

GCSE  
handbook  
**2017**



**BEECHWOOD**  
*Sacred Heart* School



It is good to be able to study the subjects we are most interested in.

Year 10 pupil



# Introduction



*From the Head of Division, Mrs Carol Mitchell*

Although this may come as something of a surprise, it is now time for you to think about your future GCSE examinations and to make some important decisions.

In Year 10, you will have more choice about which subjects to study. After reading this handbook, you should consult with your parents, Form Tutor and, if you wish, myself and the subject teachers before you make your final decisions. If you already have an interest in a particular career, your choice of GCSE subjects may be relevant – please take advice from our Careers Advisor, Mrs Newton.

As your GCSE courses progress, work will become more intensive and you will be encouraged to take more responsibility for organising your study and revision times. Your teachers will prepare you thoroughly for the final examinations, so that you achieve your potential and all your efforts will be worthwhile. In Year 10, there are new opportunities, for example, our exchange programme with Sacred Heart schools in Europe and America. The Activities Programme will continue to give you the chance to develop your interests and skills, and all Year 10 students are expected to do at least two activities; subject help clubs may prove useful as exams approach.

Now, you must begin to decide which subjects you will most enjoy studying next year and which ones offer you the best chances of examination success. Choose carefully and good luck.

*From the Director of Studies, Mrs Kim Allen*



Pupils entering Year 10 in 2017 are taking GCSEs at a time of change in the education system. They will take all of their GCSE courses under the new grading system which goes from 1 to 9 where 9 is the top grade.

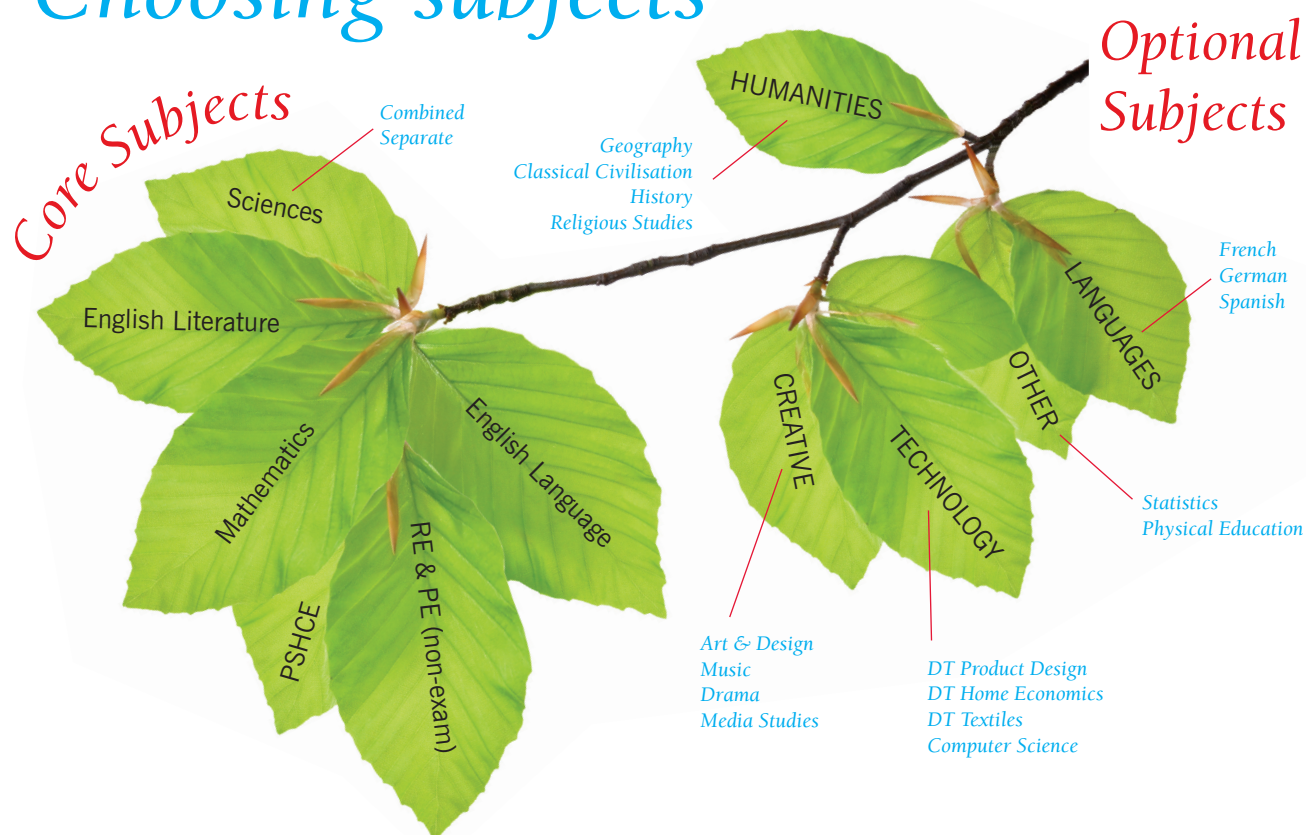
A grade of 4 under the new system will be equivalent to a C grade under the old system and a grade of 7 will be equivalent to an A.

It is likely that a grade 5 will be considered as a 'good' GCSE pass.

We set challenging target grades for our students to encourage all students to reach their potential. We have high expectations of our students and look forward to their successes at the end of Year 11.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the possibilities, please do contact me.

# Choosing subjects



## YEAR 10 CURRICULUM 2016/17

In Year 10, pupils have the opportunity to make some choices about the subjects that they study. All pupils must take the core subjects of Maths, English Language and English Literature and either Combined or Separate Sciences. They will then choose four further GCSE subjects one from each of four option blocks.

We expect that all native English speakers take at least one modern language (French, Spanish or German) whilst non-native speakers will attend English as an Additional Language lessons.

Pupils should aim for a broad base for learning by selecting courses from different subject groups, for example, one humanity, one creative option and a technology.

In addition to their GCSE options, all pupils will continue with general PE, general RE and PSHCE, which are not assessed.

## SURVEY FORM

The survey form tells us your subject preferences. It is important that you think carefully when completing your survey form as your preferences will be taken into account when the option blocks are designed.

## FINAL CHOICES

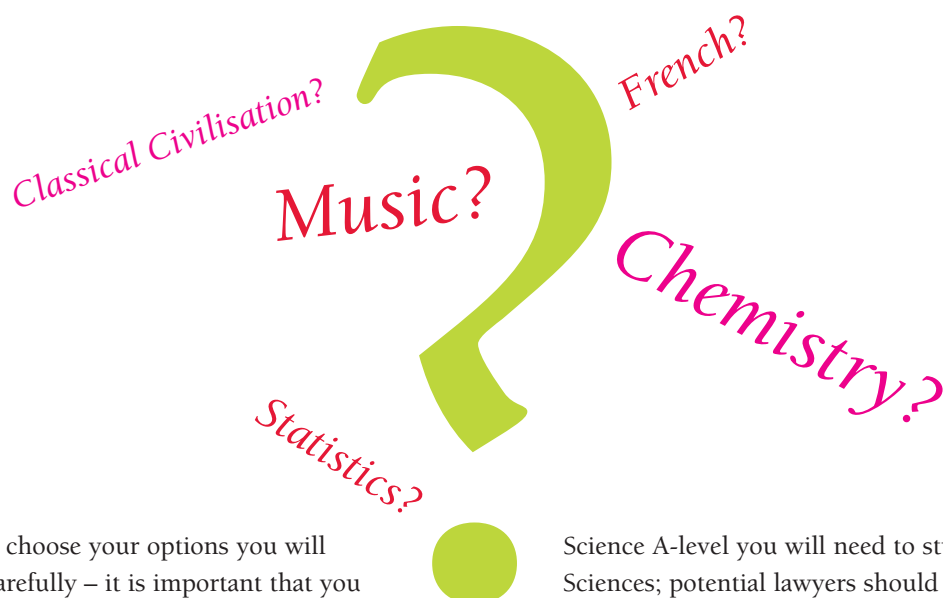
The option blocks will be available before the end of the Spring Term and pupils will be required to make their final choices within the constraints of those blocks.

When choosing optional subjects, pupils should try to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum and to avoid an undue emphasis in any one area to the exclusion of others.





# Keeping your options open



As you come to choose your options you will need to think carefully – it is important that you work hard and do your best in these exams. The better your grades at GCSE, the more options you will have at 16. You will have to put your GCSE grades on application forms to university and any jobs that you apply for in the future.

The decisions that you make now may affect the choices you have in the future. If you have a career in mind make sure you know what you need to study to achieve your aim. For example, if you want to study a

Science A-level you will need to study separate Sciences; potential lawyers should consider History. If you have no career in mind yet, you should keep as many options open as possible by choosing a broad range of subjects. Discuss the possibilities with your parents and your teachers, and choose subjects that you enjoy and that you do well in.

You will continue to receive careers guidance throughout Years 10 and 11 with the emphasis moving towards A-level choices, university courses, interview preparation and personal statements.

## Morrisby

In Year 11, all students undertake Morrisby Profiling, a well-established, sophisticated system for assessing aptitudes, learning styles and personal working styles. Delivered by an Independent Careers Advisor, it takes the form of an interest questionnaire and includes some aptitude and psychometric tasks. The responses are analysed to provide an individual profile that provides valuable information about each student's strengths and underlying abilities; a map is also produced to show possible career areas that the student might consider.

All students receive a personal interview and feedback on the profiling which helps the students to set targets for their further research and for organisation of work experience.

Morrisby profiling is compulsory for all students in Year 11; it takes place at the beginning of the Autumn Term and the cost is charged as an extra on that term's account. For further information about this please contact our Careers Advisor, Mrs Newton.



## CAREERS PROGRAMME

	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	
AUTUMN TERM	<p>Use of Careers Library area and resources.</p> <p>Sessions within PSHCE about making choices linked to GCSE options.</p> <p>PSHCE worksheets to aid self-assessment and decision making process.</p>	<p>Use of the Careers Library area and resources.</p> <p>Sessions within PSHCE to find out more about the world of work.</p> <p>Parents' evening to discuss general progress.</p>	<p>Use of the Careers Library area and resources.</p> <p>Sessions within PSHCE to find out about gaining work experience.</p> <p>Tutor meeting to discuss general progress.</p> <p>Morrisby Profiling and individual interviews.</p> <p>Interviews with Headmaster.</p> <p>Sixth Form Presentation Evening.</p>	AUTUMN TERM
SPRING TERM	<p>Director of Studies talk on the range of GCSE choices.</p> <p>Curriculum booklet to detail GCSE courses.</p> <p>Parents' meeting to discuss options with subject staff.</p> <p>GCSE choice forms distributed.</p> <p>Parents return forms completed and signed.</p>	<p>Further careers research assignments.</p> <p>Personal research using the Library, Careers resources and the Internet.</p>	<p>Mock GCSE examinations.</p> <p>Further individual discussions with Tutors and Subject staff on A-level choices and future plans.</p> <p>A-level choice forms distributed.</p> <p>Booklets to assist with post-16 options.</p>	SPRING TERM
SUMMER TERM	<p>Individual discussions with Tutors and Subject staff where necessary.</p> <p>Final decision on GCSE choices are made after summer examination results.</p>	<p>Information about Morrisby Profiling sent to parents.</p>	<p>Parents return completed and signed A-level choice forms.</p> <p>GCSE examinations.</p>	SUMMER TERM



# Art & Design

## Fine Art

AQA

### What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Fine Art involves a broad range of study. You will gain experience of working in a wide range of media, ensuring that you achieve your best performance.

Your portfolio, completed over two years, will be made up of two units, each unit consisting of:

- Preparation Studies – *initial drawings/paintings recorded from your observations that form the basis of the investigation.*
- Research into Other Artists – *you will be required to research into the works of both European and non-European Artists in order to understand the context in which your work belongs. These investigations should be an invaluable source of inspiration to your own work.*
- The Final Piece – *this is the final realisation of all the research and development that you have done and should therefore reflect the standard of your work. It is to be hoped that these pieces will go on display around school or feature in the Virtual Gallery.*

### How will my work be assessed?

The final examinations will comprise:

- Portfolio of work – 60%  
*Two units of work of any size to include all preparation work and sketchbooks, which should represent a total of at least 45 hours of work. The work is internally assessed then moderated by the examination board.*
- Externally set task – 40%  
*The conclusion of your course will be a ten hour controlled test. This will take place over several days after a sustained preparatory period in which you will do all the necessary research. During this four week period you may freely discuss your project with the Art Department staff and all your preparation work can be taken into the examination.*

The Key to success is as follows:

- To complete and build upon objectives of the course.
- To work inside and outside of the subject consistently throughout the course.

The above points must be met to achieve the best possible results from the subject.



# Art & Design

## Textiles

OCR

### What will I gain from studying this subject?

This GCSE course will enable you to take part in Art & Design Textiles projects which are linked to your own interests as well as industrial practice.

Initially, you will be set a project which aims to develop your understanding, skills and confidence through creating products, using a range of materials, components and techniques.

### How will my work be assessed?

During Year 10 you will begin your coursework project; this will be internally assessed and externally moderated and will be a 3-dimensional product e.g. fashion item, children's clothing or furnishing e.g. wall hanging for a child's bedroom to be supported by a design folder and/or the appropriate ICT evidence including Computer Aided Design/Manufacture. You will complete your coursework project during Year 11.

During the Summer Term in Year 11 you will sit a practical examination, having already received a preparation sheet some months before.

Practical Task – 10 hours – 40% of total marks  
Coursework Project – 60% of total marks





# Classical Civilisation

OCR

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

Classical Civilization will give you the rare opportunity to study the art, literature and history of the Ancient World. It complements the study of many other subjects such as Drama, English and History. You will read and analyse (in translation) the Ancient Greek such as Homer's *The Odyssey*. You will also study the role and portrayal of women in both Ancient Greece and Rome.

## Topics:

There are TWO components to the new GCSE, one is a thematic study which will focus upon *women in Ancient Greece and Rome*. This will involve comparative work, examining the differences and the similarities between the two cultures. The other will focus upon literature and culture and will centre upon the *Homeric World*. The core text will be *The Odyssey* but you will also study the cultural world in which Homer's poems were set, including a study of art, religion, weaponry and architecture.

## How will my work be assessed?

Both elements are worth 50% and will be examined via two 90 minute examinations. There will be NO coursework or controlled assessment.



# Computer Science

OCR

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

By studying this subject you will develop an in-depth understanding of how computers work and how to create the code applications that are shaping the world we live in. With this GCSE you will have gained the technical skills that are in demand across the economy as companies become increasingly dependent upon the web and mobile devices. You may even become a programmer working for Google or Facebook or one of many smaller software houses. Some of the highest graduate salaries are in this area.

The key skill that you will develop, which is unique to this subject, is how to 'think like a computer'. You need to be able to do this in order to write computer programs. These are what is required in order to create the all of the apps, web pages, city finance systems and robots that make the interconnected digital world in which we live. For coding you will use the text based language Python 3. Coding is a creative craft which gives you great satisfaction when you have put all the right parts together and can see your program run. It is about making a machine that can perform useful work. It is engineering. To be good at coding you will probably be good at Maths and confident in the use of algebra – and, of course, like making things.

You will also find out how computer hardware works, from transistors up to Internet routers, and find out about the wider social, cultural, environmental and legal implications of computer use.

## How will my work be assessed?

- Exam Paper 1: *Computer Systems* 40%
- Exam Paper 2: *Computational Thinking* 40%
- *Programming Project*: 20%

The project is set by the exam board and takes 20 hours to complete.



## Design & Technology Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA

### What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

The course has been designed to enable a balance between an innovative delivery of the subject theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations and sessions.

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

### How will my work be assessed?

Summary of Assessment:

Component 1: *Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition*

Written examination: 50% of qualification

Component 2: *Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action*

Non-examination assessment: 50% of qualification

Assessment 1: *The Food Investigation Assessment* 8 hours

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

Assessment 2: *The Food Preparation Assessment* 12 hours

Prepare, cook and present dishes which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.



## Design & Technology Product Design AQA

### What will I gain from studying this subject?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise through a series of short themed projects in Year 10, before moving onto a major design and make project in Year 11.

### How will my work be assessed?

The assessment comprises of:

1. 2hr exam at the end of Year 11.  
100 marks equating to 50% of the total.
2. A Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) which assesses the practical application of:
  - Core technical principles
  - Specialist technical principles
  - Designing and Making principles

The NEA project will comprise a substantial design and make task with the following assessment areas:

- Investigating
- Designing
- Making
- Analysing and Evaluating

Students will design to a contextual challenge to be set by the exam board on 1 June in Year 10. They will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence.





# Drama

AQA

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

This course will introduce a range of different theatre styles and genres, which will inspire your own devising and text-based work. There will be regular theatre trips to allow you to form your own creative opinions and provide the opportunity to evaluate live theatre productions.

Alongside developing creative skills, you will increase self and group awareness as you reflect on and evaluate your own and others' work. You will develop self-discipline as other students will rely on you. There will be opportunities to take part in workshops with theatre companies and industry professionals.

Studying Drama has the ability to empower; you will make mistakes but then go on to solve your own problems. Above all, you will learn to be an effective communicator, which is fundamental to achievement in life.

## How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: *Understanding Drama* – 40% of final GCSE – written paper.  
The written paper comprises three sections:

A. *Theatre roles and terminology.*

B. *Study of a Set Text.*

C. *Evaluation of a live theatre production.*

Candidates are given 1 hour and 45 minutes to answer all three sections of the written paper.

Unit 2: *Devising Drama* – 40% of final GCSE.

For this component students are required to complete the following two assessment tasks:

- *produce a written devising log documenting the devising process (worth 30%)*
- *contribute to a final devised performance. (worth 10%)*

Unit 3: *Texts in Practice* – 20% of final GCSE.

For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:

- *study and present two extracts from a play, working as an actor within a group (each extract worth 10%).*



# English Language & English Literature

## What will I gain from studying these subjects?

English is indispensable for life and probably one of the most important subjects on the curriculum. To be able to communicate confidently, having a good command of the spoken and written word, is invaluable for your future – no matter what you decide to do.

Studying English encourages you to think logically, analytically, critically and independently, which benefits all your other GCSEs subjects as well, while allowing you to be creative in your thinking and writing. It will also introduce you to a range of literature across time: books, plays and poetry.

## How will my work be assessed?

We will be using the Edexcel IGCSE 9-1 Specification for both English Language and English Literature.

### English Language

The English Language course consists of both final examination and coursework. In the examination you will be tested on your ability to read for meaning and identify and comment on the use of literary techniques. You will also be asked to be able to write for different purposes. There are two pieces of coursework which will consist of a reading and writing assessment which will be marked internally and moderated externally.

### English Literature

The English literature course consists of the study of *'To Kill a Mockingbird'*, the play of *'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'*, *'Romeo and Juliet'* and a comprehensive poetry anthology. All of these will be assessed by examination at the end of the course.

# English as an Additional Language

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

All students join the mainstream IGCSE English class when they begin year 10, but as an overseas student, you will be assessed when you enter the school to determine your level of English and whether you should attend EAL lessons.

Through these lessons, students improve their language skills and therefore gain a better level of understanding in all subject areas. They also prepare for the *Cambridge English: First* (FCE). This qualification proves you have the language skills, to live in an English-speaking country and study on courses taught in English. Year 10 pupils receive instruction in Grammar, Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. At this level they will be able to cope linguistically in a range of everyday situations and be able to use English for general and academic purposes, in contact with native and non-native speakers.

The *Cambridge English: First* (FCE) corresponds to an upper intermediate stage of proficiency. Learners at this level are expected to be able to handle the main structures of the language with confidence and demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary and use appropriate communicative strategies in a variety of situations. They should be able to produce written texts of various types, showing the ability to develop an argument as well as write formal letters and reports and detailed descriptions. At this level, pupils will have sufficient ability to operate effectively in English in an academic environment.

If a student requires extra support this is available on an individual basis.

## How will my work be assessed?

Assessment for *Cambridge English: First* is through a two and a half hour reading and writing paper. Which includes a grammar section, reading comprehension and essay writing. There is also a 40 minute listening comprehension and a 15 minute interview testing spoken skills.

# Geography

AQA

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

The course will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills and provide you with a balanced view of the modern world. It is relevant to everyday life and provides a firm foundation for understanding current affairs and the environment upon which we depend.

## How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: *Living with the physical environment*

What's assessed

- The challenge of natural hazards
  - Physical landscapes in the UK
  - The living world
  - Geographical skills
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST))
  - 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: *Challenges in the human environment*

What's assessed

- Urban issues and challenges
  - The changing economic world
  - The challenge of resource management
  - Geographical skills
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPGST)
  - 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: *Geographical applications*

What's assessed

- Issue evaluation
  - Fieldwork
  - Geographical skills
- How it's assessed
- Written exam: 1 hour
  - 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPGST)
  - 30% of GCSE
  - Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam

Questions in all examinations will be a variety of multiple-choice, short answer and extended prose.

There will be a compulsory residential fieldtrip to the Jurassic coast which will cost approximately £150.





# History

EDEXCEL

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

When you study History you will develop skills that are essential for making informed decisions and balanced judgements. History complements the study of many other subjects, particularly English, Drama, Science, Geography and Modern Languages. The principles used by historians are the same as those used in today's business community and are, therefore, essential ingredients for many careers, especially Law, Media, Drama and Journalism.

## How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1: *Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000-present and Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.*  
30% of the qualification

Paper 2: *The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189-1216*  
*Conflict in the Middle East, 1945-95*  
40% of the qualification

Paper 3: *Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39*  
30% of the qualification



# Mathematics

EDEXCEL

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

Mathematics is the language of the universe and it equips you with the skills needed by many other subjects. Maths is essential for many careers; earns you a higher salary; teaches you logical thought, and makes everything else look easy. Enjoy it!

## How will my work be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will sit the linear Edexcel GCSE examination at Higher or Foundation Tier. Each Tier is examined by three one and a half hour written papers: one paper is non-calculator whereas both the others allow the use of a calculator. All three papers are marked out of 80 and contribute equally to the final examination result.

The papers ask candidates to:

- *Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Number* (22-28% of the Foundation paper content and 12-18% of the Higher)
- *Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Algebra* (17-23% of the Foundation paper content and 27-33% of the Higher)
- *Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change* (22-28% of the Foundation paper content and 17-23% of the Higher)
- *Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Geometry and Measures* (12-18% of the Foundation paper content and 17-23% of the Higher)
- *Demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in Statistics and Probability* (12-18% of the Foundation paper content and 12-18% of the Higher)

The two tiers of entry allow all candidates to show what they know, understand and can do. Candidates achieving a mark below the minimum for the award of the lowest grade in each tier will be ungraded. It is therefore vital that the entry level is appropriate and that it reflects the target grades for the tier for each student.

Entry Tier	Target Grades	Grades Available
Higher	9 / 8 / 7 / 6 / 5 / 4	9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
Foundation	5 / 4 / 3	5, 4, 3, 2, 1

# Media Studies

AQA

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

There is a powerful force sending its messages to virtually everyone on the planet. It is all around you and no matter how hard you try, you cannot escape it. This force is 'The Media' – it defines your life and the way you think. It is the name given to channels of communication a society uses to speak for itself, including television, cinema, radio, newspapers, magazines and the internet.

AQA Media Studies provides for an engaging in-depth study of the media by using the framework of the four 'Key Concepts': Media Language, Industry, Representation and Audience. Students must engage in the close study of at least one audio-visual, one print and one e-media text. A general understanding of the media will be gained through an in-depth study of a wide variety of media products, along with their social, cultural, political, historical and economic contexts. This knowledge will form the basis of written examinations as well as the production of a practical media product.

## How will my work be assessed?

In common with all other new GCSEs Media Studies will be linear in structure. Assessment will be by two written examination papers at the end of the course which makes up 70% of the available marks. Students will also create one practical media product for the remaining 30% of the available marks.

*Paper 1:* AQA will set an overall theme for Paper 1 in advance of each examination series. Questions will focus on three areas of the Media Studies Key Concepts: Industries; Audiences and Representation. Written examination of 1.5 hours. Questions are in the form of multiple choice, short answer and extended responses. 35% of available marks.

*Paper 2:* Questions will focus on the remaining Key Concept - Media Language and Contexts of the media. Written examination of 1.5 hours. Questions are in the form of multiple choice, short answer and extended responses. 35% of available marks.

*Coursework:* During the course, you will be asked to create one fully realised piece of practical work from a list of briefs set by the examination board, such as a music video, TV and radio programmes, newspapers, magazines and websites. The project is accompanied by a short statement of intent. 30% of the available marks.

# Modern Languages

## French, German, Spanish

AQA

## What will I gain from studying these subjects?

Knowledge of a foreign language can be a great asset when seeking employment. Languages allow you to study and work abroad; they also give you an advantage in the UK job market when you are in competition with English-speaking Europeans looking for employment opportunities in the UK.

Studying a foreign language enables you to learn about different cultures and civilisations, and could even help you to understand the grammar and structure of your own language! We therefore recommend that every pupil, whose first language is English, should study French, German or Spanish to GCSE. If you are a native speaker of another language, we might be able to enter you for GCSE or A level in your own language. It may also be possible to arrange private tuition in other languages to GCSE and A level.

The following topics will be studied:

### *Identity and culture*

- Me, my family and friends: Relationships with family and friends; Marriage/partnerships
- Technology in everyday life: Social media; Mobile technology
- Free time activities: Music; Cinema and TV; Food and eating out; Sport
- Customs and festivals in target language-speaking countries/communities

### *Local, national, international and global areas of interest*

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues: Charity/voluntary work; Healthy/unhealthy living
- Global issues: The environment; Poverty/homelessness
- Travel and tourism

### *Current and future study and employment*

## How will my work be assessed?

The four language skills, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be assessed with equal weighting, at either Foundation or Higher level. All examinations will be taken at the end of year 11. The speaking examination will be conducted by the Language teacher in the summer term.

# Music

EDEXCEL

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

If you can play an instrument or sing to least at the equivalent of grade 3 standard then you could consider studying Music for GCSE. The course will encourage you to develop your musical skills and interests; there is a high practical element so you will spend much of the time performing, composing and listening, and you will be expected to contribute to some of the school ensembles.

You will experience a wide range of musical styles, which will allow you to increase your understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music from four Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

## How will my work be assessed?

**Performance 30%** Performance skills are an integral part of the course. They are assessed every term by one solo performance and one ensemble performance (2 or more people on separate parts). The best performance in both categories is internally assessed under controlled conditions.

**Composing 30%** You will write two compositions of about 3 minutes in total according to an idea decided on by both you and the teacher. You will use the latest music-writing software to produce professional-looking scores. Your compositions will be based on two different Areas of Study and will again be internally assessed under controlled conditions.

## Listening and Appraising 40%

Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works.
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.
- A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

# Physical Education

EDEXCEL

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

On this course you will develop knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities, building on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3. You will examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance. You will also identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, learning to plan, perform and evaluate a Personal Exercise Programme and discovering the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'. You will be required to spend your own time enhancing your individual skills in your chosen sports. You will have three practical components, one team sport, one individual sport and one choice.

There is much to gain from this course but it is not for the faint-hearted!

## How will my work be assessed?

Component	Content	Assessment
1. Fitness and Systems	Applied anatomy and physiology Movement Analysis Physical Training	Exam 8 x multiple choice Short answer questions 2 x extended answer questions
Weighting: 36% / 90 marks. Duration: 1 Hour 45 Minutes		
2. Health and Performance	Health fitness and well-being Sport Psychology Socio-cultural influences	Exam 6 x multiple choice 2 x extended answers
Weighting: 24% / 70 marks. Duration: 1 Hour 15 Minutes		
3. Practical Performance	Skills during individual activities Skills during team activities	Practical Assessment 1 x Individual activity 1 x team activity 1 x choice
Weighting: 30% / 90 marks. Duration: Assessed at the end of the course		
4. Personal Exercise Programme	Analysis of PEP Carry out and monitor the PEP Evaluation of the PEP	Written (1500 words)
Weighting: 10% / 20 marks. Duration: 6-8 weeks of the course		



# Religious Studies AQA

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

The GCSE course provides an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth.

Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern-world issues and engagement within the classroom.

Students of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by higher education and employers.

## How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: 50% of GCSE

*The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices*

What's assessed: *Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity  
Judaism*

How it's assessed: *Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes*

*96 marks (plus 5 marks for Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))*

*Questions:* The questions within each religion have a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 marks plus one 12 mark question. Each religion is marked out of 48.

Component 2: 50% of GCSE *Thematic studies*

What's assessed: *Two Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes and two Textual studies themes.*

*Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:*

*Theme A: Relationships and families.*

*Theme B: Religion and life.*

*Textual studies themes:*

*Theme G: St Mark's Gospel – the life of Jesus.*

*Theme H: St Mark's Gospel as a source of religious, moral and spiritual truths.*

How it's assessed: *Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes,*

*96 marks (plus 5 marks for Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))*

*Questions:* Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Each theme is marked out of 24.

# Science *Biology, Chemistry, Physics* AQA

*From September 2016 the new GCSEs in Science will begin which will have the new grading system from 9 to 1 where the top grade is the 9.*

## What will I gain from studying these subjects?

In Year 9 we have already started GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and students will continue to study all three subjects in Year 10 and 11 with specialist subject teachers in each discipline. We follow the AQA syllabus which combines relevant, inspiring content and practical work.

Every student will have the same number of lessons in science and most students will work towards a Combined Science award (equivalent to two GCSEs). A smaller group of the most able scientists will work towards Separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (equivalent to three GCSEs).

**COMBINED SCIENCE** This is available at both the Higher and Foundation levels to suit students of different abilities and aptitudes. The Higher level papers will lead to grades 4-9, and the Foundation level papers will lead to grades 1-5 with questions set in a more structured and less open-ended style.

**SEPARATE SCIENCES** This is aimed at those students who know that they want to follow a higher education science course and who are realistically aiming at the highest grades. Those taking the Separate Sciences will cover more content and will form one group of highly motivated students who will study at a faster pace and will be provided with a greater depth of understanding for continuing with any of these subjects at A-level. Those thinking of studying medicine or veterinary science are advised that universities will expect them to have A-level Chemistry and, usually, Biology.

## How will my work be assessed?

All qualifications are linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

### *Combined Science*

There are six 75 minute papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and will contribute 16.7% of the GCSE marks.

## Separate Sciences

There are two 105 minute papers for each Separate subject. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and will contribute 50% of the GCSE mark.

## Practical work

Within the written question papers, a minimum of 15% of marks will be from questions concerning practical work.

Students must carry out a minimum number of practical activities defined by AQA which will be 8 for GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics and 16 for GCSE Combined Science.

## THE COURSE CONTENT FOR COMBINED SCIENCE OR SEPARATE SCIENCES:

BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS
1. Cell biology	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table	1. Forces
2. Organisation	2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	2. Energy
3. Infection and response	3. Quantitative chemistry	3. Waves
4. Bioenergetics	4. Chemical changes	4. Electricity
5. Homeostasis and response	5. Energy changes	5. Magnetism and electromagnetism
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution	6. The rate and extent of chemical change	6. Particle model of matter
7. Ecology	7. Organic chemistry	7. Atomic structure
	8. Chemical analysis	
	9. Chemistry of the atmosphere	
	10. Using resources	

## What will I gain from studying this subject?

Statistics are being used at an increasing rate in business, politics and the sciences. In the real world we are constantly bombarded with graphs, economic data, such as retail price index, changes in the stock market and various other statistical statements. Understanding statistics is important in all aspects of everyday life. When you have completed this course you should have a far greater understanding of how to interpret and use statistical statements. If you are continuing in academic education, you will have important skills required for studying other subjects that rely, at times, on an understanding of statistical data, such as Biology, Psychology, Economics, Geography, Engineering and Archaeology.

In this course, you will learn how to collect unbiased data and how to summarise and represent these data. You will gain the skills to read and analyse data, and to interpret various diagrams, calculations and statistical statements accurately, and to make forecasts. You will also be able to appreciate when statistical statements are exaggerated. We cannot always be certain that a forecast will be correct, so you will also consider the probability of something happening.

You will need very little previous statistical knowledge to be able to take this course. In Key Stage 3 Mathematics you will have done some data-handling work part of which will be repeated during this course.

## How will my work be assessed?

The specification for this subject is currently under review but it is expected that the assessment will be based on two papers

*Paper 1 is focused on statistical calculations and interpretation*

*Paper 2 is focused on statistical investigation:*

*Section A – reflects the enquiry cycle*

*Section B – based on student scenarios*

All subject content may come up on either paper.

It is currently intended that this syllabus will be taught to the top Mathematics set within the standard Mathematics lessons.



# Non-Examination Subjects

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in Years 10 and 11 experience a wide variety of sports.

Within the curriculum you will have the opportunity to work in teams and also as individuals, by following courses which will improve your ball skills and your body management training. We also continue to work on improvement of cardiovascular fitness.

We aim to provide many and varied experiences, to include: netball, hockey, circuit training, aerobics, tennis, badminton, basketball, trampoline, table-tennis and rounders, football, rugby and cricket.

You will also be encouraged to improve your sporting skills in extra-curricular time by joining clubs run at lunchtime and after school and to participate in inter-school and inter-house matches.

## PSHCE

PSHCE continues in Years 10 & 11, with an increasing emphasis on work related learning, careers development and a more specific preparation of the skills useful in adult life. You will be encouraged to make informed decisions on a wide range of issues and enjoy greater opportunity to express your views openly and freely.

## LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

In the Learning Development Department our aim is to help you to achieve your very best in your GCSE programme. We have two large rooms with computers, manned by specialist teachers who are available to help or advise you during the day.

We have an 'open door' policy which means that, if you are having a problem with your work, you can come up to the Learning Development area and ask for help. We will advise and investigate.

This could be done in one of the following ways:

- *By offering you study skills support.*
- *By giving you a self-study programme.*
- *By providing support if you have a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia. This is delivered by specialist teachers either in individual or shared lessons. This could be in Maths or English. In English this might include a programme to help you improve your written work so that you are able to show your ability at GCSE level.*
- *By providing curriculum support if you have more general difficulties in particular areas.*
- *By putting into place a flexible GCSE curriculum to support your learning needs. This might involve you coming out of an Option Block to receive an individual programme of lessons and Directed Study.*
- *By monitoring to see if you require special access arrangements in external examinations and advising your parents of any assessment requirements that may be needed.*





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