

The subjects available to students include GCSE and technical qualifications.

Please read the information carefully, checking how the subject is assessed and any restrictions or requirements for the course.

AQA GCSE Art & Design: Fine Art

Why should I study GCSE Art & Design?



You enjoy all aspects of art and design.

You have sound drawing skills

You want to print, model & sculpt in different materials, paint and use some textiles skills.

You enjoy practical work.

You want to study an art/design course at college.

You have imagination and ideas

What will I study?

Year 10



You will explore a range of materials, techniques and processes in response to a range of artists and designers. The themes vary from 'Tools and Textures' to 'Natural Form' and you will learn how to present work, improve drawing, painting, printing, 3D, textiles and much more. This collection of work will contribute to 'Component 1' which is 60% of your grade.

Sustained Portfolio (starts in May of Year 10- December of year 11)

Your choice of **seven different titles** will form the starting point for this project. You will build on the skills you've already learned to create a strong personal body of work that includes recording your ideas, researching artists, and experimenting with different materials. At the end of the project, you will produce a final piece in any medium you choose. This final outcome should link to the theme and bring together everything you've developed throughout your work.

Externally set task (starts January in Year 11)

Students will develop a project from a choice of themes on the exam paper and work towards their final outcome which is created in a 10 hour exam. This is 'Component 2' of the course and the remaining 40% of the grade.

How will I be assessed?



Component 1 – Collection of year 10 work and Portfolio 60%

A portfolio of work developed under controlled assessment.

Component - Set task 40%

Pupils have 12 weeks to prepare a body of work (90% of the unit grade) and ten hour exam for create an outcome, based on a selected starting point.

Which skills will I develop and use?



Students are taught to:

- Draw in a variety of materials and methods
- Use a range of media to explore themes and ideas
- How to print, paint properly and work in textiles and 3D.
- Analyse the work of existing artists
- Research and use visual presentation skills

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The study of this course could lead to any of the following: National Diploma in Art and Design; Foundation courses; A Level Art, Graphics, Textiles, Product Design; and a wide range of Art and Design degrees (fashion, jewellery, web design, game design, set design, illustration, graphics, textiles, furniture, architecture etc).

AQA GCSE Business Studies

Why should I study GCSE Business?



GCSE Business gives students the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work, while considering the practical application of business concepts. The course provides opportunities to explore theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world

What will I study?



Unit 1: Business in the Real World : This unit investigates the purpose of business activity, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.

Unit 2: Influences on Business: In this unit you will look at the importance of external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.

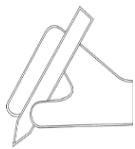
Unit 3 : Business Operations: This unit introduces you to the interdependent nature of business operations and production.

Unit 4: Human resources: This unit allows you to explore the recruitment process and understand how businesses motivate and train staff.

Unit 5: Marketing: In this unit you will investigate the marketing mix and the importance of advertising products and services in the correct way for the relevant markets.

Unit 6: Finance: This unit allows you to understand the different financial calculations and documents businesses must produce in order to be viable.

How will I be assessed?



Students will complete 2 examinations at the end of the course (summer of Year 11)

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity. 1 hour 45 minutes.

This paper is worth 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity. 1 hour 45 minutes.

This paper is worth 50% of the GCSE

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will help you develop the following skills:

- Creative thinking
- Reflective learning
- Independent enquirer
- Team working
- Effective participation
- Self-management

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Business and allows learners to progress to a wide variety of college and A level courses including Business A level, and BTEC level 3 courses in Business and Marketing. It also **equips learners with the ability to better understand a business environment and working world.**

AQA GCSE Citizenship

Why should I study GCSE Citizenship?



GCSE Citizenship Studies will provide students with the skills and understanding needed to make a difference in society. The course is perfect for students who have a real interest in the issues within society and a desire to improve life in their local community, across the country or around the world. As part of the course the students undertake an investigation to put their learning into practice.

Knowledge of democracy, law and politics will be developed in order to create well balanced and sustained arguments. A large part of assessment focuses on extended written work.

What will I study?



GCSE Citizenship studies five key areas:

1. Citizenship skills, processes and methods
2. Life in modern Britain
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Politics and participation
5. Active Citizenship

How will I be assessed?



GCSE Citizenship is assessed in two exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1: lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

- Section A: Active citizenship questions: questions on the citizenship action of others and questions on the students taking citizenship action investigation (40 marks)
- Section B: Politics and participation question (40 marks)

Paper 2: examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

- Section A: Life in modern Britain questions (40 marks)
- Section B: Rights and responsibilities questions (40 marks)

Which skills will I develop and use?

This course will help you to develop the following skills



- gain the ability to form your own hypotheses, create sustained and reasoned arguments and reach substantiated conclusions about citizenship issues.
- understand the range of methods and approaches that can be used by governments, organisations, groups and individuals to address citizenship issues in society, including practical citizenship actions.
- plan practical citizenship actions aimed at delivering a benefit or change for others in society.
- critically evaluate the effectiveness of citizenship actions to assess progress towards the intended aims and impact for the individuals, groups and communities affected.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The Knowledge and skills acquired through the study of Citizenship at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subject's post 16, in particular English, law, politics, history, geography, sociology, psychology and business studies. Students aspiring to work in any industry, and all students wanting to be true citizens of the world will need to understand their rights and responsibilities, the political system and generally about life in modern Britain.

AQA GCSE Computer Science

Why should I study AQA GCSE Computer Science?



The AQA GCSE in Computer Science combines well-established areas of computing with ongoing advances in an ever-changing technological world.

What will I study?



The AQA GCSE in Computer Science (8525) is comprised of the following eight subject content areas:

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming (theoretical & practical)
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Cyber security
7. Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)
8. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

How will I be assessed?



At the end of this linear two-year course, there are 2 written theory examinations:

Paper 1: Computational Thinking & Programming Skills (Written examination: 2 hours; 50% of GCSE)

This paper covers computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

Paper 2: Computing Concepts (Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes; 50% of GCSE)

The content of this paper will be drawn from subject content 3 to 8 above.

Both examinations carry 90 marks and will contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills, SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

Which skills will I develop and use?



The AQA GCSE in Computer Science will provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as practical ICT skills, research, planning and review, collaborating with others and communicating logical & computational concepts effectively. A key part of this course is the development of students' programming skills. Students will be given the opportunity to design, write, test and refine, using one or more text-based programming language(s). At Pembroke, we focus on Python as a programming language.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The qualification places learners in a sound position for progression to Further or Higher Education study, equipping students with the logical and computational skills to succeed at A-level, the workplace or beyond. Learners will also achieve a qualification that is relevant to the current needs of industry, equipping them with relevant employment skills in an ever-changing technological workplace.

There are many different careers that this qualification could help learners move towards, particularly in the ICT design field, notably game, website or app design and development, as well as the world of programming or Cyber security.

AQA GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles

Why should I study GCSE Design & Technology: Textiles?



You should opt for this course if you:

- Like to be creative
- Enjoy designing
- Like practical work

Please note: We ask for a voluntary contribution of £35 per year to allow us to purchase revision guides, workbooks and manufacturing materials to support students accessing the course.

What will I study?



Pupils are taught the skills and knowledge required to pass the course through a combination of teacher led sessions and mini build projects to reinforce learning. Areas covered include the design process, making in textiles and modelling in paper and card. Learning about graphical and design techniques, modern materials, commercial production methods, safety and electronics.

The first year of the course is mainly theory based with mini projects to practice manufacture and design skills. The second year of the course is composed of one major project, based upon the exam board published design scenario for that year. Students will design and develop a product whilst taking in to account user and consumer needs. After completion of the major project and portfolio students prepare for the final examination.

How will I be assessed?



This course is assessed in the following way:

Pupils complete a major project comprising a final manufactured product and an approximately 20-page design portfolio worth 50% of the total marks

Pupils sit a 2-hour exam based off the theory content worth 50% of the total marks

Which skills will I develop and use?



Students are taught to:

- Select and use the correct tools, equipment and processes to produce quality products safely with regard to themselves and others.
- Time management and working to deadlines.
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively.
- Develop Computer-Aided Design (CAD) skills.
- Be analytical, innovative, use their initiative to look at a product and see possibilities.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course provides a good basis for progression to A-level product design or creative T levels and is highly regarded by organisations as a good qualification when applying for apprenticeships.

AQA GCSE Design and Technology: Timber

Why should I study GCSE Design & Technology: Timber?



You should opt for this course if you:

- Like to be creative
- Enjoy designing
- Like practical work

Please note: We ask for a voluntary contribution of £35 per year to allow us to purchase revision guides, workbooks and manufacturing materials to support students accessing the course.

What will I study?



Pupils are taught the skills and knowledge required to pass the course through a combination of teacher led sessions and mini build projects to reinforce learning. Areas covered include the design process, making in wood, card and plastics. Learning about graphical and design techniques, modern materials, commercial production methods, safety and electronics.

The first year of the course is mainly theory based with mini projects to practice manufacture and design skills. The second year of the course is composed of one major project, based upon the board published design scenario for that year. Students will design and develop a product whilst taking in to account user and consumer needs. After completion of the major project and portfolio students prepare for the final examination.

How will I be assessed?



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Which skills will I develop and use?



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- Select and use the correct tools, equipment and processes to produce quality products safely with regard to themselves and others.
- Time management and working to deadlines.
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively.
- Develop Computer-Aided Design (CAD) skills.
- Be analytical, innovative, use their initiative to look at a product and see possibilities.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course provides a good basis for progression to A-level product design or engineering and is highly regarded by organisations as a good qualification when applying for apprenticeships.

EDUQAS GCSE Drama

Why should I study GCSE Drama?



This is the course for you if...

- You have a passion for theatre, whether as a performer or in a production role such as costume design, sound, lighting, stage management, or any other technical discipline that contributes to high-quality theatre.
- You enjoy a blend of practical exploration and written, analytical work.
You want to develop essential life skills including teamwork, leadership, confidence, creativity, and effective communication.

Please note: While the course includes both practical and written components, you do not need to be a performer to succeed. Students have the opportunity to explore design elements (such as lighting, sound, or set design), and a limited number may choose to be formally assessed through this route.

What will I study?



Component 1 – Devising Theatre (*Responding to a Stimulus*)

1. **Realising** – Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions → Practical performance.
2. **Devising** – Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for performance → This includes a 750–900-word written portfolio of supporting evidence.
3. **Evaluation** – analyse and evaluate your own work in a 1 hour, 45 minutes written evaluation completed under supervised conditions.

Component 2 – Performing from a Text

Students learn and perform two key extracts from a published play for an external examiner. Candidates may also choose a design route—working as a lighting, sound, set, or costume designer—collaborating with performers to bring the text to life.

Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre

At the end of Year 11, students complete a written exam assessing their understanding of how theatre is created.

1. **Section A:** A series of questions assessing knowledge and understanding of an **extract** from the set text of *Noughts and Crosses*. **One** question assessing knowledge and understanding of the **wider** text.
2. **Section B:** **One** question (from a choice of two) analysing and evaluating a specific aspect of a live or streamed theatre production (15 marks)

How will I be assessed?



One written exam at the end of Year 11 (Component 3)

A devised performance, accompanied by a portfolio and written evaluation (Component 1)

A performance of two extracts from a play for an external examiner (Component 2)

Which skills will I develop and use?



- Strong collaborative and communication skills
- Creative responses to briefs and practical challenges
- Analytical and evaluative writing skills
- Confidence in presenting ideas and performing or designing for an audience

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course leads to a GCSE Drama qualification, with opportunities to progress to A-Level Drama, Performing Arts BTECs, and degree-level study. However, the value of Drama extends far beyond theatre careers.

Employers and universities recognise that Drama students are: **articulate communicators, confident problem-solvers, adaptable team players** and **creative thinkers**. These skills are highly transferable and beneficial for careers in law, medicine, nursing, policing, the armed forces, retail, education, hospitality, and many other fields.

AQA GCSE Geography

Why should I study GCSE Geography?



Geography gets you the compulsory Humanities part of the English Baccalaureate qualification. A qualification in Geography is valued by places of further education and by employers.

What will I study?



GCSE Geography is studied in three units:

1) Living with the Physical Environment:

- A. The Challenge of Natural Hazards: natural hazards; tectonic hazards; climate hazards.
- B. The Living World: ecosystems; tropical rainforests; hot deserts.
- C. Physical Landscapes in the UK: coastal landscapes; river landscapes.

2) The Challenges of the Human Environment:

- A. Urban Issues and Challenges
- B. The Changing Economic World
- C. The Challenge of Resource Management: resource management; food as a resource.

3) Geographical Applications:

- A. Issue Evaluation: pre released material.
- B. Fieldwork: physical and human based.

How will I be assessed?



GCSE Geography is assessed in three exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1 – 90 minutes / 88 marks / 35% of GCSE.

Paper 2 – 90 minutes / 88 marks / 35% of GCSE.

Paper 3 – 90 minutes / 76 marks / 30% of GCSE

Which skills will I develop and use?



Geographers are valued because they learn to:

Make decisions about an issue; collect, handle and analyse data; write a concise report; think independently and creatively; solve problems from a number of angles; be computer literate; be a well-rounded, flexible thinker; be a good team player.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Geography is an impressive subject to have on your CV. You can go on to study it at A level and the subject is compatible with many other subjects, including science, sociology, politics, biology and environmental studies. Geography leads to many career opportunities including geological assistant, retail or conservation manager, park ranger, chartered surveyor, town planner, diplomat, teacher, travel agent, weather analyst; or, it can lead to a job in marketing or advertising. Geography graduates are amongst the most employable with 40% appointed to managerial or administrative positions.

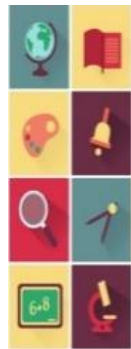
BTEC Health and Social Care

should I study BTEC Health and Social Care?



Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. This course provides a fantastic opportunity to learn about the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of people, from infancy to old age. It provides valuable insight into roles within the health and social care sector, the impact of life events on people within our society, and the types of support available. If you are considering a career within this sector or a career that involves working with people, or are just interested to learn more about human development or health and wellbeing, this course will provide you with information you need to know.

What will I study?



The BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in areas including:

- the life stages and key characteristics in the physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development
- different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events
- health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available
- the barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome
- the skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual
- how factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing • how physiological indicators and an individual's lifestyle choices determine physical health
- the use of the person-centred approach
- recommendations and actions to improving health and wellbeing
- the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Structure



- Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development – assessed internally through an assessment set by the exam board during Year 10 (30% of final grade)
- Component 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values – assessed internally through an assessment set by the exam board early in Year 11 (30% of final grade)
- Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing – written examination taken in May of Year 11 (40% of final grade)

As this is a BTEC course, the achievable grades are Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*. The course is the equivalent in value to a GCSE.

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector such as research techniques and how to measure someone's physical health. You will also develop your written communication skills as you create health and wellbeing plans for an individual with specific needs

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



About 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. Demand for both health and social care is expected to rise, so they will continue to play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital career roles.

AQA GCSE History

Why should I study GCSE History?



History is interesting! It is the story of us; how the world was shaped and how the past influences the world of the future. Studying GCSE History enhances critical thinking skills through the analysis of historical events and evidence. It provides a global perspective, fostering an understanding of diverse cultures and societies. History contributes to informed citizenship by offering insights into the forces that have shaped societies. History also supports personal development, deepening one's sense of identity and building a lifelong love of learning.

What will I study?

GCSE History is studied in four elements:



Paper 1: Period Study. America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality. This unit focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change, when some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

Paper 1: Wider World Depth Study: Inter-War Years, 1919-1939. This unit focuses on the period in-between the First and Second World Wars. Students assess the post-WW1 treaties and their impact on Europe, as well as evaluate the work of the League of Nations and why various factors contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

Paper 2: Thematic study. Britain: Health and the People. This unit is a study in development; investigating over many centuries how knowledge of disease, prevention and treatments increased. In addition, students will explain how governments and individuals contributed to an overall improvement in public health.

Paper 2: British Depth Study, including the historic environment: Norman England c.1066-c.1100.

This unit will study the arrival of the Normans and the establishment of their rule. The historic environment is a depth study of a specific site linked to a feature of the Norman's unit. The site changes each year.

How will I be assessed?



GCSE History is assessed in two examinations at the end of the two-year course.

- Paper 1: Period and world depth studies. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.
- Paper 2: Thematic study and British depth study. Examination lasting 2 hours. Worth 50% of final grade.

Which skills will I develop and use?



In addition to studying a wide range of fascinating historic periods, you'll learn a range of skills that will help you with A-levels and future work in. These include:

- Critical Thinking skills: analysis and interpretation of information.
- Research, investigation and communication skills: learning how to effectively construct and present an argument, orally and in writing
- Problem-solving skills: considering different perspectives to find solutions to complex situations
- Curating a global perspective and appreciation of the diverse nature of the world

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of History at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subjects post 16, in particular history, law, politics, sociology, English and media. History is very useful for the world of work. Its study helps create the skills needed by: Solicitors & Barristers; Politicians; Business men & women; TV presenters; Police officers; Comedians; Computer game designers; Teachers. In fact, the skills you develop while studying History can be used in ANY occupation.

EDUQAS Vocational award in Hospitality and Catering

Why should I study Hospitality and catering?



You should opt for this course

- If you like to cook.
- If you are creative.
- If you have a passion for food and its wider impact on health and well-being.
- If you are interested in learning about the hotel, restaurant and catering industry.

Please note: Pupils will be asked for a voluntary contribution of £40 to cover costs of revision guides, workbook and ingredients across year 10. During year 11 there will be another voluntary contribution of £40.

What will I study?



Pupils develop practical cookery skills and techniques as they explore the underlying principles of food safety, nutrition and planning a presentation. Pupils are inspired to become inquisitive, creative and confident cooks.

Areas covered include nutrition and health, meal planning, preparation and cooking techniques, food safety, sensory properties. Pupils are able to demonstrate skills and experiment through a wide range of practical tasks. Pupils are required to work independently and show high levels of organisation in both practical and theory lessons.

Students should be committed to achieving, enjoy being creative and have the drive to stretch their skills and produce excellent outcomes.

Student will learn about many aspects of the hospitality industry from hotel management, to front of house roles.

How will I be assessed?



Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry: Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry. Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action: Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value. Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours

Which skills will I develop and use?



Pupils are taught to:

- Select and use ingredients and processes to produce quality products.
- Use equipment safely with regard to themselves and others.
- Work accurately and efficiently in terms of time, ingredients and equipment.
- Carry out Research.
 - Plan and follow plans with a high level of accuracy.
 - Carry out effective evaluation and product analysis.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Hospitality and Catering provides a good basis for progression to A-level study, college or a wide range of careers in the hospitality, catering, and manufacturing industries as well as providing essential life skills.

EDUQAS GCSE Media Studies

Why should I study GCSE Media Studies?



This is the course for you:

- If you enjoy: watching TV and film, reading, listening to music, gaming and browsing the internet/social media, photography, art and design, IT, English
- If you enjoy a mixture of written/analytical work, as well as practical work
- If you enjoy using knowledge from everyday life and examining the influences of the world around you

What will I study?

Paper 1 - Exploring the media: Case studies, which involve a mixture of print, video and radio:

This Girl Can, The Sun, The Guardian, Quality Street, The Man with the Golden Gun, No Time to Die, GQ magazine, Vogue magazine, Desert Island Discs, Fortnite.

Paper 2 - Understanding media forms and products: Case studies of crime drama and music videos: Trigger Point crime drama, The Sweeney crime drama; 'The Man', Taylor Swift (2020), 'Superheroes', Stormzy (2020) 'Waterfalls' TLC, 1994.

Coursework - This is the practical element of GCSE Media Studies that you will undertake in Year 11. This changes each year. An overarching brief is set by Eduqas. This brief may be a choice of: music video, radio interview, journalism articles (newspaper or magazine), advertising (filmed, online or print).

How will I be assessed?



You will sit two exam papers and submit coursework in Year 11.

You will answer multiple choice, short answer and extended response essay style questions.

Which skills will I develop and use?

Students are taught to:

- Draw on their existing experience of the media through everyday life.
- Develop ability to critically examine messages and influences from media.
- Develop ability to critically examine the world around you and how it interacts with everyday life.
- Develop your abilities to explore as well as to create media.
- Develop ability to design and create media products that reproduce or interrogate

how that media product normally functions.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Media Studies sets you up fantastically for any of the following A-levels or college courses: sociology, history, photography, art, art and design, IT / computing, business, history, English, game design etc. Media studies also perfectly sets you up for entering one of the largest and growing sectors of our economy: the digital economy and the marketing (advertising) industry. Students who are able to interact cleverly with media, are adept at handling media and are excited by the opportunity to use it as a tool in the business world are very much desired in the modern workplace, where marketing online is increasingly lucrative. It also gives you opportunities for independent, practical and collaborative work, which are all skills greatly desired by employers.

EDUQAS GCSE Music

Why should I study GCSE Music?



- A chance to specialise on an instrument or in singing, developing performance skills and building your confidence as a musician.
- Develop skills of creativity, reflection and resilience by learning how to create your own music.
- It is 60% coursework and the final exam in year 11, 40%. It is mainly a practical subject with very little writing.

Please note: musical instrument or singing ability is not essential but previous musical experience and a love of music is desirable.

What will I study?



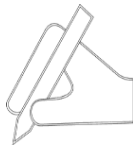
The course is split into three main components; Performing, Composing and Appraising.

Component 1- Performing- You will develop performance skills on your chosen instrument or voice. You will learn how to perform as a solo musician and also in a group. You will develop the skills needed to make performance in music successful. At the end of the course in Year 11 you will record one solo and one group performance on your chosen instrument or voice.

Component 2- Composition- You will learn the music theory and technology skills required to create your own piece of music. You will create two pieces of music as part of coursework, one will be to a brief set by the exam board.

Component 3- Appraising- Appraising is listening and analysing music. You will learn the skills required to do this and explore a number of genres of music in detail. This will include; Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music.

How will I be assessed?



Component 1 Performing- 30% - Teacher Assessed
Recorded Solo and Group Performance at the end of Year 11.

Component 2 Composition- 30%- Teacher Assessed
Two pieces of music created and submitted at the end of Year 11.

Component 3 Appraising- 40%- Externally Assessed
Listening Examination at the end of Year 11, based on areas of study.

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will help you develop the following skills:

- Musical performance skills
- Composition skills
- Listening and analysing skills
- Skills of working with others, confidence building, independent study skills and resilience.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course allows learners to progress to a wide variety of college and A level courses including Music A level, Music Technology A level and BTEC level 3 courses in popular music and performing arts. It also equips learners with the ability to develop professional music practises for careers in the music radio and television industry.

As the course allows the development of other skills, GCSE Music also allows you to go onto study other subjects and provides skills to study any subject at a higher level.

AQA GCSE Photography

Why should I study GCSE Photography?



- You enjoy all aspects of today's media world.
- You enjoy taking photographs all the time.
- You like using digital media and software
- You have basic drawing skills
- You also enjoy art & design and its range of media
- You have imagination and ideas

What will I study?

Year 10



You will learn about basic photography skills and how to edit and manipulate your photographs using Photoshop through a studying the photography of others and responding to their style within a project theme. The first 4 short projects are 'alphabet', 'objects', 'places' and 'light trails'. This collection of work will contribute to 'Component 1' which is 60% of your grade. You will also have the opportunity to work with Photographer Chris Vaughn doing some movement and light trail workshops.

Portfolio (starts at Easter in Year 10)

This body of work is based on the theme 'Identity' and is a big sustained project which forms the bulk of component 1. You will develop skills learned earlier in the course to build a body of work which includes recording, contextual links and experimenting with media. This work will be finalised with a personal photographic response you have created which relates to the set theme and links all your project work together. You will also experience a short Mock project and 3 hours practical exam in November of year 11.

Externally set task (starts January in Year 11)

Students will develop a project from a choice of themes on the exam paper and work towards their final outcome which is done in a 10 hour exam. This is 'Component 2' of the course and the remaining 40% of the grade.

How will I be assessed?



Component 1 – Collection of year 10 work and Portfolio 60%

A portfolio of work developed under controlled assessment.

Component - Set task 40%

Pupils have 12 weeks to prepare for a ten hour exam based on a selected starting point.

Which skills will I develop and use?

Students are taught to:



- Analyse the work of existing photographers
- Take good quality photographs
- Consider lighting and use a range of modes in the camera
- Edit photographs to create unique imagery
- Be proficient using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software
- Be independent learners and utilise their phones and apps too.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The study of this course could lead to any of the following: National Diploma in Art and Design; Foundation courses; A Level Art, Photography, Media studies, Graphics, Textiles, Product Design; and a wide range of degrees (Media, Web design, Advertising, Graphic Communication)

AQA GCSE Psychology

Why should I study GCSE Psychology?



Psychology will help you to understand why people think, act, and feel the way they do. You will build critical skills that are valued by employers and develop a new way of thinking which will help you in your daily life.

What will I study?



GCSE Psychology is studied in two units:

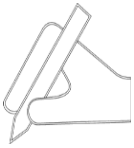
D. Cognition and Behaviour

- a. Memory
- b. Perception
- c. Development
- d. Research Methods

B. Social Context and Behaviour

- a. Social Influence
- b. Language, Thought, and Communication
- c. Brain and Neuropsychology
- d. Psychological Problems

How will I be assessed?



GCSE Psychology is assessed in two exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1 – Cognition and Behaviour – 1 hr 45 minutes – 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 – Social Context and Behaviour – 1 hr 45 minutes – 50% of GCSE

Each paper is a mixture of multiple choice, short written answers, and long written answer questions

Which skills will I develop and use?



Psychology helps you build a wide range of transferable skills:

- Thinking critically and evaluating evidence
- Understanding research methods and scientific enquiry
- Applying theories to real-life situations
- Problem-solving and independent thinking
- Building communication and teamwork skills

These skills are highly valued in many academic and career pathways.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Psychology is an impressive and versatile subject to have on your CV. You can continue the subject at A level, and it works well alongside Biology, Sociology, Health & Social Care, PE, Criminology, and other social sciences. Studying psychology can lead to careers such as:

- Clinical psychologist
- Counsellor or therapist
- Mental health practitioner
- Teacher or educational psychologist
- Social worker
- Police officer or criminologist
- Nurse, midwife or other health professions
- Sports psychologist
- HR, marketing, advertising, customer behaviour analysis

AQA GCSE Religious Studies

Why should I study GCSE Religious Studies?



GCSE Religious Studies provides students with the necessary skills to understand and empathise with other communities and cultures, whilst also understanding their role in their community. They will be able to critically evaluate religious and non-religious arguments, and apply them to everyday situations. Knowledge and understanding of Human Rights, Law, British Values and our chosen religions and themes will be developed in order to create well-balanced and evaluated arguments. A large part of the assessment focuses on extended written work based on a provocative statement which challenges your beliefs and opinions.

What will I study?



GCSE Religious Studies is studied in three units:

4) Christianity: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

5) Judaism: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

6) Thematic Studies

- C. Theme A – Relationships and Families
- D. Theme B – Religion and Life
- E. Theme D – War and Conflict
- F. Theme E – Religion, Crime and Punishment

How will I be assessed?



GCSE Religious Studies is assessed in two exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1: lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

- Section A: Christianity: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (51 marks)
- Section B: Judaism: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (51 marks)

Question types: multiple-choice, short answers, extended answer examination

Paper 2: examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

- All four themes (24 marks each)

Question types: multiple-choice, short answers, extended answer

Which skills will I develop and use?

This course will help you to develop the following skills:



- Create sustained and reasoned arguments and reach substantiated conclusions based on various current affair issues like relationships, our use of the planet and treatment of criminals.
- Understand the beliefs and practices of two major world religions and engage in conversation with these communities.
- Critically compare religious and non-religious viewpoints on current affairs
- Critical thinking and communication (both verbal and written) to evaluate arguments and viewpoints.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Religious Studies is a sought-after qualification on your CV. The discussions and debates involved opens numerous doors into journalism, law, media and education sectors. Whilst the building of empathy skills further improves your employability in Public Services and Health and Social Care. The study of Religious Studies allows all students to be citizens of the world beyond education, whilst providing you with the necessary skills to study a variety of subjects post-16.

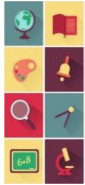
Edexcel GCSE Spanish

Why should I study GCSE Spanish?



GCSE Spanish is a component of the English Baccalaureate. You should consider this GCSE if you have a passion for Spanish, language learning, global diversity of languages and cultures and want a language qualification on your CV.

What will I study?



The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs. Many of these topics build on prior learning in KS3:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

How will I be assessed?



Unit component	% of grade	Exam type	Skills
Unit 1: Listening	25% (50marks)	EXAM (in Y11)	Listening to passages in Spanish and responding to questions in English. Dictation: transcribing spoken Spanish to written Spanish
Unit 2 Speaking	25% (50marks)	EXAM (in Y11)	Read aloud, role play, picture task and conversation
Unit 3 Reading	25% (50marks)	EXAM (in Y11)	Reading tasks to include understanding of tense changes, a wide range of vocabulary and longer text- answering in English. Translation from Spanish to English
Unit 4 Writing	25% (50marks)	EXAM (in Y11)	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes: Describing a photo, 40-50 word task and 80-90 word task.

Which skills will I develop and use?



- Listening to and reading in Spanish and understanding
- Speaking clearly in Spanish
- Writing at an understandable level in Spanish
- Application of rules of Grammar – changing verbs into the past, present and future tenses
- Problem solving

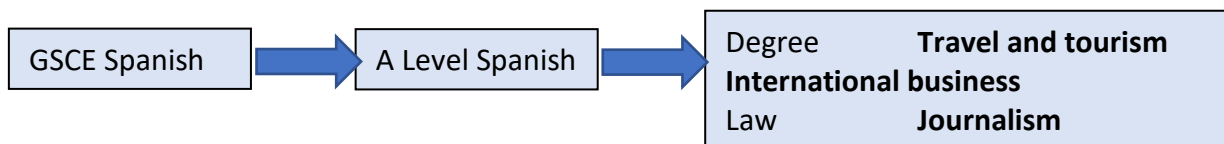
How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



Having a language qualification can lead to being more employable, having higher salaries and more opportunities to travel!

Benefits also include improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, an ability to multitask and better listening skills.

These valuable skills will help you in many aspects of your future career!



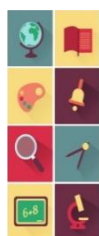
BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Why should I study BTEC Sport?



This course will introduce students to the sport, activity and fitness sector. By studying for your Award you will gain the key knowledge, understanding and skills that are foundations for working in this area. The course gives learners a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise and provides education and training for sport, leisure and recreation employees. To prepare for working in the sport sector you will learn about the different types and providers of sport and physical activity, in addition to different participants and their needs. Furthermore, you will learn about the different fitness test, methods of training and supporting equipment and technology that can be used in sport. You will have the opportunity to apply your learning by planning and implementing your own session plans for different groups of people.

What will I study?



This course comprises of three compulsory units:

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (internal non-exam assessed unit – 30% of overall course weighting)

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (internal non-exam assessed unit – 30% of overall course weighting)

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (external synoptic exam assessment at the end of year 11 – 40% of overall course weighting)

How will I be assessed?



The Level 1/2 BTEC Tech Award in Sport:

- Is a Level 1 and 2 qualification and is graded at Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*, Level 1 and Unclassified.
- Is a 120 guided-learning-hour qualification (equivalent in teaching time to one GCSE).
- Has 40% of the qualification that is externally assessed. Edexcel sets and marks these assessments.
- Presents knowledge in a work-related context.
- Provides opportunities for synoptic assessment. Learners will apply the skills and knowledge gained from the internal components when studying the external synoptic content.
- In component one and two, students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills when planning and delivering a warm-up in small groups.

Which skills will I develop and use?



The BTEC Tech Award in Sport course will provide students with opportunities to develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferable skills such as communication, problem solving, leadership skills, data analysis and organisation skills in order to meet strict deadlines.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



This course is a fantastic stepping stone for anyone seeking further study in A Level PE, BTEC Sport or apprenticeship. Learners will achieve a qualification that is relevant to the current needs of the sport and health sector more widely, involving jobs such as sports coaching, sport development, sports scientist, PE teacher, sports administrator, leisure management, sports psychologist, PT/fitness instructor, and physiotherapist.

Edexcel GCSE Statistics

Why should I study GCSE Statistics?



GCSE Statistics gives students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in a key component of maths that is relevant to everyday life. They'll develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that's applicable to a range of other subjects. It will also benefit those progressing to many A-level subjects.

What will I study?

GCSE Statistics studies three key areas:

1. The collection of data
2. Processing, representing and analysing data
3. Probability



The order of the content, for each tier, follows the order of the **statistical enquiry cycle**.

Practical investigations are part of a programme of study so that students have the opportunity to understand that different approaches, including the use of technology, may be appropriate at each stage of the statistical enquiry cycle, and that

statistical conclusions are developed through an iterative process of testing and refinement

How will I be assessed?



GCSE Statistics is assessed in two exams at the end of the course.

There are 2 tiers of entry – Foundation (Grade 1-5) Higher (Grade 4-9)

- Unit 1: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.
- Unit 2: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

Which skills will I develop and use?



This course will help you to develop the following skills

- Selecting and organising information.
- Interpersonal and Intrapersonal.
- Preparing and presenting arguments.
- Analysing and synthesizing information
- Evaluating sources of information and interpretations.

How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?



The skills acquired through the study of Statistics at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subject's post 16, in particular Maths, Science, geography, sociology, Psychology and Business Studies. These subjects require you to handle and interpret data!

If students aspire to work in a role that requires handling statistics, then GCSE Statistics is an obvious choice for them. In a world where statistics is increasingly prevalent, studying this GCSE is likely to open many career opportunities to you, as well as enable you to better analyse and understand the world around you.

AQA 'Triple Science'

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

Why should I study GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics?



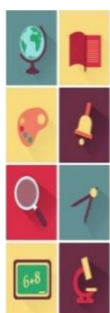
You like figuring out why

You like Science

You wish to study a Science A-Level

Students must attain a grade 5 in their Science baseline assessment

What will I study?



Students will study all of the content covered in the GCSE Combined Science course, as well as extra Biology, Chemistry and Physics content. Each week there will be 4 lessons covering the core content and 3 lessons covering extra content. You will need a strong commitment to this extra work to succeed in this course. This course is designed for students wanting to study science A-Levels, it is for this reason that you would need to have attained **at least a grade 5 in the GCSE baseline assessments** to show that you are able to cope with the extra content and examination time. Pupils take their year 7, 8 and 9 science studies into a lot more detail. The 3 main sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied. There are 8 Biology units looking at topics ranging from Cellular Biology, Infection and Response all the way to Ecology. Physics has 8 units ranging from Energy and Electricity and further topics such as Waves and Electromagnetism. The 8 Chemistry units are more closely linked looking at Atomic Structure, the Development of the Periodic Table and topics looking at Organic Chemistry and Chemistry of the Atmosphere.

Sciences will be studied concurrently with at least two lessons per week for Biology, Chemistry and Physics specific work. Each unit is assessed with a topic test to check current levels of knowledge and understanding. There are also 4 mock examination opportunities to check progress against externally assessed criteria

How will I be assessed?



Each of the three GCSE courses is assessed in the following way:

- Two Examinations of 1hr 45 minutes each with 100 marks on each paper.

In total there will be **six examinations**.

Which skills will I develop and use?

This course will help you develop the following skills:

- Researching Data.
- Analysing Data.
- Presenting Data.
- Evaluating Data.
- Developing an understanding for the world around you.
- Explaining the processes that affect our everyday lives.



How will I be able to use this subject in my future career?

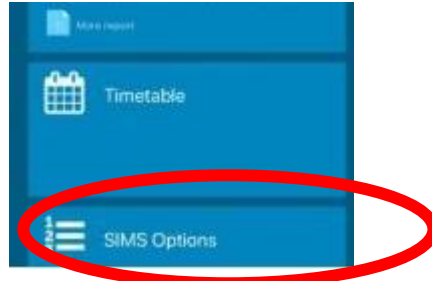


For students who are planning studying sciences at advanced level (AS/A2) the Triple Science pathway is the most appropriate choice to make. This will then lead onto degree level study or professional training in a vast range of fields, such as medicine, engineering and pharmacology. The list of careers is endless.


Choosing your Year 9 Options

Accessing the Options Form:

Students are required to use SIMS Options online to select their chosen subjects. To access this you need to sign in to your **SIMS Student App** and choose the SIMS Options tab.



Please note – Options will not appear on the SIMS Apps until we launch the options online, which will be 14th March 2026.

Alternatively to use a larger screen you can log in to the Student App on a computer by visiting <https://www.sims-student.co.uk>. Remember to click the Microsoft icon  to log into your account.

Picking your Options:

The first section you will see will remind you of the choices you can make, and will then give you a choice of Geography or History. You must choose one of these subjects by clicking on your preferred choice, turning the subject blue.

A screenshot of the 'Humanities' selection screen. At the top, it says 'Humanities' in a purple header. Below that, it says 'You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list'. There are two buttons: 'Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course' and 'History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course'. Both buttons have a blue bar at the bottom with an information icon and the text 'This course is also available in Open'.

The next section you will see will remind you again of the choices available and some advice on selecting subjects, and will then give you a choice of all options subjects. You are required to make **two** choices and **one** reserve choice.

A screenshot of the 'All Options' selection screen. At the top, it says 'You have chosen 0 of 2 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list'. Below that, there is a grid of 20 buttons, each representing a subject and a 'Reserve' button. The subjects are: Photography, Business studies, Computer Science, Design & Technology Timbers, Hospitality & Catering, Media Studies, Religious Studies, Spanish, Statistics, Art, Citizenship, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Seperate Sciences, Sports Studies (GCSE), and Textiles. The 'Geography' and 'History' buttons have a blue bar at the bottom with an information icon and the text 'This course is also available in Humanities'.

Click on the name of the two subjects you would like to choose (they will turn blue) and then click on the 'reserve' button next to a third subject. This will highlight orange.

You have chosen 2 of 2 ✓ courses and 1 of 1 ✓ reserves from this list

Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Business studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Citizenship GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Design & Technology Timbers GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Hospitality & Catering GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Religious Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Seperate Sciences GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sports Studies (GCSE) GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

Go to the My Choices in Order of Preference section and make sure that your choices are listed in order of preference.

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Business studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open
- Religious Studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Drama**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open

If you need to change the order of preference you should click on the subject you wish to move and then click again where you would like to move it to. In the example above, say I wanted to change RS to my first choice, I would click on RS:

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Business studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open
Click again to deselect or click another course to change preference.
- Religious Studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open
Click to move Business studies here.

My Reserves in Order of Preference (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Drama**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open

My Choices in Order of Preference (Total Choices: 2)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Religious Studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open
- Business studies**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Open

Then I would click on the number 1 and this will change my order of preference

If you want to change a subject as either a choice or the reserve, simply click on it to cancel. For example if you want to change Drama as the reserve, click on the reserve button which cancels it as a choice and Drama is no longer highlighted Orange. Then click on your new reserve subject to highlight it.

You have chosen 2 of 2 ✓ courses and 1 of 1 ✓ reserves from this list

Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Business studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Citizenship GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Computer Science GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Design & Technology Timbers GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Hospitality & Catering GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Music BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2	Reserve
Religious Studies GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Seperate Sciences GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Sports Studies (GCSE) GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Statistics GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve

You can add a comment in the student comments box if there is something you would like us to know.



Finally you must remember to press the SAVE button at the top of the screen, otherwise your choices will not be saved for your parents to approve.

Parents will then need to log in to their **SIMS Parent App** (there may be a delay between your child making their choices and these showing on your parent approval screen). After logging on to the app select the 'Options' tab. The option screen will then launch and you can review your child's choices.

If you are happy with their choices, click on the Parent/Carer Approval tick box to approve your child's option choices. This tick box is at the bottom of the page.

Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval



Ensure you then press the save button to indicate that you have approved their option choices.

If you would like any choices amending please ask your child to log into their app and change the choices on their log in. Once this synchronises across to the Parent app you will be able to review and approve (and save!).

SUPPORT USING SIMS APPS:

Pupils: if you would like help with using the SIMS Student App – please arrange to see Mrs Warnock.

Parents: any enquiries regarding the SIMS Parent app can be addressed to Mrs S Warnock or Mrs L Garner. Please do not telephone the school but email on pembrokeenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk and we will be happy to help.