



Keswick



School



Year 9 Options

2026

CORE SUBJECTS



The following pages contain details of the core subjects in Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum.

They lead to GCSE examinations in English (English language and English literature), mathematics and science (biology, chemistry and physics).

The personal development programme combining careers, citizenship, sex and relationships, health and religious studies, is compulsory but not examined.

Students also have a period a week of non-examined games.



COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

One literature fiction text from the 20th century

Section B: Prose writing

One creative writing task selected from a choice of four titles

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/ Persuasive Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

Understanding of 2 extracts of high-quality non-fiction writing, one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century.

Section B: Writing

Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of GCSE

Reading (20%)

Writing (20%)

Component 2:

Written exam: 2 hours

60% of GCSE

Reading (30%)

Writing (30%)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language:

Students must do one formal presentation and respond to questions using Standard English.

This will be set and marked by the teacher and be given a separate endorsement.

This has no bearing on the GCSE final mark.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Employers and training providers in numerous fields seek good grades in English language as an entry requirement.

This highly valued subject is an essential foundation for successful communication in the workplace.

Some careers specifically require coherent and accurate writers of English, such as journalism, marketing, public relations and teaching.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/>

EXAMINATION BOARD &
SPECIFICATION NUMBER:

AQA 8702

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1:

Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

A Shakespeare play: Macbeth

A 19th-century novel: The Sign of Four

Paper 2:

Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

A post-1914 text: Animal Farm

Poetry from an anthology provided by AQA (15 poems): Power and conflict

Unseen poetry (2 poems)

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1:

How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE

Paper 2:

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks

60% of GCSE

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Students who study literature develop their ability to appreciate the effects of language in different contexts. This is important for a range of careers in which the ability to understand the effects of language and use it appropriately is essential.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification>

EXAMINATION BOARD &
SPECIFICATION NUMBER:

AQA 8300

GCSE MATHEMATICS



COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into six broad topic areas over the two years: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Probability, and Statistics.

Two tiers of entry exist: Foundation and Higher. Foundation spans grades 1-5 and focuses more on Number and Ratio. Higher spans grades 4-9 and has an increased focus on Algebra.

During the course it is our aim to provide work suitable to the interests and abilities of every child.

ASSESSMENT

The bulk of pupil assessment takes place through homework and classwork. At key points, exam style assessment will be employed.

Homework is monitored carefully and underachievement identified and acted upon. Homework is set on a regular basis, and is used to reinforce and practise topics that pupils have covered throughout the year.

Three equally weighted papers are taken at the end of Year 11. One of these is a non-calculator paper and all are 1 hour 30 minutes.

Each paper contains a mix of question styles, from short, single mark questions to multi-step problems. The difficulty varies throughout the paper, but does not simply increase progressively.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Employers and training providers in numerous fields seek good grades in mathematics as an entry requirement.

WEBSITE

Examination Board:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

EXAMINATION BOARD & SPECIFICATION NUMBERS:

AQA
BIOLOGY: 8461
CHEMISTRY: 8462
PHYSICS: 8463

GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS (SEPARATE SCIENCES)



COURSE CONTENT

All students will be taught material on the topics below. The amount and depth of the material covered will vary depending on which tier of exams pupils end up being entered for.

Biology

Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution, Ecology

Chemistry

Atomic structure and the Periodic table, Structure, bonding and properties of materials, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy, Rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Atmosphere, Analysis, Using resources

Physics

Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism, Space physics

ASSESSMENT

All assessment is done through written exams at the end of Year 11.

Biology, Chemistry and Physics each have two papers of 1hour 45 minutes (a total of six exams in summer). Each exam is worth 50% for that subject.

There are two tiers of entry for the examinations, which can be different for each science subject:

Foundation tier awards grades 1 to 5

Higher tier awards grades 4 to 9

A range of question types will be used, including multiple choice, short answer and extended response.

Questions will test pupils on their knowledge, understanding, mathematical, evaluation and practical skills.

Students will be in the same set for each of the three sciences, with set movements occurring at key points in the course. Decisions on the tier of entry will be finalised before the Year 11 examinations, based on pupil performance and teacher guidance.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

There are various routes for students to follow on completion of the GCSE courses. Students may choose to start apprenticeships, attend college or stay on in the Sixth Form. For those who do well in these subjects at GCSE, A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are possible options to study.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science>

OPTION SUBJECTS



The following pages contain details of the subjects which are optional.

For ease of reference they have been printed in alphabetical order.

- Art, Craft and Design
 - Business
 - Computing/ICT:
 - Computer Science
 - Creative iMedia - OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National
 - Design and Technology:
 - Design Technology – Materials
 - Design Technology – Textiles
 - Drama
 - French
 - Geography
 - German
 - History
 - Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)
 - Music
 - Physical Education
 - Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World
-



COURSE CONTENT

The course is structured so that pupils are able to cover the following areas:

- Drawing and painting
- Felt-making
- Ceramics
- Printmaking
- Glass fusing
- Mixed media
- Sculpture
- Graphic communication
- Photography

There will be two assessments during the course before pupils take an externally set examination. This is marked both internally and externally. During the two year course, pupils will be provided with project titles and to outline the expectations, information regarding sketchbook preparation and content. Pupils will be strongly encouraged to continue with coursework activities to form part of the homework tasks.

Each pupil who chooses to take Art, craft and design at GCSE level should have an interest in the creative process as well as a willingness to work hard.

ASSESSMENT

60% is allocated to Component 1: Portfolio

40% is allocated to Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

The ten hour GCSE exam will take place in the spring term in Year 11.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Career opportunities are diverse and include: advertising, creative graphics, fashion, film, television, photography, digital media, printing, interior design, jewellery, product design, stage and design, exhibition design and book illustration.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification>



COURSE CONTENT

Business offers pupils the opportunity to study a subject which they have not studied before. Business students will examine the business world; investigate the different functional areas; and how businesses operate within the external environment.

If you choose to study GCSE Business you will study the following topics:

ENTERPRISE – Pupils will examine if they have the necessary skills to set up and run their own business, examine the stages involved in setting up your own business and will understand how to develop a business plan. They will also have the opportunity to set up their own business to develop their entrepreneurial skills at the school Christmas Fayre.

MARKETING - Students will look at methods to advertise and promote businesses and well as pricing strategies, product development and how to find out customer needs through market research. Students will be given the opportunity to visit businesses to explore their marketing techniques. Previous students have visited Inspire Chocolate factory and Chester Zoo.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - This section examines how employees within a business should be managed and includes recruitment, selection, induction and training as well as aspects of motivation.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT - This section is concerned with the way businesses use and manage resources, produces their products, maintains quality and makes location decisions. Students will be given the opportunity to Jaguar and a small business to explore their production and quality techniques.

FINANCE - This section examines the sources of finance for businesses, financial planning (including breakeven and cash flow models) and analyses the performance and profitability of businesses via profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and ratios.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT –Students will look at the external business environment including the economy, technology, legislation and stakeholder impact.

Students will get the opportunity to take part in business visits to develop their understanding of the business theory.

ASSESSMENT

There are two exams each worth 50%. The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

This GCSE combines well with many other subject areas. It is also a popular course for progression to A Level, Level 3 courses, college courses or apprenticeships.

WEBSITE

Examination Board:

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



COURSE CONTENT

Major topics covered are:

Problem solving – breaking problems down into smaller, solvable sections and developing/altering algorithms to solve these problems

Programming – developing code using programming techniques which will transfer to any programming language

Data Representation – how computers represent numbers, text, sound and images

Databases – Relational Databases and SQL

Computer Systems – hardware, software, logic and function of a processor

Communication and the Internet – networks, the internet and the World Wide Web

Cyber Security – types of attack and method to prevent them including viruses and hacking

Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology

ASSESSMENT

There are two exam papers taken at the end of year 11.

Paper 1 – Computer systems – this paper tests students' knowledge of Systems, storage, networks, security, systems software and the impacts of technology

Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and Programming – this paper tests students' knowledge of algorithms, programming, logic and programming languages.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

In addition to teaching the fundamentals of Computer Science, the course teaches problem solving and logical thinking which will readily transfer to other courses and vocations.

The digital economy is growing rapidly in the UK with a high demand for programming skills, networking and hardware knowledge to support the growing fields of cyber security, automation and robotics. Students completing the course will be well placed to embark on a career in these sectors.

In sixth form students have the opportunity to take A Level computing to further develop their knowledge and understanding of Computer Science in preparation for under graduate university courses or degree apprenticeships in computing related areas, knowledge of computing will be advantageous in other subject areas.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

OCR LEVEL 1/2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL in CREATIVE IMEDIA



COURSE CONTENT

External Exam:

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

Topics include: The media industry, Factors influencing product design, Pre-production planning, Distribution considerations.

This unit helps students to understand the media industry, the variety of products and why and how they are used.

Mandatory Coursework Unit:

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to **create** original digital graphics to engage target audiences.

Topics include: Develop visual identity; Plan digital graphics for products; Create visual identity and digital graphics.

This unit helps to develop students' **creative skills** as they are tasked with planning and **creating a variety** of digital graphics using Photoshop CS6.

Optional Coursework Units (Choose 1 from):

Unit R095: Characters and comics

Unit R096: Animation and audio

Unit R097: Interactive digital media

Unit R098: Visual imaging

Unit R099: Digital games

This is a vocational qualification which is equivalent to **1 GCSE**.

It teaches you how to use **practical** IT skills that are in demand in the workplace, such as **designing** and **creating digital graphics, video, audio, games** and **websites**.

The course covers a range of creative topics that help to develop skills that are used in the workplace or help progression into further education.

Learning is focused on creating practical pieces of work.

ASSESSMENT

There is 1 external exam and 2 coursework units which **MUST** be completed:

- The examination unit (Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry)
- 2 coursework units: The mandatory Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics and an optional unit from the list above.

This course is graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Students can continue into 6th Form. ICT is a desirable skill valued by employers in all sectors and this course will be highly beneficial to students thinking about taking work-based placements, apprenticeships, creative media courses or entering the workplace. A lot of the skills that are developed throughout this course are transferable across a range of other subjects.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative-imedia-level-1-2-j834/>

GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS



COURSE CONTENT

In Year 10, pupils will undertake a number of mini projects that will allow them to understand and practise practical skills including using hand tools, machining and the use of power tools, using Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM) systems, quality control and maintaining accuracy. These will be complemented by a series of relevant theory and design lessons.

In Year 11, pupils will undertake a non-examined assessment (NEA) that showcases the skills they have developed in year 10 and the knowledge they have developed through the theory lessons. It will be a substantial 'design and make' task covering investigation of design possibilities, producing a design brief and specification, generating and developing design ideas, making, analysing and evaluating.

Paper 1 is an external exam in which pupils will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the following:

Core technical principles covering paper/card, timber, metal, polymers, textiles, electrical/mechanical systems

Specialist technical principles covering at least one of the above materials category. In this course we will focus on timber.

Design and making principles

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (50%):

Section A – core technical principles (20 marks)

Section B – specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Section C – designing and making principles (50 marks)

NEA (project) (50%): Practical application (100 marks) in 30-35 hours approx.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

This GCSE course provides a good grounding for pupils thinking about any engineering, construction, architectural or product design careers. It complements vocational qualifications and creative GCSEs, as well as the more academic subjects. Pupils can progress onto Technical Certificates, apprenticeships or A-level courses.

It provides the opportunity to develop practical skills, which are extremely useful in later life. It also demonstrates that you can manage and carry out an extended project, a skill often sought after by employers. Transferrable skills include an understanding of commercial processes, problem solving, time management, in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties, communication and teamwork.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification/subject-content>



COURSE CONTENT

Textiles is an exciting course for those students who enjoy designing and creating. This course offers students the opportunity to design and make a number of different products using a wide range of suitable fabrics and components, and to enable them to showcase a variety of decorative and construction techniques. Projects will range from garments to fashion and interior accessories.

In Year 10, students develop skills and expertise within a wide range of practical projects, enabling them to understand and practise skills required in garment manufacture and surface decoration. Students can expect to experience the latest technologies and learn about the latest manufacturing techniques.

In Year 11, students will undertake a non-examined assessment (NEA) that showcases the skills they have developed in Year 10 and the knowledge they have developed within the theory lessons. The substantial design and make task will allow students to consider a range of design possibilities, produce their own design brief and specification. They will then generate their own original and creative ideas, show development, plan for manufacture, and then analyse and evaluate.

ASSESSMENT

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Between 30 and 35 project work hours, and 50% of the final mark.

Practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Written paper - 2 hours, 50% of the final mark.

Section A – Core technical principles

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles.

Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

This course provides an excellent grounding for pupils thinking about Fashion and Textiles at A level or any fashion, textile, design, or creative career. Students will develop valuable and sought-after transferable skills, including communication and team work, time management, and an opportunity to work and express themselves creatively, along with an in-depth knowledge of a wide range of commercial processes and environmental responsibilities.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification>

GCSE DRAMA



COURSE CONTENT

This GCSE qualification is taught through 3 units over the two years.

Unit 1 – Devising Theatre (Non-exam assessment) In this unit students are responsible for creating work of their own which is influenced by different styles of drama and performing arts. With teacher guidance, they will devise a performance and become performing arts practitioners. **30% of marks.**

Unit 2 – Presenting and Performing Texts (Non-exam assessment) In this unit students work towards the performance of a published script. They are responsible for learning lines, adding any technical elements such as sound and lighting, and presenting their work before an audience. **30% of marks.**

Unit 3 – Performance and Response. (Exam assessment) In this unit students will study a set playscript and answer questions demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of how theatre is created and performed. They will watch live theatre during the course and reflect on this performance in the examination. **40% of marks.**

This is a practical, engaging and creative specification which provides opportunities for students to understand and create drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through informed artistic choices.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment is a combination of largely practical performance and some written portfolio: for **unit one** the written element is a portfolio which can be a collection of researched items or a recorded presentation of this research. For **unit two** this is a written explanation of the choices and aims of the performance piece.

These units are examined during the course by the drama teachers, by a visiting examiner and moderated by the board.

Unit Three is an external written examination during public exams in Year 11.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

The course teaches students the skills of organisation, communication and teamwork. It can help boost confidence and self-esteem. It can provide our students with skills in personal communication, public address and delivering to a workforce which will allow them to access a range of different careers.

Students who achieve a four will be able to move on to a Sixth Form for Advanced Level or equivalent drama qualification.

It is also an amazing opportunity to develop and hone acting and performance skills in preparation for a career in the entertainment industry.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-j316-from-2016/>

EXAMINATION BOARD & SPECIFICATION NUMBERS:

Pearson Edexcel 1FR1
LIST: /2F or /2H SPG: /1F or /1H
RD: /3F or /3H WR /4F or /4H

GCSE FRENCH



COURSE CONTENT

Language is so much more than words. You will learn about French culture and will be able to communicate with young people in their own language. Most importantly, you will enjoy yourself and do well!

You will study French in relation to:

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

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Speak and write confidently in French on a range of different topics
- Use your French in real life situations
- Problem solve and think critically
- Work independently and in a group
- Have a deeper understanding of France and French-speaking cultures

ASSESSMENT

The exam will test your skills in the following areas:

Listening - 25% of final grade	Reading - 25%
Speaking - 25%	Writing - 25%

You will be entered for either Foundation or Higher papers. You will take a paper in each of the skills of reading, listening and writing. You will do 1 short speaking test of 7-12 minutes.

Speaking Test:

You will have to complete 3 tasks in your speaking test: read aloud a short written text; one role play; photo card and unprepared conversation.

Listening/Reading paper:

You will listen to and read messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions, narratives etc. in French which has pauses to give you time to write your answers in English or French. In the reading paper, you will also have to translate a short text from French into English.

Writing paper:

You will have to respond in French to a range of written tasks. Your knowledge of (and accurate application of) grammar and structures will be assessed. Part of the writing paper is a translation into French. You are not permitted to use a dictionary.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Studying French at GCSE level will give you a solid foundation in an impressive and enviable skill. It will open doors, not just linguistically, but in terms of showcasing your wide-ranging transferable skills, including:

- Logic and problem solving
- Confidence and resilience
- Communication skills (in English as well as in French!)

A GCSE in French is a well-respected academic qualification, which helps you to stand out in a crowded jobs market, and fits with any career aspirations.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2024.html>



COURSE CONTENT

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Landscapes: an introduction to geology, and how rocks have shaped the landscape.

Rivers: river landforms and the impact that humans have on rivers, including flooding

Coasts: the formation of amazing landforms found at the coast and how erosion can be reduced. A one-day fieldtrip is usually taken to St Bees.

Ecosystems: learn more about tropical rainforests and UK woodlands.

Weather and Climate change: UK and global climate, climate change and hurricanes.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Cities: a detailed study of Manchester, a city in a developed country; compared to Mexico City, a city in an emerging country. A fieldtrip is usually taken to Manchester and Salford Quays.

Global development: explains why some countries may struggle to improve and what can be done to help them. A study of India, as an emerging country that is becoming richer.

Resources: the problems of providing clean water and for people living in different parts of the world.

ASSESSMENT

There are three exam papers:

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY (37.5%)

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (37.5%)

SKILLS AND FIELDWORK (25%)

Data is collected in groups during field trips.

Fieldwork is tested in the skills exam (there is no coursework).

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Geography is a subject that teaches you about the way the world works.

It is a well-respected academic subject that is welcomed by universities and those employers who need people with a **mature outlook**, such as the police and army. Geographers develop their **communication** and **team-work** skills through field work so often go into jobs that need good **social skills** e.g. nursing and teaching. **Organisation, analysis of data** and **presentation** of work are important skills too. Geography can lead to careers in surveying/planning, travel, environmental management, agriculture, retail, transport, water supply, forestry and many more.

The mixture of human and physical topics bridges the science and art subjects. This GCSE course is very contemporary, it allows pupils to get an up-to-date broad base of understanding before specialising at A Level or university.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-a-2016.coursematerials.html>

EXAMINATION BOARD & SPECIFICATION NUMBERS:

Edexcel

Paper 1: 1GN1/1F and 1H Paper 2:
1GN1/2F and 2H Paper 3: 1GN1/3F
and 3H Paper 4: 1GN1/4F and 4H



GCSE GERMAN

COURSE CONTENT

You will learn about German culture and will be able to communicate with young people of your own age in their own language.

You will study German in relation to:

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

At the end of the course you will speak German and you will have learnt to:

Communicate more successfully
Be confident when problem solving
Use ICT successfully in German
Work successfully as a team member
Improve your own learning and performance
Deepen cultural knowledge

ASSESSMENT

The exam will test your skills in the following areas:

Listening - 25% of final grade Reading - 25%
Speaking - 25% Writing - 25%

You will be entered for either Foundation or Higher papers. You will take a paper in the skills of reading, listening and writing. You will do 1 short speaking test of 7-12 minutes.

Listening/Reading paper:

You will listen to and read messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions, narratives etc. in German on a CD which has pauses to give you time to write your answers in English or German. In the reading paper, you will also have to translate a short text from English into German.

Speaking Test:

You will have to complete 3 tasks in your speaking test: read aloud a short written text and take part in a short conversation relating to the text; one role play; photo card and unprepared conversation.

Writing paper:

You will have to respond in German to a range of written tasks. Your knowledge of and accurate application of grammar and structures will be assessed. Part of the writing paper is a translation into German. You are not permitted to use a dictionary.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Studying German will provide you with an enviable skill. It is beneficial in many ways:

- when you encounter German-speaking people both at home and abroad.
- Universities look favourably on students who have a GCSE in languages.
- Future careers are wide-ranging: business, marketing, teaching, translating, journalism, diplomatic services, travel and tourism and engineering are just a few of the areas in which German could be useful.
- German remains one of the top languages for the world of commerce and is therefore in high demand in the business world and beyond.
- In addition to this, you will be equipped with numerous skills, such as improved memory, critical thinking, flexibility, empathy and resilience.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/german-2024.html>



COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Section A: America - 1920-73: Opportunity and Inequality

This course looks at the USA during a turbulent half century of change which saw the 'American dream' contrasted with poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

Section B: Conflict and tension: 1918-1939

This course focuses on the challenges Europe and the world faced in the aftermath of the First World War, and the challenges to the peace settlement which resulted in the origins of the Second World War.

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Section A: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day

This is a thematic study which enables students to gain an understanding of how medicine and health developed in Britain over a period of time. Students will study certain factors which shaped the development of medicine and health including: war; the role of individual governments; chance; religion and the role of the individual.

Section B: British depth study: Elizabethan England c.1568-1603

A depth study of the last 35 years of Elizabeth's reign focusing on major political, religious, social and cultural events including the Spanish Armada, the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, the Northern Rebellion and the importance of Shakespearean theatre.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1

Understanding the modern world
2 hour written paper worth 50% of the final mark.

Paper 2

Shaping the nation
2 hour written paper worth 50% of the final mark

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

History is a useful subject for improving your skills of analysing evidence and developing clear arguments in writing or the spoken word, as well as improving your ability to develop your own opinions.

History is particularly useful for many careers including law, journalism and commerce. It is important to carefully consider evidence and decide what is true and reliable, and what is false and untrustworthy. You will be expected to think for yourself, ask questions, make decisions and organise your ideas clearly.

WEBSITE

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

EXAMINATION BOARD &
SPECIFICATION NUMBER:

EDUQAS
SPECIFICATION A

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING TECHNICAL AWARD



COURSE CONTENT

This vocational food-based course builds on previous KS3 work. It encourages students to apply the principles of food safety, nutrition and healthy eating to the food they cook and also considers how these are applied to the food industry. This is an essential life skill for all pupils, as well as a career choice for some.

Students will develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management.

Students will get the opportunity to cook most weeks developing a wide array of culinary skills including dough-making (bread, pastry, pasta), sauce making (béchamel, reduction) and meat and fish preparation. They will practise and hone these techniques throughout the 2-year course.

Students following this course are encouraged to take an online food safety course, allowing them to gain a food safety certificate up to level 2.

Equipment and materials required: There will be food practical lessons most weeks and students will be expected to provide the food ingredients for this. However, they will also be bringing home delicious food to eat!

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed with an online examination in year 11 that lasts 80 minutes. This forms 40% of the final grade.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed: this involves completing a non-exam assessment in school under examination conditions. A task will be set by the exam board and students will have to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. This forms 60% of the final grade.

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction.

The Level 2 pass is the equivalent of a GCSE pass grade 4.

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Students can progress to college to study catering and professional cookery courses, then university to study Hospitality, Food Technology, Nutrition and Food Sciences at degree level. The food and drink industry is the largest manufacturing and service sector in the UK with careers that include: development chefs, nutritionists, dietician, educators, food standards and environmental health, events provision.

For more information, please contact the department.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering>



COURSE CONTENT

Integrated Portfolio (30% of overall marks)

Pupils perform a piece on their chosen instrument/voice or recreate a piece of music using the computer. They will then record this and compose a piece for their chosen instrument (or voice) or they can choose to compose using the computer.

Practical Component (30% of overall marks)

- Pupils perform a piece as part of an ensemble or recreate a piece of music using the computer
- Pupils compose a piece of music to a brief set by the exam board.

Listening and Appraising Exam (40% of overall marks)

A listening and written paper of up to 1 hour 30 minutes. The listening paper is based on 4 areas of study including Film Music, Rhythm around the world, Pop Music, and the Concerto.

Pupils learn how to use Music Technology to record their performances and to enhance their compositions.

ASSESSMENT

Most of the assessment is coursework (60%).

There is 1 exam based on listening to examples from the areas of study (40%).

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Music GCSE is useful for pupils who want to go in to the arts, creative media, teaching and working with children, the elderly or those with disabilities.

Pupils who have GCSE music learn how to perform which is a life skill useful in future interviews and presentations. It also shows employers that you are able to persevere in terms of regular practice in order to achieve the highest standards on your instrument/voice.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/music-j536-from-2016/>



COURSE CONTENT

The content has been designed to allow learners to study Physical Education (PE) in an academic setting, allowing them to critically analyse and evaluate physical performance and apply their experience of practical activities in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. This course will prepare learners for the further study of PE or sports science courses as well as other related subject areas such as psychology, sociology and biology. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by further education, Higher Education and employers in all sectors of industry.

As well as the theory element of the course, there is an emphasis on sporting performance in this subject and it is therefore essential that prospective candidates **are already attending a range of extracurricular sports clubs both in and out of school. They must also regularly participate in at least one sport competitively outside of school.** A list of the approved activities can be viewed here:

[Exam Specification Sport List](#)

Theory components: Applied anatomy and physiology, physical training, socio-cultural influences, sports psychology, health, fitness and well-being, use of data.

Practical coursework: At the beginning of the course, candidates select **THREE** practical activities from a set list; these activities must consist of at least one team sport and one individual sport (please see list of approved activities above). Candidates must then keep a competitive log of their participation in these activities over the two years of the course from in lessons and extracurricular clubs. Candidates may offer sports from outside of the school curriculum through the use of video evidence which can be submitted to the exam board for assessment, however **evidence of this must be in a competitive setting.**

Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP): Each candidate is required to complete a piece of written coursework on one of their three chosen activities. It will include: an analysis of aspects of personal performance in a practical activity, an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the performance and an action plan which aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the performance.

ASSESSMENT

Written exam paper 1	1 hour (60 marks)	30% of final grade
Written exam paper 2	1 hour (60 marks)	30% of final grade
Practical coursework	3 sports	30% of final grade
Analysis of performance	1 sport	10% of final grade

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Pupils may choose to continue their physical education studies in Year 12 and 13 where the school offers A level courses.

Career paths are wide ranging and include: sports therapy, sports psychology, physiotherapy, medicine, PE teaching, exercise science, personal training, sports nutrition, sports event management, armed forces, outdoor pursuit training, fitness instruction, sports coaching.

WEBSITE

Examination Board: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/>

EXAMINATION BOARD &
SPECIFICATION NUMBER:

AQA 8062

GCSE RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL STUDIES IN THE MODERN WORLD



COURSE CONTENT

Why Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of **one western and one eastern religion and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism**. They will learn to construct well argued, well informed, balanced and structured arguments. Students will engage with questions of belief, value, meaning and purpose and their influence on human life. This course prepares students for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

The course covers the diversity of responses to the following: **peace and conflict; the origins of the universe, stewardship, environmental responsibility and sustainability; the sanctity of life, attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia and life after death; crime and punishment, forgiveness and good, evil and suffering.**

ASSESSMENT

The GCSE full course is made up of all **three** components across the two years with **two exams which are one- and three-quarter hours each** at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 (50%) of qualification Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.

Paper 2 Christianity (25%) and Hinduism (25%).

PROGRESSION & FUTURE CAREERS

Careers where it is important to have knowledge of what really matters to people:

Health Care, Medicine, Psychologist, Customer Services, Teaching, Personnel Management.

Careers which make good use of the research, investigatory and report writing techniques learned in studying RPE:

Law, Police work, Forensic Science, Psychology, Public Services, Management.

Careers where you need specific knowledge of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics:

Teaching, Social work, Ministry, Conservation, Archaeology, Museum work, Fine Art, Natural History, Architecture and Youth work.

WEBSITE

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