



YEAR 9 CHOICES 2025

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Potential | Excellence | Respect | Integrity | Grace



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WELCOME

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Grace Academy Darlaston, we are committed to providing every student with a personalised and enriching learning experience that sets them up for future success. As part of this journey, Year 9 is a pivotal stage where students, supported by their families, make important decisions about their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

Our curriculum is designed to be both innovative and engaging, ensuring that students gain valuable skills and qualifications that will support them in their next steps. The core curriculum provides a strong and balanced foundation, complemented by a diverse selection of creative, practical, and stimulating subjects tailored to different interests and aspirations.

To help guide these important choices, students will take part in assemblies and lessons introducing the options available. During Parents' Evening, both you and your child will have the opportunity to explore the full range of subjects we offer at Key Stage 4, gaining valuable insights to support informed decision-making.

This booklet outlines the subjects available, including key details to assist your child in selecting the courses that best align with their interests, strengths, and future ambitions. It also provides information on the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), a suite of GCSE subjects that helps keep future study and career options open.

Choosing the right subjects is an important step in shaping your child's future. We encourage students to select courses based on their interests and long-term goals, ensuring they are motivated and well-prepared for further education and beyond.

If you require any further information or to discuss the Key Stage 4 subjects please contact **Miss Morris** or **Miss Chance** at the Academy.



Henry Holland

Principal - Grace Academy Darlaston

INTRODUCTION

As a Year 9 student, you are about to embark on an exciting journey of choosing the subjects that you will study in Year 10 and 11. This is an important decision that will shape your future academic and career paths.

All students will study **core subjects** and have the opportunity to choose 4 additional subjects to study alongside these subjects. If you choose to study a language, you will gain the 'English Baccalaureate'. Details of this can be found on the next page

These choices could include GCSEs or vocational qualifications. To help you make informed decisions, it is essential that you seek advice from various sources, including your tutor, subject teachers, course leaders, Head of departments, Head of Year, parents/carers, and older students who are already taking the courses. They can provide valuable insights and help you identify the most appropriate and ambitious choices for your future.

At Grace Academy Darlaston, the focus is on ensuring that you enjoy your learning experience and achieve your full potential in your chosen subjects. Therefore, it is important to choose courses that suit your needs, challenge you, and help you develop life skills that will prepare you for your future. In the next few pages of this booklet, you will find information about the **subject, curriculum structure** and a **timescale** of when you need to make your decisions.

GCSE Grading:

From 2014 GCSE grades changed from letters to numbers. The highest grade your child can achieve is a Grade 9 and 1 is the lowest. This table shows you how the new GCSE grades compare with the old letters.

Vocational Grading:

At Grace Academy Darlaston we offer a range of vocational qualifications in Years 10 and 11 to complement GCSEs. These are vocational qualifications. Students complete coursework through their two years of study and sit examination units that all go towards deciding their final grade. These grades range from a Distinction* to a Pass. Students have two attempts to sit their examination unit and improve their grade.

Legacy GCSEs	New GCSEs	Vocational Qualifications	
A*	9	Distinction* 8.5	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction 7	
B	6	Merit 5.5	
	5	Pass 4	
C	4		
D	3	Distinction* 3	Level 1
E	2	Distinction 2	
F		Merit 1.5	
G	1	Pass 1	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	

Students in Years 10 and 11 are required to study a core set of subjects. These compulsory subjects ensure that all students receive a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for their future studies and careers.

The core subjects include English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science (Combined or separate sciences), CR and either History or Geography.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The Department for Education recommends the core subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), as research shows that students studying these subjects are more likely to continue in education beyond age 16.

The EBacc includes English Language and Literature, Maths, Science (Combined or separate sciences), History or Geography, and a language (German or Spanish). These subjects help keep future study and career options open.

At Grace Academy Darlaston, we believe that our curriculum is flexible enough to meet the individual needs of all our students. We encourage our students to explore their interests and passions through the wide range of subjects available to them. Our goal is to provide our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen paths after leaving school.

Subject	Description
CR	All students will receive a regular CR lesson which contains RE, Citizenship and PSHE.
English (Literature and Language)	All students study English Language and Literature. This is equivalent to two GCSE's
Maths	All students study Maths. There are two tiers, Foundation and Higher.
Science	All students study Combined Science. This is equivalent to two GCSE's
History or Geography	All students study at least one of the humanities subjects.
Spanish or German	Students will be able to choose the language that they have studied from Year 7. If they choose a language, they will gain the EBacc qualification
Core PE	Core PE is non-examined and is a statutory component of their education

CHOICES 2025

The full range of subjects available are listed below:

Core Subjects		
English Language	English Literature	Mathematics
Science	Geography or History	Core PE
CR		

Choices		
Art	Business	Digital Information Technology (IT)
Textiles	Engineering	Statistics
Sport	Health and Social Care	Hospitality and Catering
Performing Arts: Drama	Performing Arts: Music	Triple Science
Citizenship	Religious Education	Media Studies
Spanish	German	Sociology
Performing Arts: Dance	Performing Arts: Technical Theatre	

Choices 2025	
Art	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Citizenship	GCSE
Dance	WJEC
Digital Information Technology (IT)	BTEC
Drama	WJEC
Engineering	WJEC
Health & Social Care	EDUQ
Hospitality & Catering	WJEC
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	WJEC
Religious Studies	GCSE
Sociology	GCSE
Spanish or German	GCSE
Sport	BTEC
Statistics	GCSE
Textiles	GCSE
Technical Theatre	WJEC

Key
GCSE - General Certificate of Education
BTEC - Pearson Tech award - Level 1/2*
WJEC - Vocational award - Level 1/2*
EQUQ - Eduqas Vocational award - Level 1/2*
<i>*All vocational awards at level 2 are equivalent to 1 GCSE</i>

Core Subjects
English Language GCSE
English Literature GCSE
Mathematics GCSE
Science GCSE- worth at least 2 GCSEs
History and/or Geography GCSE
Physical Education (Statutory)
All students will receive a regular CR lesson which contains RE, Citizenship and PSHE.

HOW WILL MY CHILD MAKE THEIR CHOICES?

All year 9 students will have an opportunity to complete their choices via **an online form with their parents at home** towards the end of the Spring Term. This form will be sent to parents via their email. We encourage all parents to make sure their **email addresses are up-to-date** on the system.

During **Parents and Choices Evening**, there will be a 10 minute session delivered by Miss Morris (Head of Key Stage) that will explain how to complete the choices form and answer any additional questions

Students will **only get one choice within each block**. At least one of these choices must be for History or Geography. All places are subject to the amount of people that opt for that course.

We will ask students to select a first and second choice within each choices block. The second choice will only be used if we have no space in the subject they have selected as 1st choice.

If you have any additional questions or need support, please contact **Miss Morris** (Head of Key Stage) or **Ms Chance** (Vice Principal) at the Academy.

It is important to submit final choices on the form so that the school can begin to plan accordingly.

All dates in the table below are subject to change

Key Dates	Activity
6th - 23rd January 2025 - Year 9 Choices Assembly	Students will be introduced to the range of Choices available
24th January 2025 - Year 9 Initial Interest	Form completed by the students to assess their interests and start the blocking process
20th March 2025- Year 9 Parents and Choices Evening	An opportunity for parents/carers to meet subject leads and discuss choices
29th April 2025 - Deadline	Form to be completed using your child's login
21st May 2025 - Choices confirmed	Email sent to parents/carers to confirm choices

MAP OF SUBJECTS

If you would like more information on the following subjects, please see the subject advertisement and the relevant teachers:

- GCSE Statistics – Miss Williams (Maths)
- GCSE Triple Science – Mrs Palmer, Mr Taylor or Miss Hodgetts (Science)
- Media Studies and Religious Education – Mr Pemberton



CORE SUBJECTS



AQA GCSE English Language

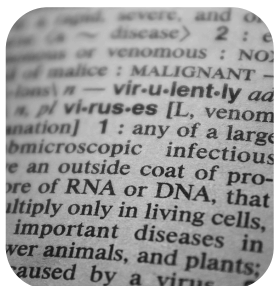
What will the course involve?

All students will study a range of fiction extracts for Language paper 1 and Non-fiction extracts for Language paper 2 and learn how to develop a descriptive or narrative writing account. The programme of study will take place over three years. You will also work on how to write for specific audiences and purposes and develop their understanding of what makes good writing. The subject requires real effort in order to achieve strong results. It is also vital that students are reading regularly as this will greatly improve their understanding of how texts are written and how they can develop.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Language Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	50%
Language Paper 2	Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives	50%



What will I learn?

You will:

- learn how to infer key aspects from a text and how to support your ideas successfully with evidence from the text
- secure an awareness of language and structure in a text and how writer's craft creates meaning in the text
- secure evaluative skills and respond to an extended writing question
- create and draft extended creative and narrative writing, building description and using sentence craft, establish purpose, audience and text type and develop grammatical knowledge



Why should I study this course? All students study English Language in line with the National Curriculum.

Further Education Links

You will need a good English grade to ensure you can access other subjects like from Humanities to PE, French to DT. A good writing style is essential in all subjects as is interpretation of multiple types of text.

Career Links

Doctors, the Law, teaching, communications and media, journalism, civil engineer, social media manager, copy editor, para legal, editor and writer

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs Milford

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance

AQA GCSE English Literature

What will the course involve?

All students will study *Romeo and Juliet*, *An Inspector Calls*, *A Christmas Carol* and the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology. You will study the background of the text, key influences of the author and analyse linguistic devices and analyse lexical choices. The subject requires real effort in order to achieve strong results. It is also vital that students are reading regularly as this will greatly improve their understanding of how texts are written and how they can develop their own writing.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Literature Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel	40%
Literature Paper 2	Modern texts and poetry	60%

What will I learn?

You will:

- learn how to infer key aspects from a text and how to support your ideas successfully with evidence from the text
- learn about texts and their cultural, social and moral background
- secure an awareness of language and structure in a text and how writer's craft creates meaning in the text
- learn about literary techniques the author has used in order to provide the reader with a message
- how to write an analytical essay with academic tone

Why should I study this course?

All students study English Literature in line with the National Curriculum. It will introduce to you a broad range of texts that will help to unlock the world around you.

Further Education Links

You will need a good English grade to ensure you can access other subjects like from Humanities to PE, French to DT. A good writing style is essential in all subjects as is interpretation of multiple types of text.

Career Links

Doctors, the Law, teaching, communications and media, journalism, civil engineer, social media manager, copy editor, para legal, editor and writer.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs Milford

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance

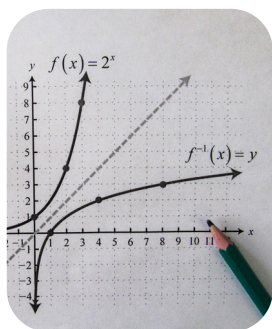
OCR GCSE Mathematics - Foundation

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics - Higher

What will the course involve?

The GCSE consists of all aspects of Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Statistics and Probability.

It is a course that focuses on applying Mathematics in context, problem solving, reasoning and the functional elements of Mathematics. It encourages a teaching approach that is enriching and engaging for all learners. It concentrates on the mathematical knowledge and applications that are most accessible and relevant. All students are required to study mathematics at higher or foundation



How will I be assessed?

OCR	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	Calculator	33%
Paper 2	Non-Calculator	33%
Paper 3	Calculator	33%

Edexcel	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	Non-calculator	33%
Paper 2	Calculator	33%
Paper 3	Calculator	33%

What will I learn?

You will

- be taught the content of the Mathematics curriculum at higher or foundation level
- make links to real life problem solving as well as financial implications
- apply mathematics in context and problem-solve.

Why should I study this course?

Maths is compulsory in the national curriculum. All students are currently required to pass GCSE at grade 4 and above; those that are unable to will continue Maths until the age of 18.

Further Education Links

Maths is available to study at post 16 as a subject on its own. Having a good understanding of Maths topics is key for several subject areas including science, psychology and geography. At university, GCSE Maths at grade 4 or above is a requirement for most courses.

Career Links

Students that study Maths at A level or university are well equipped as graduate starting salaries for those with a degree in Maths are 20% higher on average. A good GCSE Maths grade is essential for roles in fields of engineering, logistic, most business management and medicine.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to any Maths teachers who are always able to answer any questions.

Higher - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Foundation - <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/>

Trilogy A - Double Award

How will I be assessed?

	Content	Grade Percentage
Biology	Paper 1 - Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics. Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%
	Paper 2 - Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology.. Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%
Chemistry	Paper 1 - Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes and Energy changes Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%
	Paper 2 - The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources. Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%
Physics	Paper 1 - Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter and Atomic structure. Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%
	Paper 2 - Forces, Waves and Magnetism and electromagnetism Written Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes	16.7%

Chemistry	Biology	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Electricity • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure • Forces • Waves • Magnetism and electromagnetism



Why should I study this subject

This course is a core element of secondary education.

Further Education Links

BTEC Science. BTEC Sport

Career Links Science can lead you into many different careers, including research, medicine, crime scene investigation, collision investigation and many more. It is part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) so can assist you in developing into careers in IT, data analysis, statistics and many more.

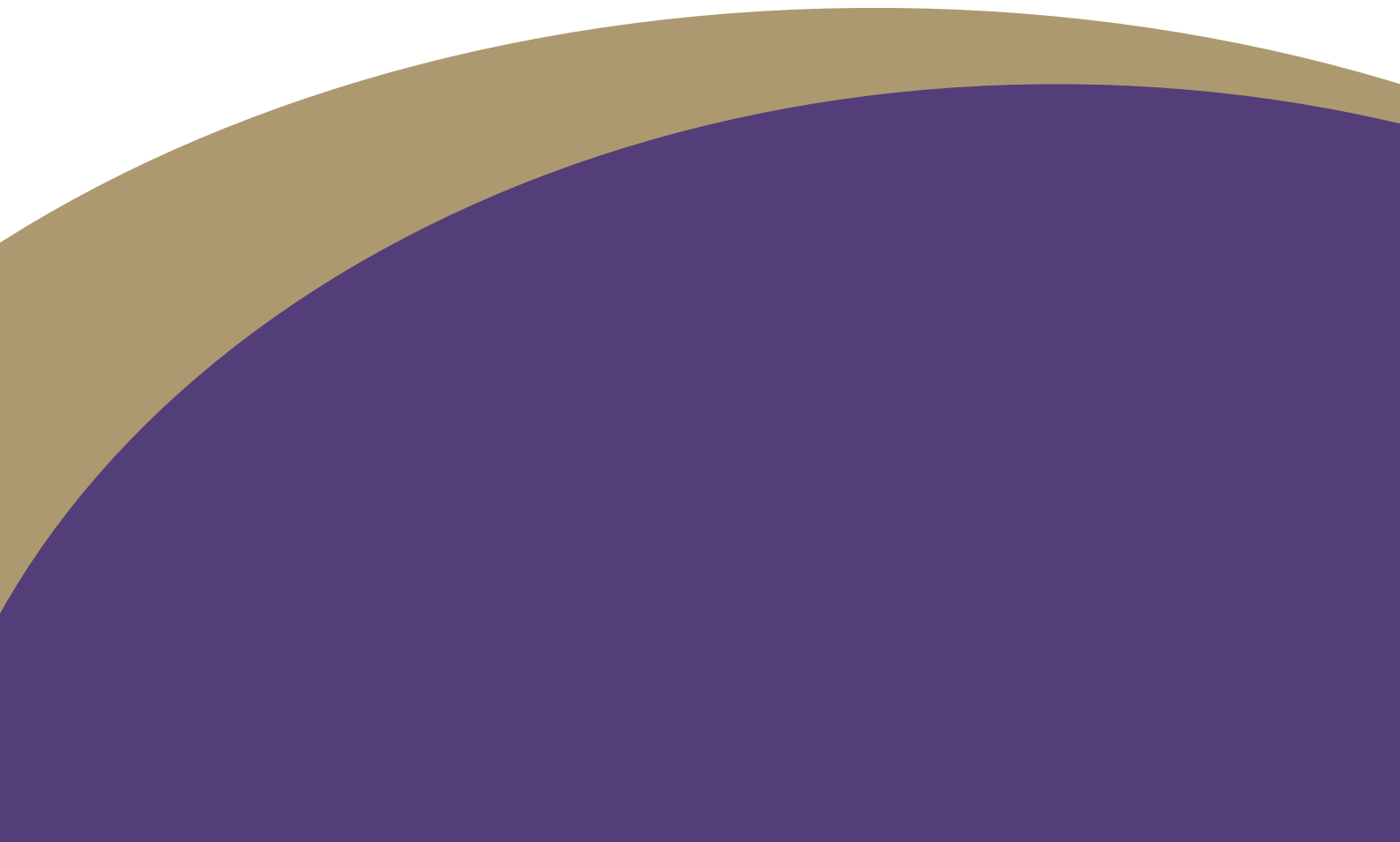
Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Hodgetts, Mrs Palmer or Mr Taylor

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance

HUMANITIES CHOICES

YOU MUST SELECT AT LEAST ONE OF THESE CHOICES



AQA GCSE Geography

What will the course involve?

Geography is enquiry-based, about real world issues, both global & local. You will investigate three areas: Living in the UK Today, The World Around Us, Geographical Skills.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Living with the physical environmentGeographical skills	35%
Paper 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Challenges in the human environmentGeographical skills	35%
Paper 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Geographical applicationsGeographical skills	30%

What will I learn?

The Living with the physical environment module explores how natural processes change over time and how people interact with them in different places and on different scales. It focuses on understanding earthquakes, landforms, weather, ecosystems, and how we manage these environments sustainably while considering human impact on the Earth and atmosphere.

You will also learn how human activities, systems, and outcomes change over time and across different places. It looks at a range of locations, including rich and poor countries, to understand what shapes different human environments, how they change, the need for sustainable management, and the challenges and opportunities they face.

Field studies and trips are an integral part of the Geography GCSE experience so that students can see what we have studied in class.

Why should I study this course? Geography helps you to make sense of the world you live in. It is the study of where places are and what they are like. It looks at how people live in different parts of the world and how and why places change. As the world 'gets smaller' and our environment is increasingly threatened, we need more than ever to understand the geography of the world. A survey of employers showed that Geography is rated as one of the most useful subjects.

Further Education Links

Geography is a diverse and multi-disciplinary course and lends itself to a wide variety of A Levels, such as Geography, Biology, English, Economics and more

Career Links

This qualification can lead to the further study of Geography and is also useful in a variety of careers linked with Advertising, Armed Services, Estate Agency, Family/Forestry, Leisure and Tourism, Selling and Marketing, Nature Conservation, Planning and Transport, plus many more.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Guest

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification>

AQA GCSE History

What will the course involve?

- Exploration of a wide variety of British and Global history to gain an understanding of the world we live in today.
- Developing skills to effectively debate and discuss historical events.
- Opportunities to engage in interesting class discussion where everyone is encouraged to participate and give their point of view.
- Exploration of sources written and produced by those who experienced key moments from the past.
- Analysis of historical interpretations.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	Understanding the modern world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship• Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918–1939	50%
Paper 2	Shaping the nation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day• Elizabethan England, c1568–1603 (including historic environment)	50%

What will I learn?

- Find out about the medical challenges facing previous generations including the Black Death, the Great Plague and the horror of Cholera outbreaks. Also consider the ways in which the prevention and treatment of disease has changed over time.
- Find out how the consequences of the First World War plunged nations into a Second World war.
- Study the reign of one of the most transformative Queens of England. Find out how she maintained her authority in a nation which wanted a male monarch.
- Find out about how Germany recovered from the loss of World War I only to be financially ruined by the end of the 1920s due to the Great Depression. This will then lead to a study of why the German people turned to Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party in their desperation.

Why should I study this course? We live in a complex but fascinating world. It is very difficult to understand the world and events around us if we do not study and understand history.

Further Education Links

A Level History, Law , English, Politics

Career Links

The law, teaching, journalism, the Civil Service, politics, architecture, and town planning, research, accountancy, publishing, production companies, business, cultural, archaeology, museum curation.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mr Brookes

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/specification>

FURTHER CHOICES

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SELECT 3 CHOICES

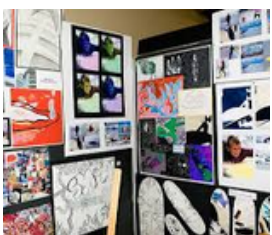


OCR GCSE Fine Art

What will the course involve?

- You will create a portfolio of work based on the themes set by your teacher.
- You will experiment visually with a range of media to explore your theme before resolve it into a personal and meaningful final piece.
- You will work in a range of wet and dry media to produce typography and packaging through a variety of methods, but ultimately the media you use for your final piece depends on what direction you have taken your experiments.

How will I be assessed?



AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1 - Portfolio	Portfolio Project	60%
Component 2 - Examination	Theme set by exam board and 10 hour invigilated exams over several days	40%

What will I learn?

You will:

- Actively engage with the creative processes of fine art in your chosen title(s) and area(s) of study using a wide variety of techniques.
- Become effective and independent artists through the study of methods, artists and colour theory.
- Develop your creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring, creating and producing designs, sketches and paintings.
- Become confident in taking risks, learning from your experiences through exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, materials.
- Develop and refine your ideas, supported by an understanding of your context and what has informed them.
- Show an understanding of the purpose, intentions and functions of fine art, and how this communicates a message with an audience.

Why should I study this course?

You are creative and imaginative. You love art and enjoy experimentation.

Further Education links

A– Level Art / Photography / Textiles

Career Links

Fine artist, art curator, art teacher, gallery manager, illustrator, print maker, exhibition designer, art conservationist.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs B Knight

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016

EDEXCEL GCSE Business

What will the course involve?

This course is active and enjoyable. To solve business problems you need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas. You will be required to work well in teams, show good presentation skills, write well and demonstrate good maths skills. You will learn how to be a creative thinker and how to make decisions.



How will I be assessed?

Edexcel	Content	Grade Percentage
Theme 1	Exam at end of year 11 - 1 hour and 30 minutes	50%
Theme 2	Exam at end of year 11 - 1 hour and 30 minutes	30%

What will I learn?

- In Theme 1 you will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will study the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and how to make a business more effective and successful. You will understand how to make and manage money well. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.
- In Theme 2 you will learn more about how small businesses are developed beyond the start-up phase, and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. You will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them. Theme 2 focuses on key business concepts and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Why should I study this course? Business Studies GCSE is relevant to the world of work and employers value the qualification. You will gain useful skills for education and employment, and understand more about how businesses work.

Further Education links

A Level Business

Career Links

Accountancy, Human Resources, Banking, Marketing, Recruitment, Law, Finance, Distribution, Administration, Retail, Insurance, Hospitality

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Ms Brooks

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

Edexcel GCSE Citizenship

What will the course involve?

Students learn a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the topical events in the news. Students gain an understanding of how the UK is governed by studying the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens; the role of the voluntary sector; different types of government; the role of the media, the criminal and civil justice systems including the Crown Prosecution service and the Police.

The course also covers discussions about the UK's relationship with the wider world. They obtain and use different kinds of information, to form and express an opinion on debates studied.



How will I be assessed?

Edexcel	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	Written Examination of 1 hour and 45 minutes on Themes including Living in the UK, Democracy, Law & Justice	50%
Paper 2	Written Examination of 1 hour and 45 minutes on your own Citizenship Campaign, power and influence	50%

What will I learn?

Citizenship Studies is about how people take an active part in democratic politics and work together for a better society, locally, nationally and globally. Students will learn about power, democracy, the operation of government and the legal system, and the role of the UK in the wider world.

They will explore and learn about different controversial and topical issues with political, social, ethical, economic and environmental dimensions in local to global contexts. They will experience taking citizenship action and learn from trying to make a difference themselves.

Why should I study this course?

GCSE Citizenship is a great choice for students who want to understand how society, government, and democracy work. It helps develop knowledge of citizens' rights and responsibilities, the law, and how political and economic decisions impact daily life. This subject encourages active participation in society, preparing students to make a positive impact in their communities and future careers.

Further Education Links

A Levels in Politics, Law, Sociology, History, Economics and BTEC Public Services

Career Links

Lawyer, Police Officer, Politician, Policy Advisor, Social Worker, Human Rights Advocate, Public Relations Specialist

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Ms Cooper

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/citizenship-studies-2016.html>

WJEC Level 1/2 Performing Arts: Dance

What will the course involve?

Students will have the opportunity to develop as Dancers, Choreographers and Producers. Students will develop their knowledge within Dance and the Performing Arts but also can enhance skillset in areas such as leadership, problem solving and planning/organisation.

The course helps students build confidence, teamwork, and physical fitness while learning choreography, performance skills, and the creative process behind dance productions. It also provides a strong foundation for careers in dance, performing arts, and related industries.



How will I be assessed?



WJEC	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Performing	Reproduce an existing piece of Choreography individually or as a small company. You will need to complete a research portfolio, record your rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by an evaluation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 2: Creating	Reproduce an existing piece of Choreography individually or as a small company. You will need to complete a research portfolio, record your rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by an evaluation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice	Plan and create an event (including a short Dance performance for the event) based on a commission. This includes planning & scheduling, promoting & pitching and evaluating & reflecting.	40% (80 Marks)

What will I learn?

- Dance Techniques & Styles – Exploring different dance genres and improving technical skills.
- Choreography – Creating and developing original dance routines.
- Performance Skills – Building confidence and stage presence through live performances.
- Dance Appreciation – Understanding the history, purpose, and impact of different dance styles.
- Health & Fitness – Learning about safe practice, injury prevention, and physical well-being.
- Teamwork & Creativity – Collaborating with others to create and perform dance pieces.

Why should I study this course?

Studying an Arts qualification will provide students (even those wanting to be lawyers and doctors) with the ability to think creatively and originally – this is more important in the world now than ever. This course provides young people a true insight into what happens in a theatre beyond the stage!

Further Education

BOA, Walsall Studio School, Sandwell College & other college/sixth form A-Level or Vocational courses

Career Links

Dancer, Choreographer, Producer, Arts Therapist, Teacher, Workshop leader, Dance School owner, Physiotherapist, Dance Scientist

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Miss T Knight

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award Digital Information Technology (IT)

What will the course involve?

This course offers a great mix of creative design and technical knowledge, giving you the skills to thrive in the digital world. You'll explore User Interface (UI) design, learning how to create engaging and user-friendly digital experiences. You'll also work on real-world scenarios, developing practical skills in areas such as website design and mobile app development.

Beyond design, you'll dive into key technical topics like cloud storage and cybersecurity, understanding how data is stored and protected online. You'll explore how these concepts apply to popular social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook, helping you see the real-world impact of digital technology.



How will I be assessed?

OCR	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1 Non-exam internal assessment	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	33%
Component 2 Non-exam internal assessment	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	33%
Component 3 External assessment	Effective Digital Working Practices	33%

What will I learn?

- The first mandatory unit involves analysing a variety of user interfaces. This will include the efficiency and functionality of several unique interfaces. Once analysed, pupils will be challenged to plan and create an effective user interface of their own which is efficient and user friendly. This unit will be assessed internally.
- The second mandatory unit will also be assessed internally. Pupils will be tasked in collecting, presenting and interpreting data in an effective manner. Pupils will be exposed further to software's previously used at KS3 so that they can manipulate and present data in an appropriate format.
- The third and final unit will be assessed externally. Pupils will be tasked with evaluating a variety of professional digital systems based on their efficiency and productivity. Pupils will identify security threats and legislation that is used in the digital world and will analyse impacts they have on an individual as well as an organisation.

Why should I study this course?

Choosing BTEC Digital Information Technology will give you valuable hands-on experience in key IT skills such as app and website design, data analysis, and project planning, which are essential for many future careers.

This course is ideal if you enjoy problem-solving, working with technology, and want to develop practical skills that will be useful in both further education and the workplace.

Further Education links

A Level Computer Science/BTEC Computing

Career Links

Coding, Software Engineer, IT Consultant, Games Developer

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mr Ali

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022>.

WJEC Level 1/2 Performing Arts: Drama

What will the course involve?

Students will have the opportunity to develop as Actors, Directors and Producers. Students will develop their knowledge within Drama and the Performing Arts but also can enhance skillset in areas such as leadership, problem solving and planning/organisation.

Studying an Arts qualification will provide students (even those wanting to be lawyers and doctors) with the ability to think creatively and originally – this is more important in the world now than ever. Beyond the academic value, Drama provides an artistic outlet for students, an opportunity to collaborate with others and most importantly – find, grow and use their voice. Drama stimulates intelligence beyond just academia.



How will I be assessed?

WJEC	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Performing	Reproduce an existing piece of theatre individually or as a small company. You will need to complete a research portfolio, record your rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by an evaluation	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 2: Creating	Devise an original piece of theatre based on a stimulus provided by the exam board. Again, you will need to research/plan your ideas, record the rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by a reflective presentation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice	Plan and create an event (including a short performance for the event) based on a commission. This includes planning & scheduling, promoting & pitching and evaluating & reflecting.	40% (80 Marks)

What will I learn?

Drama has a number of transferable skills and all of these skills will be needed whether it is in a person's career or life. These skills include

- Confidence
- Problem solving
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Public speaking

Why should I study this course?

Drama will teach you to be creative. It will encourage you to come up with exciting ideas and you will learn how to think outside the box. You will learn a variety of skills in Drama including, devising your own original performances using a stimulus, performing an existing script, watching and evaluating live theatre, what the role of a director entails, lighting and sound design and costume and set design.

Further Education

BOA, Walsall Studio School, Sandwell College & other college/sixth form A-Level or Vocational courses

Career Links

Producer, Director, Actor, Arts Therapist, Arts administrator, Arts Outreach worker, Teacher, Workshop leader

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Miss T Knight

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Engineering

What will the course involve?

This exciting, creative and practical course that is comprised of three parts. You will start by producing a product to a given design this is worth 40% of your overall grade. You will then need to produce a range of ideas to meet a problem, this is worth 20% of your overall grade. You will also complete an external exam unit worth 40% of your final grade.

This course uses a practical approach to encourage you to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. You are encouraged to take ownership of your ideas and to explore them in an inventive and expressive manner as a creative journey.



How will I be assessed?

WJEC	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Manufacturing Engineering products	Project set by exam board, make to specification	40%
Unit 2: Designing engineering products	Design a product to meet the brief, using CAD	20%
Unit 3: Solving engineering problems	Exam set by exam board (1hr 30 mins)	40%

What will I learn ?

- **Unit 1:** Manufacturing engineering products. Have the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products. Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test a final product.
- **Unit 2:** Designing engineering products. Explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the product that you will have manufactured for Unit 1.
- **Unit 3:** Solving engineering problems. Introduced to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

Why should I study this course?

The study of Engineering prepares students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. It helps students to be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Further Education links

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16. It opens a door to lots of different course options.

Career Links

Designer, architect, Interior designer, Engineer, Product designer, Automotive design, Textile designer, Manual Trade worker and many more.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Mrs Rikunenko

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-9-1-from-2017.html>

AQA GCSE German

What will the course involve?

- Theme 1: My personal world (e.g. environmental issues; making a better world)
- Theme 2: Lifestyle and wellbeing (e.g. ideas to remain healthy)
- Theme 3: My neighbourhood (e.g. where I live and where I'd like to live in the future)
- Theme 4 Media and technology (e.g. films and TV; social media)
- Theme 5: Studying and my future (e.g. school and plans for the future)
- Theme 6: Travel and tourism (e.g. places I'd like to visit; school holidays)



How will I be assessed? You will either be entered for Foundation or Higher tier

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Listening	Questions based on the 6 themes; a short dictation task	25%
Reading	Questions based on the 6 themes and a short translation into English	25%
Speaking	Reading aloud; role play; picture description	25%
Writing	3 or 4 different writing tasks; short translation into English	25%

What will I learn?

GCSE German will build on the skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and will enable you to communicate about a range of topics.

By studying these topics, you will also develop an understanding of the culture of countries and communities where German is spoken. Most importantly, the GCSE encourages enjoyment of language learning and equips you to take their place in a multilingual, global society.

Why should I study this course?

Language graduates are sought by universities, employers and even government – the Secret Service included - due to their highly-specialised skills. Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally.

Further Education Links

A Level German and degree either single or combined

Career Links

finance, interpreting and translation business, education (such as research or teaching), law, media, journalism, advertising, public relations, engineering and politics.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Leggett/Miss Nicholson

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/German/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-german-specification.pdf>

EDUQAS Level 1/2 Health and Social Care

Why is Health and Social Care important?

Are you a naturally caring person with a passion for health and wellbeing? Do you want a great introduction to the skills you need for a rewarding career where you can help make a difference? This exciting course will give you a vocational look into the world of Health and Social care. The course is split into 2 units. This course includes contemporary issues in relation to health, social care and early years sectors in the UK.



How will I be assessed?

EDUQAS	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Human Development	Exam set by exam board (1hr 30 mins)	40%
Unit 2: Service Provision (NEA)	Two pieces of coursework linked to understanding support and care in Health and Social Care, including current demands on the system	60%



What will I learn?

Unit 1: Human Development In this examination unit, the aim is for you to demonstrate understanding and knowledge of aspects of human development across the lifespan of individuals and groups.

Unit 2: Service Provision In this non-examination assessment (NEA) unit, the aim is for you to carry out research that demonstrates understanding of the legislation and principles of care that underpin the work of key professionals. **Contemporary Issues in Health, Social Care and Early Years Services** In this NEA unit, the aim is for you to understand the statistics and challenges for society and individuals for a range of contemporary issues, and to understand the relevance of health promotion initiatives.



Why should I study this course?

The study of Health and Social Care prepares students to participate confidently in the world. Not only does it give you a stepping stone into any career that involves caring. It also builds lots of personal skills, such as Communication, problem solving and Independence. It teaches you about many issues and ways to support individuals.

Further Education links

BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care—This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16. It opens a door to lots of different course options.

Career Links

Midwife, Nurse, Paramedic, Doctor, Nursery Nurse, Social Workers, Healthcare Assistants, Occupational therapists, Youth Workers, Care Assistance, Care managers, Support Workers and many more.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs Rikunenko

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-health-and-social-care/#tab_keydocuments

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering

What will the course involve?

This course has been designed to develop your knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. You will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.



How will I be assessed?

EDUQAS	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1 Examination	The hospitality and catering industry	40%
Unit 2 - Coursework (inc. Practical)	Hospitality and Catering in action	60%

What will I learn?

You will:

- develop practical skills – speed and finesse is key
- evaluate dishes/meals you may eat and consider how these can be developed, adapted or improved
- think about how foods should be stored, prepared, cooked and served - safely and hygienically with no loss in quality
- think about factors that can contribute to food induced ill-health
- think about how to adapt meals to meet specific dietary needs
- consider why food/ingredients act in a specific way

Why should I study this course?

- Do you enjoy practical lessons?
- Do you like presenting your food to a good standard?
- Do you enjoy learning new techniques?
- Do you like the idea of creating meals and serving them in a professional environment?

Further Education Links

Level 3 Hospitality and Catering

Career Links

Chef, Food Science, Baker, Butcher, Event Manager, Hotel Management, product development, nutritionist, restaurant owner, food safety.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Richardson

www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments

EDUQAS GCSE Media Studies

What will the course involve?

GCSE Media Studies is an exciting and engaging subject that explores the role of media in our everyday lives. Through the EDUQAS GCSE Media Studies course, students will analyse media products such as films, TV, news, and social media to understand how they influence society and shape public opinion.

The course balances both theoretical learning and practical skills, allowing students to critically evaluate media messages while also creating their own media products. It helps develop essential skills such as critical thinking, digital literacy, and creativity, preparing students for future careers in journalism, marketing, media production, and more.



How will I be assessed?

EDUQAS	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1 - Exploring the Media	Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes	40%
Component 2 - Understanding Media Forms and Products	Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes	30%
Component 3 - Creating Media Products	Non - exam assessment	30%



What will I learn ?

- **Real-World Relevance:** Explore how social media, advertising, news, and film shape public opinion and culture.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Analyse media messages, ethics, and representation across TV, film, and online platforms.
- **Practical & Theoretical Balance:** Blend hands-on media production with industry insights and key media theories.
- **Future Preparation:** Develop digital literacy and skills for careers in media, journalism, and marketing.



Why should I study this course?

SGCSE Media Studies is a great choice for students interested in understanding and creating media. It provides a strong foundation for further studies in Media or Film at A-Level and beyond, offering both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. This subject also opens up career pathways in media production, journalism, and digital marketing, developing critical thinking and creativity that are valuable in many industries.

Further Education linkS

A Level Media, A Level Film Studies, BTEC Creative Media Production, A Level English Language or Literature

Career Links

Media production, journalism, or digital marketing

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Mr Pemberton

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

WJEC Level 1/2 Performing Arts: Music

What will the course involve?

Students will have the opportunity to develop as Musicians, Composers and Producers. Students will develop their knowledge within Music and the Performing Arts but also can enhance skillset in areas such as leadership, problem solving and planning/organisation.

Studying an Arts qualification will provide students (even those wanting to be lawyers and doctors) with the ability to think creatively and originally – this is more important in the world now than ever.

Students must play an instrument, sing or work digitally OR be willing too. We will support with additional instrumental lessons where possible also.

How will I be assessed?



WJEC	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Performing	Reproduce an existing piece of Music individually or as a small company. You will need to complete a research portfolio, record your rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by an evaluation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 2: Creating	Compose an original piece of Music based on a stimulus provided by the exam board. Again, you will need to research/ plan your ideas, record the rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by a reflective presentation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice	Plan and create an event (including a short music performance for the event) based on a commission. This includes planning & scheduling, promoting & pitching and evaluating & reflecting.	40% (80 Marks)

Why should I study this course? If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills and get a GCSE out of it! If you don't already play an instrument or sing, you can take the opportunity to learn new skills which could stay with you for life. If you already enjoy writing your own music or songs you can use this ability and experience.

Further Education links

BIMM, Birmingham Conservatoire & other University courses

Career Links

Musician, Composer, Producer, Music Therapist, Arts administrator, Arts Outreach worker, Teacher

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Miss T Knight

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments

AQA GCSE Religious Education

What will the course involve?

We live in a rich and diverse world. Religious Studies helps you to develop your knowledge and understanding of various religious attitudes towards very real and relevant issues in our world today.

Religious Studies helps you explore diverse beliefs and attitudes towards real-world issues. This course covers Christianity and Islam, along with four themes, including relationships and families, religion and life, and crime and punishment. You'll develop empathy, critical thinking, and the ability to apply religious perspectives to global topics.

How will I be assessed?



AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices	Beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions	50%
Component 2: Thematic studies	Either four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes or two religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes and two textual studies themes.	50%



What will I learn ?

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Why should I study this course?

Studying Religious Education at GCSE helps students develop critical thinking skills and explore important ethical and moral issues that affect society. It also encourages an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, fostering respect and empathy in an increasingly diverse world.

Further Education links

Undergraduate and Postgraduate degrees in Theology and Religious Studies

Career Links

Law, social work, journalism, politics, and education, international studies, religious leadership

Where can I find out more?

Talk to any of our Religious Education Teachers.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification>

AQA GCSE Science (Triple)

How will I be assessed?

Each area is taught separately (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) and each is worth one GCSE, graded 1-9. This means you will receive 3 GCSEs in total.

	Content	Grade Percentage
Biology (1 GCSE award)	Paper 1 - Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics. Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%
	Paper 2 - Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology.. Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%
Chemistry (1 GCSE award)	Paper 1 - Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes and Energy changes Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%
	Paper 2 - The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources. Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%
Physics (1 GCSE award)	Paper 1 - Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter and Atomic structure. Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%
	Paper 2 - Forces, Waves and Magnetism and electromagnetism and space Written Exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes	50%



Chemistry	Biology	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Electricity • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure • Forces • Waves • Space • Magnetism and electromagnetism

Why should I study this subject

This course is a core element of secondary education.

Further Education Links BTEC Science. BTEC Sport

Career Links

Science can lead you into many different careers, including research, medicine, crime scene investigation, collision investigation and many more. It is part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) so can assist you in developing into careers in IT, data analysis, statistics and many more.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Hodgetts, Mrs Palmer or Mr Taylor

Biology: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Chemistry: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification>

Physics: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification>

Eduqas GCSE Sociology

What will the course involve?

We live in a rich and diverse world. Sociology helps you to develop your knowledge and understanding of very real and relevant issues in our world, studying the society in which we live.

This course covers topic areas, such as families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. In addition, we will explore research theories and methods, focussing on how past and present Sociologists have created studies to support their theories.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Paper 1	Understanding Social Processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission• Families• Education• Sociological research methods	50%
Paper 2	Understanding Social Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social differentiation and stratification• Crime and deviance• Applied methods of sociological enquiry	50%

What will I learn?

The course requires you to develop an analytical approach to the topic areas above, creating reasoned arguments and an ability to compare and contrast the perspectives that are studied.

You will develop skills in investigating facts and making judgements, forming opinions and new ideas on social issues. Furthermore, you will develop your analytical skills to gain a better understanding of our social world through critical evaluation of research.

Why should I study this course?

Sociology is about your life and the world around you. It is a subject that you will have experience of and one that will help you understand many aspects of your future. You can bring your own life events and ideas into the classroom in a way you might not be able to do in other subjects. It also pairs well with GCSE media.

Further Education Links

A Level Sociology

Career Links

Counsellor, market researcher, police officer, social work, law, educational psychologist, occupational health, nursing, civil service, politics, police force.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Mr Pemberton

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Edexcel GCSE Spanish

What will the course involve?

Theme 1: My personal world (e.g. environmental issues; making a better world)

Theme 2: Lifestyle and wellbeing (e.g. ideas to remain healthy)

Theme 3: My neighbourhood (e.g. where I live and where I'd like to live in the future)

Theme 4 Media and technology (e.g. films and TV; social media)

Theme 5: Studying and my future (e.g. school and plans for the future)

Theme 6: Travel and tourism (e.g. places I'd like to visit; school holidays)



How will I be assessed? You will either be entered for Foundation or Higher tier

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Listening	Questions based on the 6 themes; a short dictation task	25%
Reading	Questions based on the 6 themes and a short translation into English	25%
Speaking	Reading aloud; role play; picture description	25%
Writing	3 or 4 different writing tasks; short translation into English	25%

What will I learn?

GCSE Spanish will build on the skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and will enable you to communicate about a range of topics.

By studying these topics, you will also develop an understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. Most importantly, the GCSE encourages enjoyment of language learning and equips you to take their place in a multilingual, global society.

Why should I study this course?

Language graduates are sought by universities, employers and even government – the Secret Service included - due to their highly-specialised skills. Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally.

Further Education Links

Studying additional languages or A Level Spanish,

Career Links

finance, interpreting and translation business, education (such as research or teaching), law, media, journalism, advertising, public relations, engineering and politics.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Leggett/Miss Nicholson

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gq000027-gcse-spanish-specification-2024-issue-1.pdf>

EDEXCEL BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Sport

What will the course involve?

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity Students will explore types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participants. Then they will examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport. Finally they will adapting a warm-up for different categories of participants and different types of physical activity.



Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance

Students will understand how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities. Then be able to participate in sport and understand the roles and responsibilities of officials. Finally lead a session on ways to improve participants sporting techniques.



Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

Students will sit an external examination that will explore the importance of fitness for sports performance, investigate fitness testing to determine fitness level and their results. Finally investigate fitness programming to improve fitness and sport performance.



How will I be assessed?

EDEXCEL	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1	Internally assessed assignment (Written and Leadership practice)	30%
Component 2	Internally assessed assignment (Written and practical)	30%
Component 3	An external written examination paper - worth 60 marks (1 hour and 30 minutes)	40%

Why should I study this course?

Achieving a successful grade in BTEC Tech Award in Sport can open up a huge variety of different opportunities which will allow you to investigate and experience many different pathways.

The practical, vocational style of learning and content of work helps build many transferrable skills that can be used in employment, education and training. These opportunities could include: further and higher education courses at school or college, apprenticeships or many sport & leisure sector employers.

Further Education Links

Study Level 3 BTEC National in Sport:, Extended Certificate (1 A level) Diploma (2 A levels)

Career Links

Sports Coach, Physiotherapist, Sports Nutrition, PE Teacher, Personal Trainer, Sports Science

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs Biddlecombe

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html>

Edexcel GCSE Statistics

What will the course involve?

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data. It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences. If you enjoy maths and how it can be applied in the real world then statistics is a course you should do.



How will I be assessed?

AQA	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1 Examination	1 hour and 30 minutes Foundation OR Higher	50%
Unit 2 - Examination	1 hour and 30 minutes Foundation OR Higher	50%

What topics will I cover?

GCSE Statistics enriches and extends the statistics topics taught as part of GCSE Mathematics, it has most of the GCSE Maths course embedded within it and is broken down into 8 chapters:

- Chapter 1:** Collection of data
- Chapter 2:** Processing & representing data
- Chapter 3:** Summarising data
- Chapter 4:** Scatter graphs & correlation
- Chapter 5:** Time series
- Chapter 6:** Probability
- Chapter 7:** Index numbers
- Chapter 8:** Probability distributions

Why should I study this course?

Statistics is an exciting field about the thrill of discovery, learning, and challenging your assumptions. Statistics facilitates the creation of new knowledge. Bit by bit, we push back the frontier of what is known.

Further Education Links

A Level Statistics

Career Links

epidemiologist, public affairs manager, biostatistician, research psychologist, sports statistician, Business Analyst, Data Analyst, Market researcher

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Miss Williams

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.html>

WJEC Level 1/2 Performing Arts: Technical Theatre

What will the course involve?

Students will have the opportunity to develop as Technicians, Actors and Producers. Students will develop their knowledge within Theatre both on and off the stage but also can enhance skillset in areas such as leadership, problem solving and planning/organisation.

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Technical Theatre for its hands-on approach to learning backstage roles like lighting, sound, set design, and stage management. The course develops creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, useful for careers in theatre and beyond.



How will I be assessed?

WJEC	Content	Grade Percentage
Unit 1: Performing	Reproduce an existing piece of theatre individually or as a small company. You will need to complete a research portfolio, record your rehearsal process and then complete a final performance. This will be followed by an evaluation	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 2: Creating	Cultivate an original technical theatre realisation based for a group performance based on a stimulus provided by the exam board. This will include a research portfolio, evidence of the creative process, final realisation and reflective presentation.	30% (60 Marks)
Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice	Plan and create an event (including a realisation for the event) based on a commission. This includes planning & scheduling, promoting & pitching and evaluating & reflecting.	40% (80 Marks)

What will I learn?

- Lighting & Sound – Operating and designing theatre lighting and sound systems.
- Set & Costume Design – Creating and managing props, scenery, and costumes.
- Stage Management – Organising performances, ensuring smooth technical operations.
- Health & Safety – Understanding safety procedures in a theatre environment.
- Production Planning – Working as part of a team to bring a show to life.

Why should I study this course?

Studying an Arts qualification will provide students (even those wanting to be lawyers and doctors) with the ability to think creatively and originally – this is more important in the world now than ever. This course provides young people a true insight into what happens in a theatre beyond the stage!

Further Education

«BOA, Walsall Studio School, Sandwell College & other college/sixth form A-Level or Vocational courses

«Higher education: BIMM, Birmingham Conservatoire & other University courses

Career Links

Producer, Director, Actor, Arts Therapist, Arts administrator, Arts Outreach worker, Teacher, Workshop leader, Writer

Where can I find out more?

Talk to Miss T Knight

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-performing-arts/#tab_keydocuments

OCR GCSE Art and Design: Textiles

What will the course involve?

- You will create a portfolio of work based on the themes set by your teacher.
- You will experiment visually with a range of media to explore your theme before refining it into a personal and meaningful final piece.
- You will make use of a range of techniques including hand and machine stitching, embroidery, applique, beadwork and fabric manipulation. You will also complete observational sketches and plans.



How will I be assessed?

OCR	Content	Grade Percentage
Component 1 - Portfolio	Portfolio	60%
Component 2 - Externally Set	Theme set by exam board and 10 hour invigilated task over two days.	40%

What will I learn ?

You will:

- Actively engage with the creative processes of textiles in your chosen title(s) and area(s) of study using a wide variety of media
- Become effective and independent learners through the study of textiles and develop critical understanding
- Develop your creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring, creating and producing artefacts and products.
- Become confident in taking risks, learning from your experiences through exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, materials and techniques
- Develop and refine your ideas, supported by an understanding of your context and what has informed them
- Show an understanding of the purpose, intentions and functions of textiles, and how this impacts the direction of your work

Why should I study this course ? You enjoy art and have a keen interest in a career in fibre arts, fashion or a creative field. You are willing to put the effort in and enjoy the creative freedom and developing your own responses to a theme. You like to take creative risks.

Further Education links

A– Level Art / Textiles/ Craft and Design

Career Links

Fashion designer, textile designer, costume designer, Interior designer, textile technologist, Fashion buyer, sustainable fashion consultant.

Where can I find out more ?

Talk to Mrs B Knight

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016



Post 16

Your KS4 studies will lead you to a Post 16 with a 100% Pass Rate and 44% A*/A or Dist*/Dist grades in Summer 2023!

Whilst you are considering your courses for KS4 you may also be thinking about your long-term career choices and what options are available for you here at Grace Academy Darlaston after you have completed your GCSEs.

We pride ourselves in meeting your individual needs and we provide a comprehensive range of Level 3 courses including both Academic and Vocational Qualifications such as A-Levels and BTECs. These courses develop the knowledge and understanding that you will have gained during KS4. Our courses have been carefully selected to allow a natural progression from your GCSEs and to prepare for your next steps after leaving Grace in Year 13, whether that be university, apprenticeships or the world of work.

All students in Post 16 are given everything needed to be successful in their studies. This includes all equipment (e.g. text books), a laptop, locker, private outdoor space, private study space, kitchen area with refreshments and the ability to study from home on certain days.

There are also numerous opportunities for Post 16 students including trips, volunteering, social events, workshops as well as Bursary Funding, small class sizes, work experience and teachers that know you and how to get the best out of you!

You will get support with your Post 18 choices too. We will support you with your university applications, apprenticeship applications and preparation for interviews with employers. We will make sure that you are given all the advice and guidance needed in order to achieve your full potential!

I wish all of you the very best in choosing your options and I look forward to working with you in the very near future. If you have any questions about Post 16, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Pountney

Head of Post 16

jamespountney@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk

#GAD #POST16 #NEXTSTEPS



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