



# GCSE

Options Booklet



**Lincoln Minster School**  
The best in everyone™

# CURRICULUM

During Years 10 and 11 your child will study our GCSE curriculum which is designed to provide the best possible preparation for life in the Sixth Form and beyond. Several core subjects are therefore compulsory, namely: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and the Sciences (either as a 'Combined Science' which is equivalent to two GCSEs, or three 'Separate Sciences').

There is also the opportunity for real breadth of study, with a wide range of optional subjects that pupils can choose freely from.

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Design
- History
- Music
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Textiles

In addition to this, students also have timetabled Games lessons, an extensive programme of careers guidance, continued Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and a rich co-curricular offer.

## National GCSE Reforms

You may be aware that GCSEs have undergone significant reform nationally in recent years. The new courses have been designed to be more challenging, with more rigorous content and assessment criteria, and a linear structure whereby assessment is primarily done at the end of each two-year course rather than by modular exams along the way.

As you can see, grades are now more differentiated at the top end. The top grade is a 9, which is more difficult to attain than an A\* previously was. The exact proportion given out will vary by subject, but 5% of all grades nationally were awarded a 9 in 2024.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

## How to Choose Subjects

Making options choices is easy for some pupils, but for others the process is tricky and needs careful thought and planning. I hope that the section on 'frequently asked questions' in the following pages will help with the decision-making process.

Please also take advantage of all the help on offer from staff. You may find it useful to speak to your child's subject teachers, tutor, Head of Year or Miss Wills (Head of Careers). Finally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me personally if I can help at all.



**Mr Nicholas Boot**

Assistant Head - Academic

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a GCSE and an IGCSE?

An IGCSE is simply an International GCSE, which is a respected alternative to the GCSE that has become very common in recent years. We advise all parents and students to not pay any attention to whether a subject is a GCSE or IGCSE when making their choices.

How many GCSEs does everyone study?

Typically, students will study 9 or 10 GCSEs. Everyone starts off with their core GCSEs: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (either Combined Science which is equivalent to 2 GCSEs or 'Separate Sciences' which is equivalent to 3). Therefore, dependent on which science option they are entered for, students will be studying either 5 or 6 'core' GCSEs. Students will then choose 4 optional subjects.

If my child has sessions with Learning Support, how does this affect things?

In this circumstance, Mrs Cook-James is available to advise in terms of what we feel would be the most effective approach for your child. For example, in order to allow your child to benefit from continued timetabled Learning Support, choosing 3, rather than 4, optional subjects can often be extremely helpful. Ultimately, however, this would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Are all subjects the same amount of work?

In theory, all subjects are set at the same general educational level and need similar amounts of teaching and learning time. In practice, some practical subjects might be more time consuming earlier on in the course but then there is often a 'pay off' later on. As these are often more coursework-heavy than other subjects, this means that less comes down to exams at the end of each course. This of course has its own benefits and can help to free up time during 'exam season' to revise for other GCSEs.

Are there any subjects that should not be taken together?

No. Whilst some students may choose to select from a broad range of disciplines, looking to sample from across the academic spectrum, some may choose to opt for a number of subjects within a particular field (e.g. the Arts). Ultimately, we encourage students to consider those subjects that they would find most rewarding and that they feel they are most likely to grade well in.

Is it bad to take too many of the same 'type' of subject? (e.g. languages, creative subjects, etc)

It completely depends on your child's future plans. If they don't have a firm idea yet of what they might like to study at A-Level and beyond (as most students won't at this stage), then it's probably best to keep options open by selecting a variety of subjects.

However, there is no set rule on this. If your child is better at a certain type of subject or know that a certain type of subject will help their future plans more than others, then they're welcome to do more of these. For example, it's not unheard of for pupils to do several subjects of a certain type (e.g. humanities / languages / more creative options).

How should I decide which subjects to study?

It is important to keep in mind that some universities, particularly Oxbridge and 'Russell Group' (24 leading UK universities), pay close attention to GCSE results. If your child is interested in such higher education institutions, they must think first and foremost about where they are likely to attain high grades. They may like to speak to their teachers about this. However, it is, of course, also important that they enjoy their subjects and choose ones that they are willing to work hard at, so be sure to think about this too. Be careful to also choose any option that they think they may need in the future for university or beyond.





# PASTORAL CARE

In Year 10 and 11 we have a team of staff members who are experienced in supporting this Key Stage. The team includes tutors, a Pastoral Officer, Head of Year and Careers Advisor. The knowledge tutors acquire of their tutees' achievements, co-curricular commitments, abilities and wellbeing is invaluable in helping to support them in every step of their school journey. Form tutors remain the first port of call for any academic or pastoral worries and have the experience to signpost to other sources of help when necessary. We encourage Key Stage 4 pupils to train as Peer Support, to join our Social Action and Charity Groups and to act as academic mentors to younger pupils. In the case of busier pupils who may have multiple commitments across subjects, tutors will also help to monitor their academic study and any pressure and conflicting commitments. To support our pastoral care the team use a range of resources and projects to develop self awareness and resilience such as the award-winning Girls on Board Project. STEER mental health and wellbeing tracking is also used to build a picture of our pupils.

PSHE remains a vital part of developing well-rounded pupils.

Your child will study topics in three key areas: Personal Wellbeing and Relationships, Citizenship and Careers. Our taught lessons are supported by external agencies and individuals delivering workshop style sessions.

In this nurturing atmosphere, pupils thrive. As well as growing naturally in confidence, KS4 pupils are happy to embrace new challenges and take on increasing responsibilities. As a result, they are well prepared for the next stage of their education, with self-awareness, intellectual curiosity, resilience and compassion – attributes essential for success and fulfilment in their future lives.

# CAREERS

In Key Stage 4, pupils build upon their knowledge of their interests, skills and strengths and broaden their awareness of different career opportunities. They also learn how to make well-informed, realistic decisions about their future education, training and career pathways.

*The Minster Award*



**Lincoln Minster School**

The best in everyone™



Pupils receive careers education as part of the taught PSHE curriculum as well as through a bespoke careers programme led by the Head of Careers. This programme is designed to meet the needs of all pupils and includes a varied range of activities and events including careers tutorials, assemblies, drop-down days, workshops, presentations and trips and visits. The careers programme is supported by external stakeholders from Further Education, Higher Education and industry such as Post-16 and apprenticeship providers, university outreach teams, alumni and local and national employers.

In Year 10, pupils have the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the world of work through opportunities to meet with employers and work collaboratively on employer-led projects. The Year 10 Futures Day gives pupils the opportunity to meet with a range of potential future education and training providers and employers.

In Year 11, all pupils receive a 1:1 careers guidance interview with the Head of Careers or another professionally trained Careers Adviser, to support them with their career development and individual needs. Pupils have the opportunity to discuss their career aspirations and Post-16 choices, and they receive individualised advice and guidance, as well as a written summary of their ideas and next steps.

To support their research into future education, training and career opportunities, all pupils have access to the online Unifrog careers and destinations platform which includes an extensive careers and subject

library, access to university and employer led webinars and courses, and a range of skills and personality quizzes to develop self-awareness and explore potential career and subject matches.

The overall aim of an effective Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme is to help pupils to:

- Understand themselves better and develop their capabilities
- Acquire the skills necessary for making well informed and realistic decisions.
- Make effective choices about their own career paths, continuing education and training.
- Be aware of education, training and career opportunities at age 16 and age 18.
- Successfully manage transitions to new roles and situations.

I am easily accessible for a quick chat with pupils or available for longer guidance sessions.

All pupils in Key Stage 4 have the opportunity to work towards the gold level of The Minster Award, our skills and personal development framework which encourages pupils to further their interests, contribute to society and plan for their futures.

**Miss Wills**  
**Head of Careers**



# CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics





# ENGLISH

Cambridge IGCSE English Language  
Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English



# The English IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14- to 16-year-olds.

Studying English Language and Literature gives pupils a valuable foundation for further education courses in any discipline or career path.

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) English Language and Literature in English offer learners the opportunity to read, interpret, evaluate and respond to a range of texts in English. These courses enable pupils to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the ways in which writers use English to express meaning and achieve effects.

## Course Content and Methodology

We are now happy to offer the Cambridge IGCSE English Language and the Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English courses.

We aspire to be genuinely independent, offering the courses that challenge and stimulate pupils beyond the bounds of the standard GCSE curriculum. Thus, alongside functional reading and writing skills, all pupils study a variety of texts including a range of poetry, prose and drama selected from a broad sweep of geographical areas and historical periods. This will lead to the award of two IGCSE qualifications. The English Language qualification includes a coursework component in addition to one examination. The Literature in English qualification is entirely exam-based.

English is an exciting subject at this level as

it allows pupils to be creative, to express their own ideas, to debate and discuss them, and to read a great deal. Discussion forms a significant part of English lessons and pupils learn to express their views confidently to their peers and to argue their position in debate. Pupils need high marks in English to strengthen their academic profile for university and it is one of the subjects that admissions tutors, as well as future employers, may look at on a candidate's CV. The communication, reading and writing skills that are required to be a success in almost any field of work are taught in English and, regardless of whether pupils pursue the subject at A-level, their success in this subject will enable them to do well in the subjects they choose to pursue.

## Careers

- Lawyer
- Technical writer
- Journalist
- Public relations
- Paralegal
- Reporter
- Archivist
- Content manager
- Editor
- Copywriter
- Producer
- Playwright

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MATHEMATICS  
Edexcel IGCSE

Mathematics is a fundamental cornerstone of civilisation and one of the core pillars of our GCSE curriculum.

As Albert Einstein wrote, Mathematics “is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”

Pupils will follow the Edexcel IGCSE course which will broaden and deepen pupils' skills. Throughout the course, pupils will develop their problem-solving skills by translating problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts. They will also develop reasoning skills through exercises such as presenting arguments and proofs, making deductions and drawing conclusions from mathematical information.

The qualification also enables successful progression to A Level and beyond.

Through Edexcel's world-class qualification development process, they have consulted with International A-level and GCE A-level teachers, as well as university professors to validate the appropriacy of this qualification including the content, skills and assessment structure.

## Course Content and Methodology

The course has 'Tiered Papers' (Higher and Foundation) that allow students to be entered for a level appropriate to them with questions in each tier that are accessible to students of all abilities within that tier. Pupils that are

expected to achieve grades 9-4 would typically be entered for the Higher Paper whilst the Foundation Paper is for those expected to achieve grades 5-1.

Irrespective of the tier, students are entered for two 2 hour papers, each worth 50 % of the total marks and both of the exam papers are calculator papers. There is also the option for students to sit their exams in November of Year 11, with the opportunity to boost their grade by sitting it again in June.

## Careers

Strong proficiency in Mathematics can unlock an enormous range of career opportunities.

Examples include:

- Actuarial Analyst
- Chartered Account
- Data analyst & Data Scientist
- Financial Manager & Financial Trader
- Investment Analyst
- Meteorologist
- Palaeontologist
- Research Scientist
- Software Engineer
- Sound Engineer
- Statistician



A close-up photograph of several green leaves, showing a detailed network of veins. The leaves are a vibrant green color, and the veins are a slightly lighter shade, creating a complex, organic pattern across the frame.

# BIOLOGY

Edexcel IGCSE



# Dive into the living world and unravel the secrets of life with Edexcel IGCSE Biology.

This captivating course equips students with a deep understanding of living organisms, ecosystems, and the intricate web of life, laying the groundwork for a future in biology and beyond.

AQA GCSE Biology serves as a gateway to advanced studies in the biological sciences. An excellent choice for those considering biology or related fields at the Sixth Form level and beyond. Graduates of this course have successfully pursued degrees in Biology, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Ecology, and other life sciences, contributing to advancements in healthcare and environmental sustainability.

## Course Content and Methodology

Students will explore a rich array of topics, including cell biology, genetics, ecology, and human biology. Practical experiments and fieldwork are integrated into the curriculum to provide hands-on experience and reinforce theoretical concepts. AQA GCSE Biology employs a variety of teaching methods, such as interactive discussions, multimedia presentations, and collaborative projects to enhance comprehension and engagement.

## Careers

AQA GCSE Biology opens doors to diverse and impactful career opportunities in the biological sciences. Graduates may find themselves pursuing roles in:

- Medicine and Healthcare
- Environmental Science and Conservation
- Genetics and Biotechnology
- Veterinary Science
- Ecology and Wildlife Conservation
- Pharmaceutical Research
- Teaching and Education
- Biomedical Engineering

The knowledge and skills acquired through AQA GCSE Biology provide a strong foundation for further studies and careers that contribute to our understanding of life and the natural world. Choose AQA GCSE Biology for a rewarding journey.



# CHEMISTRY

Edexcel IGCSE

# Explore the building blocks of modern science with Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry.

This dynamic course delves into the fascinating world of atoms, molecules, and reactions, preparing students for a future in science and beyond.

Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry serves as an ideal foundation for advanced studies in Chemistry at the Sixth Form level. The course opens doors to various university degree programs, offering students the opportunity to pursue fields such as Chemistry, Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, and more. Students of this course have gone on to excel in higher education and secure positions in prestigious scientific institutions.

## Course Content and Methodology

The IGCSE Chemistry course focuses on 4 broad topics.

- Principles of Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

Students will engage with a diverse range of topics, covering fundamental principles of chemistry, organic and inorganic compounds, chemical reactions, and the role of chemistry

in our everyday lives. The course employs a hands-on approach, incorporating practical experiments and laboratory work to reinforce theoretical concepts. Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry utilizes innovative teaching methods, including interactive demonstrations, group discussions, and multimedia resources to enhance the learning experience.

## Careers

Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry opens exciting career paths in various scientific fields and industries. Graduates may find themselves pursuing roles in:

- Research and Development
- Medicine and Pharmaceuticals
- Environmental Science
- Chemical Engineering
- Analytical Chemistry
- Forensic Science
- Teaching and Education
- Material Science

The knowledge and skills gained from Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry provide a solid foundation for further education and career opportunities, making it an excellent choice for students with a passion for understanding the mysteries of the natural world.

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky, showing numerous curved light trails from stars in shades of blue, white, and yellow. The trails are concentric, suggesting a circular motion or a wide-field view of the celestial sphere.

# PHYSICS

Edexcel IGCSE



# Unveiling the wonders of the physical universe: A journey into the heart of physics.

Welcome to Edexcel iGCSE Physics, a comprehensive and engaging exploration of the fundamental principles that govern the physical world.

This course is designed to ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and empower students to unravel the mysteries of the universe. As we embark on this educational journey, students will not only gain a solid foundation in physics but also develop analytical skills that extend beyond the classroom.

## Course Content and Methodology

The iGCSE Physics course focuses on 8 broad topics.

- Forces and motion
- Electricity
- Waves
- Energy resources and energy transfers
- Solids, liquids and gases
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Radioactivity and particles
- Astrophysics

### Methodology

We employ clear explanations and modelling to introduce key concepts, supported by thorough retrieval practice both in class and

as part of independent study to reinforce learning. Practical work is integral to our curriculum, allowing students to develop essential experimental techniques and critical thinking skills through hands-on activities. Regular assessments are conducted to provide feedback on student progress, helping them identify areas for improvement.

## Careers

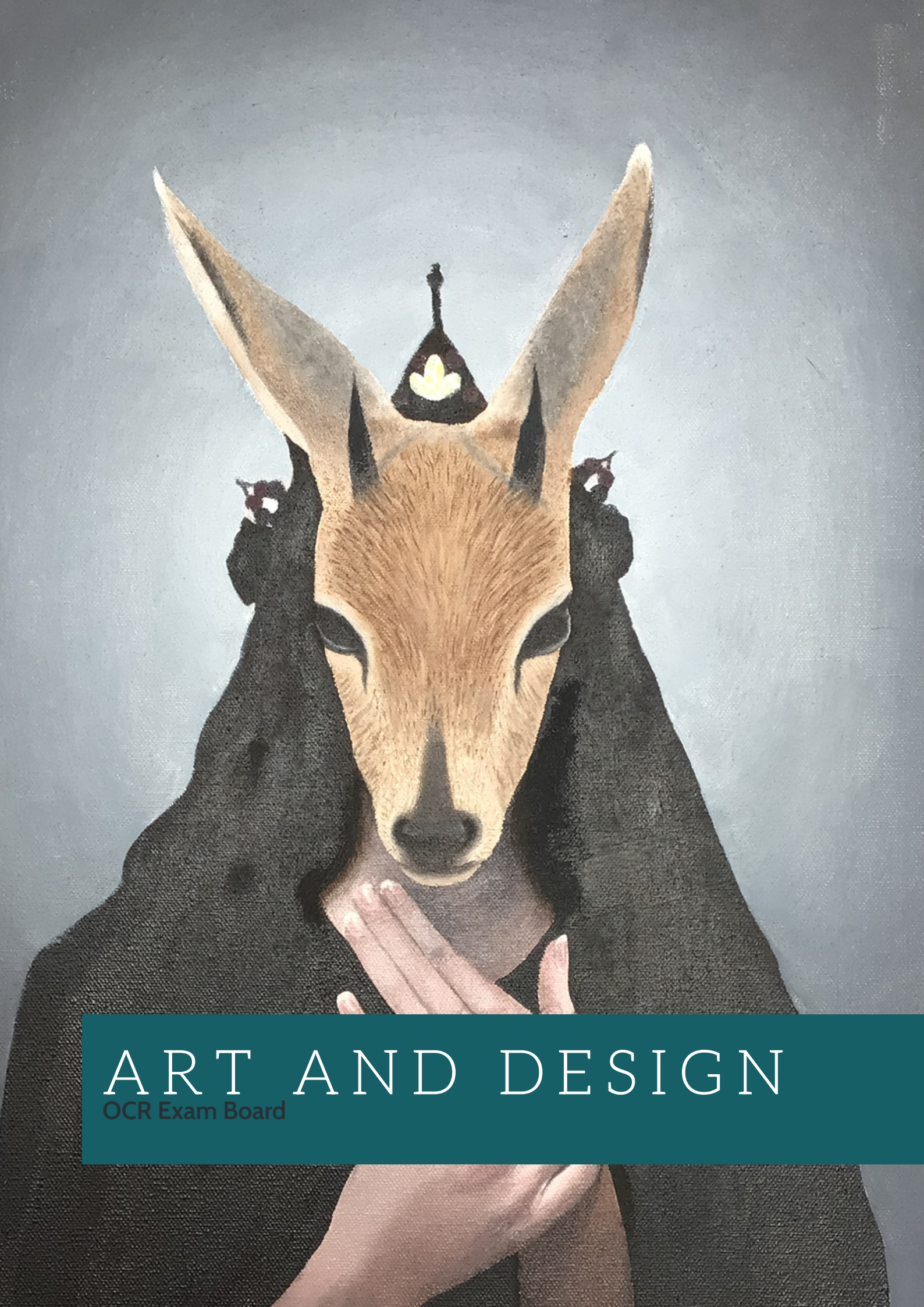
GCSE Physics opens doors to a multitude of exciting career paths. From engineering and technology to medicine and research, a solid foundation in physics is a gateway to diverse opportunities. This course equips students with critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and a deep understanding of the natural world—attributes highly valued in today's job market. Whether pursuing further education or entering the workforce directly, AQA GCSE Physics sets the stage for success in a wide range of fields. Join us on this captivating journey through the realms of physics, where every lesson is a step towards unravelling the secrets of the universe.



# SUBJECT OPTIONS

- ART AND DESIGN
- BUSINESS STUDIES
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DRAMA
- FRENCH
- GEOGRAPHY
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- HISTORY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- SPANISH
- TEXTILES





# ART AND DESIGN

OCR Exam Board



Unleash your creative courage, enter a world of visual wonder, and ignite the power of imagination.

Former pupils having taken the first steps upon their creative journey are now successful Architects, Jewellery Designers, Fine Artists, Fashion designers, Conservators, Illustrators and Animators with many working in Film, Theatre and Television.

Throughout GCSE Art pupils are presented with opportunities for objective, analytical, imaginative and expressive practical responses to the work of artists and crafts persons. Areas of study include ceramics, sculpture, drawing and painting, printmaking. Throughout the course pupils will acquire a visual language enabling each individual to gather resources and materials, using them to stimulate and develop personal ideas, exploring both the potential of two and three dimensions whilst working on a variety of scales. This process culminates in highly individual creative and sophisticated outcomes. Lessons are delivered by expert practitioners equipping learners with a repertoire of highly skilled based knowledge and expertise.

## Course Content and Methodology

The GCSE in Art and Design comprises of 2 units: The Coursework Portfolio 60% of the total GCSE and the Externally Set task 40 % of the total GCSE.

For the “Coursework Portfolio” candidates are required to submit a Portfolio of practical work with annotation. This can include a mixture of the areas of study outlined above, or candidates can focus on one area e.g. drawing and painting. The Mock Exam replicates the preparation process and exam conditions

that candidates will experience for the Externally Set Task and is integrated within the Coursework Portfolio.

Preparation for the externally Set Task a 10-hour practical examination commences in January of Year 11. The Exam Board sets a wide choice of stimulus questions well in advance to allow for meaningful preparation. This practical task is spread over a two-day period and candidates can reference practical preparation work during the exam thereby ensuring continuity and effective execution of ideas resulting in highly proficient creative outcomes.

Pupils are encouraged to attend Life Drawing sessions during Year 11.

## Careers

Art and design opens up a wide range of career opportunities:

- 3D Designer
- Architect
- Art Gallery Manager or Director
- Art Therapist
- Fashion Designer
- Fine Artist
- Furniture Maker
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Interior Designer
- Multimedia Artist
- Printmaker
- Set Designer
- Technician





# BUSINESS STUDIES

AQA Exam Board



Business is an exciting and modern course for the modern world, aimed at students who want to do something new and different.

Many of our students want to start their own businesses and aspire to be entrepreneurs.

This course will give you a broad introduction to businesses, their relationship with the economy, global issues and their impact on society.

This course is excellent progression for Business or Economics in the Sixth Form and there are many students who opt for a business or management related degree course at university, including combinations with languages, politics, art and design and other social sciences. Over recent years we have had students go onto take up places on school leaver programmes with John Lewis, Grant Thornton, Mazars, and Marks and Spencers.

The department consistently gains excellent grades with many pupils choosing to continue the subject for Sixth Form and beyond.

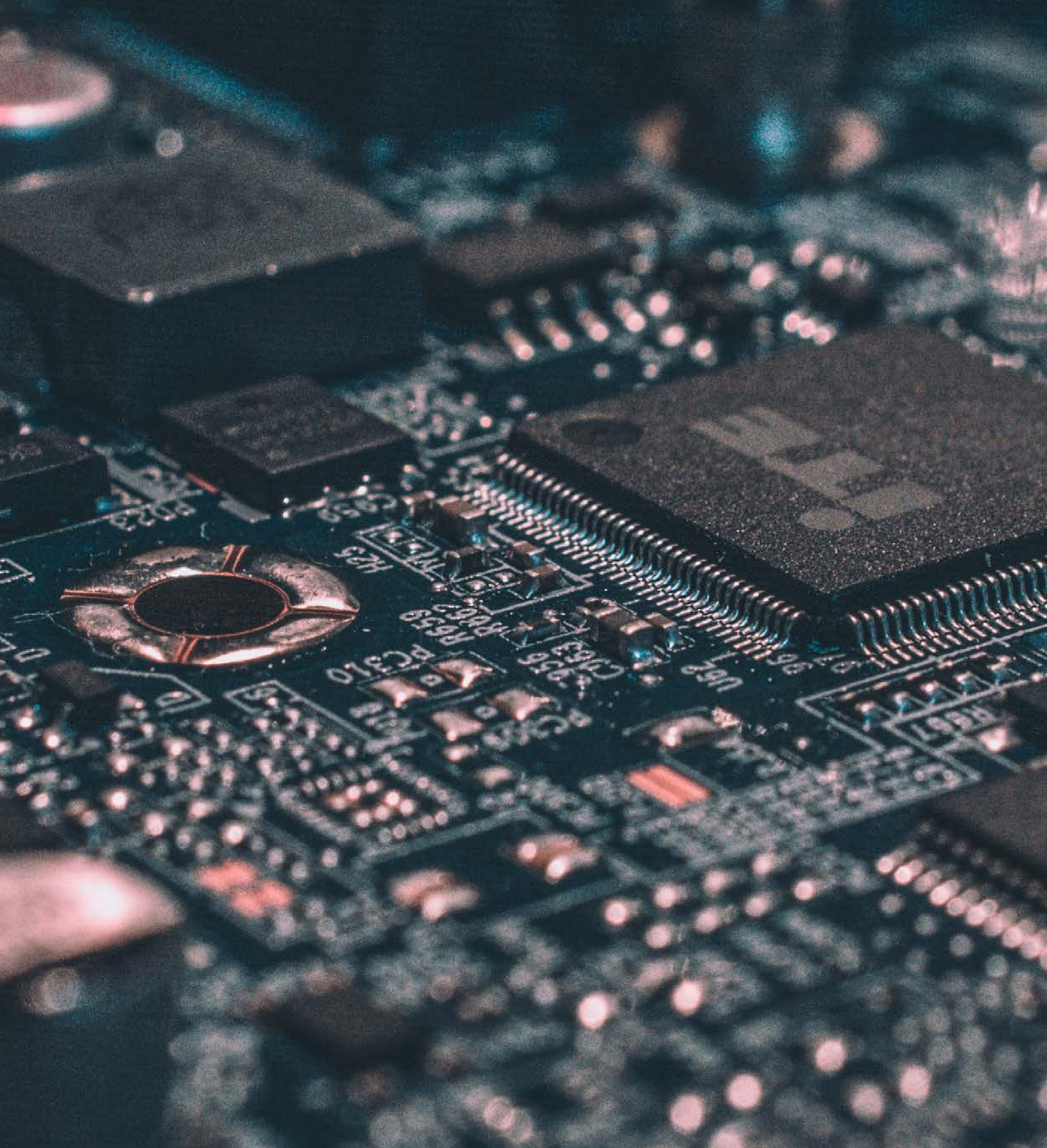
## Course Content and Methodology

Students study a selection of units covering Operations, Finance, Human Resources and Marketing but also the wider influences on Business and what it means to be in Business. There are two papers using case studies to apply their knowledge to real life scenarios. The course is delivered in many ways, including debates, role plays and group presentations. The course focuses on many different types of business in both the public and private sectors.

## Careers

Business can support you in a wide variety of roles and industries, including:

- Accountancy
- Banking
- Law
- Economics
- Auditing



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

OCR Exam Board



We live in a digital society where advances in technology are growing at an ever-increasing rate.

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself is expanding rapidly.

Computers are all around us in almost every walk of life, from the games we play to the way we communicate, from the design of products to their manufacture. We live in a digital society where advances in technology are growing at an ever-increasing rate. Computer Scientists are at the forefront of this rise where they invent, develop, design, adapt, maintain and produce the hardware and the software that we use every day. Professionally qualified, technology aware individuals, are in high demand by businesses in a diverse field ranging from engineering to gaming.

## Course Content and Methodology

### Component 1 - Computer Systems.

Introduces pupils to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

### Component 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

Pupils apply knowledge and understanding gained in Component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking:

algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation, including the binary and hexadecimal number systems. The skills and knowledge developed within this component will support the learner when completing the Programming Project.

### Component 3 - Programming project.

Pupils use the Programming Project task to develop their practical ability in the skills developed in the other two components. They will have the opportunity to define success criteria from a given problem, and then create suitable algorithms to achieve the success criteria. Pupils then code their solutions in a suitable programming language (our language of choice is Python), and check its functionality using a documented test plan.

## Careers

- Computer Programmer
- Software Developer
- Systems Analyst
- Database administrator
- Web developer
- Network Engineer/Technician



# DRAMA

AQA Exam Board

Drama is a dynamic and creative subject that builds confidence, teamwork, and performance skills while exploring a range of theatrical styles and techniques.

Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in future studies and in the workplace.

We want students to have an inspiring experience of GCSE Drama. This qualification builds in as much opportunity as possible for students to do what they like best – participate in performance.

All students devise drama and will explore texts practically, working on two text-based performances.

## Course Content and Methodology

The course provides opportunities for students to develop practical skills in performance, both as an individual and within a group. They will understand the artistic choices made by actors, directors and designers in presenting performances for an audience, as well as different theatrical styles and genres.

## Careers

- Actor
- Drama therapist
- Entertainer
- Events manager
- Lighting/sound technician
- Teacher
- Social media manager
- TV or film producer
- Theatre director
- Vlogger
- Media researcher
- TV presenter





# FRENCH

AQA Exam Board



Studying a language can boost brain function. Skills it includes are planning, critical thinking, problem-solving, multi-tasking and concentration.

Languages open the window into different cultures and broaden the horizons. It will also increase job prospects in UK as well as Global business relations. Learning a language is also valued by universities. These are the reasons we value languages in our school.

Studying French at GCSE is an optional component of a KS4 pupil's curriculum. Pupils will have studied their chosen language (French or Spanish) since year 7.

## Course Content and Methodology

Pupils study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

### Assessments:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1) and a Higher Tier (Grades 9-4). Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

## Careers

Languages can open the doors to a huge variety of careers including:

- Journalist
- Diplomatic Service Officer
- Interpreter
- Translator
- Teacher
- Intelligence Analyst
- Travel Agent
- Cabin Crew
- Marketing Executive
- Charity Worker
- Events Manager
- Hotel Manager



An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a network of distributaries branching out from a main river into a body of water. The land is a mix of brown and tan, while the water is a deep blue. A teal rectangular box is positioned in the lower-left corner, containing the text 'GEOGRAPHY' and 'AQA Exam Board'.

# GEOGRAPHY

AQA Exam Board



# GCSE Geography offers a holistic understanding of the world, fostering critical thinking and analytical skills.

It equips students to address global challenges and provides practical skills for future careers.

GCSE Geography enables a variety of teaching and learning approaches. This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Throughout the course, students develop their understanding of key geographical concepts, engage in fieldwork activities, and enhance their skills in map reading, data interpretation, and analysis.

Upon completion of this two year course, students will have the skills and experience to progress onto A-level and beyond.

## Course Content and Methodology

The AQA GCSE Geography course typically covers a range of topics within both human and physical geography. Here's a general outline of the course content:

### Paper 1: Physical Geography:

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards

- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

### Paper 2: Human Geography:

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

### Paper 3: Geographical Applications

#### Skills:

- Fieldwork skills
- Geographical skills
- Cartographic skills
- Graphical skills
- Statistical skills
- Numerical skills
- Literacy skills

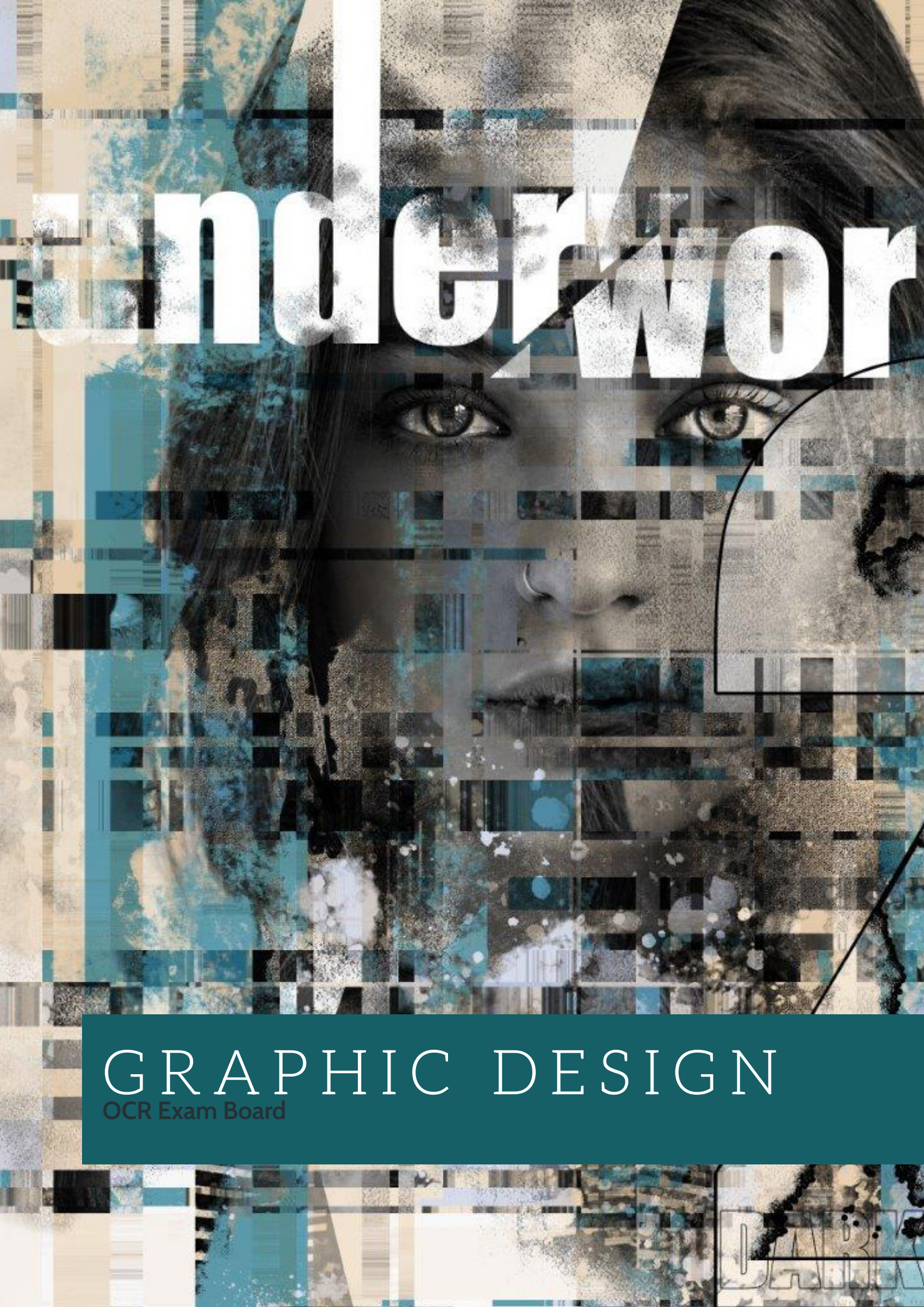
## Careers

Geography can take you in a multitude of directions in terms of your career and it is the skills that you will gain in the geography GCSE that are the key to opening so many doors.

Some examples:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Architectural design           | Oliver Bonas or John Lewis                        |
| • Sustainability                 | • Marketing analyst                               |
| • Land Management                | • Transport and logistics co-ordination.          |
| • Business analyst               | • Woodland creation development officer           |
| • HR & PR                        | • GIS – From oceans to farming and city planning. |
| • Cartographer                   |   |
| • Consultancy                    |   |
| • Events management              |   |
| • Social researcher              |   |
| • Buyer for large companies e.g. |   |





underworld

GRAPHIC DESIGN

OCR Exam Board

DAVID



Learners studying Graphic Design will explore and develop a variety of tools, materials, techniques, processes and digital skills within graphic design.

The course is centred on commercial digital design focusing on; packaging, advertising and corporate identities; branding/logo development, typography, illustration and multi-media design.

The course prepares you for your steps towards an exciting career in the creative industries as a designer. If you have a keen interest in Graphic Design and an excitement and passion for learning and Creative Digital Media, this course is ideal for you. During your course, you will learn a variety of skills to help you on your journey towards becoming a Graphic Design professional.

Creating outcomes for print, web and animation are amongst the many useful skills you will acquire and develop on the Graphics course.

During your studies, you will carry out your work in our specialist studio developing a range of skills that will provide you with an excellent foundation within the industry, using industry standard software such as Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator.

## Course Content and Methodology

The GCSE in Graphic Design comprises of 2 units: The Coursework Portfolio 60% of the total GCSE and the Externally Set task 40 % of the total GCSE.

For the “Coursework Portfolio” candidates are required to submit a Portfolio of practical work with annotation. This can include a

mixture of the areas of study outlined above, or candidates can focus on one area e.g. designing and manipulating imagery. The Mock Exam replicates the preparation process and exam conditions that candidates will experience for the Externally Set Task and is integrated within the Coursework Portfolio. Preparation for The Externally Set Task a 10-hour practical examination commences in January of Year 11. The Exam Board sets a wide choice of stimulus questions well in advance to allow for meaningful preparation. This practical task is spread over a two-day period and candidates can reference practical preparation work during the exam thereby ensuring continuity and effective execution of ideas resulting in highly proficient creative outcomes.

## Careers

Graphic Design opens a wide range of career opportunities:

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- Architect
- Art Gallery Manager or Director
- Art Therapist
- Fashion Designer
- Fine Artist
- Furniture Maker
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Interior Designer
- Multimedia Artist
- Printmaker
- Set Designer
- Technician



# HISTORY

Cambridge IGCSE



# The IGCSE History course will fascinate students interested in 20th Century international history.

This is an exciting course, aimed at pupils who are keen to develop their knowledge of the events which shaped the 20th century world.

Studying GCSE History is a way to sharpen the mind, enhance the valuable skills of analysis and evaluation and enrich the way our pupils understand and interpret an increasingly complex world. Our IGCSE History curriculum is a fascinating and enriching course for any who wish to broaden their intellectual outlook and gain the most from studying at LMS.

Other than the remarkable events we investigate, studying History gives an opportunity to develop skills that are important in other subjects at school, in Higher Education, at work and in life generally. Pupils will explore history from a diversity of perspectives, including social, economic, cultural and political.

## Course Content and Methodology

The GCSE History course will focus on 20th Century international history. The core content moves chronologically, beginning with the inter-war period in 1919. Pupils will study a range of fascinating events including the Treaty of Versailles, Hitler's foreign policy and Appeasement and the causes of the Second World War. In addition, pupils will complete a Depth Study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1919-1945. There is also a coursework component.

## Careers

Beyond GCSE, History is considered a keystone subject by many universities and employers, due to its academic rigour and the array of skills it develops. History lends itself especially to careers in research, academia, writing, law, journalism and public service. It is a highly respected qualification, both at and beyond school, and can lead to a wide variety of career paths.



# MUSIC

Eduqas Exam Board



Music is an exciting and creative course that allows student to grow in confidence as they focus and develop on what they are passionate about.

Through performing, composing, and listening, students will explore a wide range of musical styles and gain a deeper understanding of the power of music.

Music plays an important part in the world around us and we welcome pupils of all abilities, instruments and musical tastes to the GCSE Music course. The course will allow you to discover new styles of music, it will help you grow in your performance skills and give you the skills to create music of your own. Our students consistently receive high grades and are given a wide variety of experiences and opportunities in and outside of the classroom.

## Course Content and Methodology

The Eduqas course encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of, performing, composing and listening. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context.

1. Western Classical Tradition
2. Music for ensemble
3. Music for film
4. Popular music

## Careers

Music can support you in a wide variety of roles and industries including:

- Music Producer
- Music Therapist
- Musician
- Private Music Teacher
- Sound Designer
- Sound Technician, Broadcasting/Film/Video
- Acoustic Consultant
- Choreographer
- Event Manager
- Marketing Executive
- Radio Producer
- Talent Agent
- Theatre Stage Manager

A photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, set against a dark background filled with warm, out-of-focus lights that create a bokeh effect. The hands are positioned on the right side of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The lighting is soft and golden, suggesting an indoor setting with many small light sources.

# PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS

Edexcel IGCSE



# Embark on a Journey of Insight and Reflection: Navigating the Landscape of Philosophical, Religious and Ethical views.

Uncover Diverse Beliefs, Cultivate Critical Thinking, and Forge a Deeper Connection with the Big Questions of Values and Priorities, as well as the meaning and proof of our existence.

This course allows pupils to develop a coherent view of life, a sense of value and purpose, and either secure a faith of their own or an empathetic awareness of the faith of others.

The GCSE Course offered is designed to build upon and develop some of the key skills and issues looked at in the latter part of Key Stage 3 studies. It is intended to be relevant to life in the modern world, raising issues that are part of our everyday existence such as War and Peace, Relationships, Medical Ethics, the Environment in which we live, and Issues of Justice and Inequality, just to mention a few.

This specification is intended to be accessible to pupils of any religious persuasion or none, and provides a broad structure for the study of the beliefs and practices of a living religion or religions, with emphasis on the educational basis of the study.

Religious Studies, philosophy and ethics is about world issues that affect us all. At some point everyone has to face up to the big questions in life, so this course allows us to develop respect and tolerance for a wide variety of views on issues that affects us all.

## Course Content and Methodology

The syllabus provides an opportunity for pupils to:

- Acquire knowledge and develop understanding of the beliefs, values and traditions of one or more religion;

- Consider the influence of the beliefs, values and traditions associated with one or more religion;
- Consider religious and other responses to moral issues;
- Identify, investigate and respond to fundamental questions of life raised by religious and human experience, including questions about the meaning and purpose of life;
- Develop skills relevant to the study of religion.
- Explore their own beliefs, creative abilities, insights, self-identity and self-worth

The course is delivered in many ways, including debates and group presentations. It focuses on the two main religions of Christianity and Islam as well as looking at humanist and atheist views. There are two written exams:

- Beliefs and values
- Religious community

## Careers

Religion, Philosophy and ethics can support you in a wide variety of roles and industries, including:

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Nursing            | • Social Worker |
| • Medical Profession | • Charity Work  |
| • Teacher            | • Civil Service |
| • Journalism         | • Law           |
| • Counselling        | • Lecturer      |
| • Police Officer     | • Politician    |
| • Youth Worker       |                 |





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AQA IGCSE



Studying Physical Education at GCSE level offers students a comprehensive understanding of the human body in motion and the significance of fitness.

Physical education highlights the profound impact that physical activity has on overall health while fostering teamwork.

The syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

The course provides an excellent opportunity to develop knowledge of physical activity and sport. The IGCSE PE not only provides you with a full range of academic content, it dovetails nicely into other subjects. Pupils who are conscientious, hardworking and focused often find that the sciences, maths, history and social issues marry exceptionally well with the IGCSE PE qualification.

## Course Content and Methodology

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Biomechanics
- Health, Fitness and Training
- Skill Acquisition and Psychology
- Social, Cultural and Ethical Influences

## Careers

Pupils who have studied an IGCSE PE might go on to study Sport Science degrees in coaching, exercise, physiology, psychology, biology and sport analysis.

Students can carve out successful careers through undertaking the IGCSE in the following fields:

- The Military
- Strength and Conditioning
- Teaching (Primary, Secondary and Lecturing)
- Doctors
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapist
- Diet and Nutrition
- Coach Developers



# SPANISH

AQA Exam Board



Studying a language can boost brain function. Skills it includes are planning, critical thinking, problem-solving, multi-tasking and concentration. Languages open the window into different cultures and broaden the horizons.

It will also increase job prospects in UK as well as Global business relations. Learning a language is also valued by universities.

Studying Spanish at GCSE is an optional component of a KS4 pupil's curriculum. Pupils will have studied their chosen language (French or Spanish) since year 7.

## Course Content and Methodology

Pupils study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

### Assessments

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1) and a Higher Tier (Grades 9-4). Pupils must

take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

## Careers

Languages can open the doors to a huge variety of careers including:

- Journalist
- Diplomatic Service Officer
- Interpreter
- Translator
- Teacher
- Intelligence Analyst
- Travel Agent
- Cabin Crew
- Marketing Executive
- Charity Worker
- Events Manager
- Hotel Manager



# TEXTILES

OCR Exam Board



GCSE Textiles will enable students to explore a wide range of exciting and stimulating creative textile-based processes and techniques with a contemporary and modern approach, plus relevance to industrial practices.

Students will develop and expand a broad and sophisticated range of skills, such as machine sewing and embroidery, pattern cutting and dressmaking, print, paint and transfer techniques, batik, resist, dyeing, as well as fabric manipulation, appliqué and quilting, plus traditional stitch work.

Photography and ICT programmes will also be employed to expand pupils' knowledge and development of ideas. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to experiment and present their work in a variety of formats and to fully explore all the possibilities open to them.

Students will develop a range of techniques necessary to fulfil the coursework and exam criteria through their understanding of 2 and 3 dimensional textiles.

Students will be able to study and take inspiration from a wide variety of practising textile artists and designers, applying the knowledge learnt from these sources back into their own work.

Pupils are also advised to attend life drawing sessions to enhance their understanding of anatomy and the human form if they choose.

## Course Content and Methodology

Coursework Portfolio (O1) 120 marks (60%)

This unit is a non-exam assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated).

Candidates are required to submit a portfolio of practical work with written analysis and annotation. This can include a mixture of the areas of study outlined above, or candidates can focus on one area. e.g. 2d or 3d. Candidates will produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to starting briefs and stimuli.

Coursework is split into major projects from which your best work is presented for final assessment. The topics can vary from year to year.

Externally set task (O2) 80 marks 10 hours (40%)

Preparation commences in January of Year 11.

The Exam Board OCR sets a wide choice of stimulus questions well in advance to allow meaningful preparation. Early in the main examination period candidates spend 10 hours, spread over two days to put their ideas into final execution.

## Careers

- Fashion designer
- Textile designer
- Fashion illustrator
- Merchandiser
- Textile design engineer
- Personal stylist
- Garment technologist
- Textile consultant



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